reviews

Click here to see Britney Spears naked! Click here to play an amusing game where you can slap Tony Blair, George Bush, Howard from the Halifax Ad with an animated boxing glove! Click here to make one million dollars with no upfront investment, social conscience or brain! Sound familiar?

You'd be surprised how many people fall for it. Yes, it may look like some harmless light relief sent to you by a friend. Yes, it is four o'clock on a Friday afternoon and the last exciting thing that happened in the office was four days ago when Jeremy from accounts put milk in Julie's herbal tea… on purpose.

Next thing you know, this apparently harmless attachment has sent itself to everyone you've ever emailed in your working life, all your Word documents are missing and your PC's sulking and refusing to boot. Then there's your friends screaming at you down the phone as the malicious file you've just sent has killed their machine too.

And, of course, you haven't got a backup, though just before you clicked the mouse would have been an ideal time to have made one – as smug Kevin keeps reminding you.

Virus writing isn't big or clever, but then neither is clicking an attachment, wiping out three network drives and infecting all your mates' PCs. It's all very well blaming the people who create these things, but it's time to take responsibility for your own actions. Either that, or install a product that filters these things out before they get to you.

With an equal rise in virus writers and idiots, a product like Gatelock X200 from Trend Micro (see page 54) could save your bacon – not to mention your MP3 collection, social standing, oh, and that report that's due in on Monday. ■

Will Head

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Scoring and testing explained

Each review rates a product according to a set criterion for its type. The score is broken down at the end of the review to show how we reached our final verdict. Ratings range from 1 to 10 and fall into the following classifications:
1 to 3 – poor
4 to 6 – average
6 to 8 – good
8 to 10 – excellent

How we rate hardware
• Features **This score rates the specification of a product by current standards. For example, a 2.6GHz PC with 512MB of RAM and a 120GB hard drive would score highly.**
• Build quality **This rating denotes how well the product is made and the quality of the components.**
• Value for money **The price of a product will often be the deciding factor between**

a good review and a bad review. This is not to say that cheaper products will always win out, but the better the price/performance and features ratio the higher the score.

How we rate software
• Ease of use **Rates how easy software is to install and use.**
• Features **Indicates how much the package contains. An office suite that**

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198 Top 10 charts

**Located at the back of
the magazine, the charts are
designed so they're a cinch
to navigate. The at-a-glance
comments and buying
advice help you make
the right purchasing
decision. Products
we've already tested are
ranked in our charts after
competing against existing
entrants. The result is a
definitive guide to the best
hardware available on the market.**

only came with a spreadsheet
would score poorly.
• Value for money **Lots of
features, good performance
and a low price tag will result
in a good score.**

Prices
**All prices are quoted by
the manufacturer or distributor
and exclude VAT. Please note**

that prices are only intended
as a guide and you may
see products on sale for
less or more than our
quoted price. *PC Advisor's*
recommendations are for
guidance only and are not
a guarantee of suitability.
The publisher takes
no responsibility for
purchasers' decisions.

PC Advisor
Gold award

**Outstanding
hardware products receive
a *PC Advisor* Gold award.
This may indicate that the
product will enter our charts
next month but *PC Advisor* Gold
also honours excellence in a
product that is not covered in
this month's charts.**