



## Flaw found in Office 2007

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[http://news.com.com/Flaw+found+in+Office+2007/2100-1002\\_3-6161835.html](http://news.com.com/Flaw+found+in+Office+2007/2100-1002_3-6161835.html)

Story last modified Sun Feb 25 14:48:35 PST 2007

**Researchers have discovered a "highly critical" security flaw in newly released Office 2007, despite Microsoft's efforts to deliver its most secure version yet of the productivity software.**

The consumer version of Office 2007, [which launched only four weeks ago](#), is designed to withstand higher scrutiny by malicious code writers, as Microsoft subjected the software to code auditors as part of its security development lifecycle.

But researchers at eEye Digital Security [found a file format vulnerability in Microsoft Office Publisher 2007](#), which could be exploited to let an outsider run code on a compromised PC.

"We were surprised we could find a flaw so quickly (after Office 2007 launched) and one that was part of their core products," said Ross Brown, eEye's chief executive.

An attacker could create a malicious publisher file, he said. Once the recipient opens the file, he or she could find the system infected and susceptible to a remote attack.

Researchers at eEye used a standard process of code auditing in discovering the vulnerabilities, Brown added. He noted that Microsoft either did not do a "good job" with its code auditing, or it may not have had enough people working on such a task.

Microsoft, meanwhile, said it is investigating eEye's report of a possible vulnerability in Publisher 2007 and will provide users with additional guidance if necessary.

Executives at the software giant have recently said they expect [security challenges to keep emerging](#), as an increasing number of devices connect to the Internet.

No public exploits have been reported in circulation for Publisher 2007 and, given [Office 2007's recent release](#), the flaw may hold little attraction for attackers who may wish to concentrate on software that is in greater distribution, eEye said.

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