

Implementation Flaws

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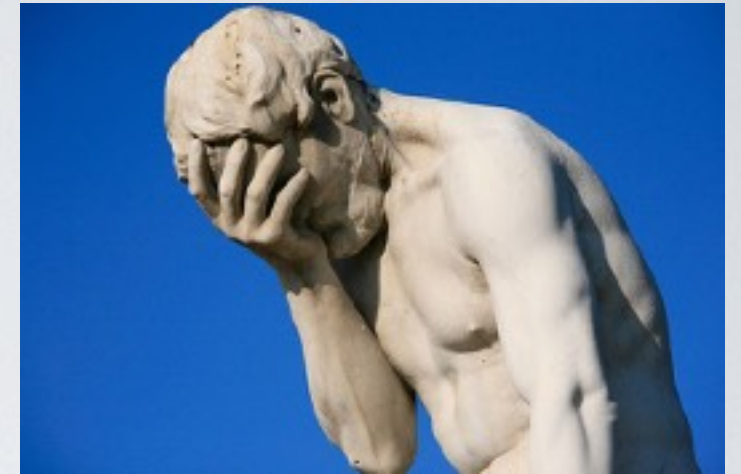
'Serious' Microsoft Office Encryption Flaw Uncovered

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By [John E. Dunn](#), IDG News Service
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Cryptography expert Phil Zimmermann says he believes a flaw recently discovered in Microsoft Office's Word and Excel encryption is serious and warrants immediate attention.

"I think this is a serious flaw--it is highly exploitable. It is not a theoretical attack," says Zimmermann, referring to a flaw in Microsoft's use of RC4 document encryption unearthed recently by a researcher in Singapore.



MS Word and Excel 2003 used the same key to re-encrypt documents after editing changes