

## Valentine's Day: How to Send and Receive e-Cards Safely, with love from AVG (AU/NZ)

With Valentines Day

just a few heart beats away, millions of e-cards and messages will be flying through the Internet. But these low cost, eco-friendly expressions of affection can expose your home computer to security threats.

Internet security

software distributor AVG (AU/NZ) warns

that criminals are using this increasingly popular medium to deliver viruses and other malware to the computers of their unsuspecting victims. Because risky e-cards are typically made to look like they have been sent from a trusted friend, they fool the recipient into opening them.

Lloyd

Borrett, Marketing Manager of AVG (AU/NZ), said. Most people will automatically open an e-card if its from a friend or colleague. To protect yourself from unwanted attention from cyberspace be very careful what e-cards you open and what you forward on.

While receiving an

anonymous card from a Valentine can be exciting, opening an anonymous email with I Love You in the subject line could be courting disaster. Dont let some nasty piece of malware worm its way into the heart of your computer.

Only a tiny percentage of e-greetings will contain a security threat but many PCs will be damaged or compromised. This results in not only lost documents, emails, photos and so on, but compromised PCs often become unwitting distributors of spam or their owners may become the target of identity theft.

Following AVG (AU/NZ)s five practical tips will minimise the risk of becoming a victim of online fraud or cyber criminals this

Valentines Day:

1. Dont open attachments: legitimate e-cards should be links to a company website that then direct you to your card.

2. Identify legitimate messages: Dont open any message with a disguised name, such as Your Friend or A Secret Admirer, or one from an unknown web site address. Watch for misspelled words or names.

3. When in doubt, delete: Its better to do that than open your system to a virus or spam.

4. Know where youre going online:

Use free security software that detects and blocks web sites that push online scams, adware installations, attachments filled with viruses and other malicious downloads which could harm your system. Access AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 9.0 with LinkScanner technology here: [www.avgfree.com.au](http://www.avgfree.com.au)

5. Always read the fine print before accepting any terms:

Some e-card scams list in their terms that they can send email to everyone in your address book.

Because spam e-mail and attached malware has increased to such intrusive levels, for the continuing safety of your home computer, AVG AU/NZ recommends anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software as essential, minimum protection.

Using home computers

safely has become very much easier as everything thats required is now affordable and easy to install, Borrett said.

As an example, the AVG Internet Security 9.0 full suite solution is an excellent Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Anti-Rootkit, Two-way Firewall and Anti-Spam protection software for all of your computer system needs. Carbonite Online PC Backup is cost effective insurance against the loss of documents, photos and all other valuable files.

And, importantly, ensure your security and backup software is current by using automatic updates and that it is licensed, installed and running properly at all times, Borrett advised.

For more AVG security tips, see <http://www.avg.com.au/resources/security-tips/>.

#### About

AVG (AU/NZ) Pty Ltd [www.avg.com.au](http://www.avg.com.au)

#### Based in

Melbourne, AVG (AU/NZ) Pty Ltd distributes the AVG range of Anti-Virus and Internet Security products in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. AVG software solutions provide complete real-time protection against the malware, viruses, spam, spyware, adware, worms, Trojans, phishing and exploits used by cyber-criminals, hackers, scammers and identity thieves. AVG protects everything important and personal inside computers documents, account details and passwords, music, photos and more all while allowing users to work, bank, shop and play games online in safety. AVG provides outstanding technical solutions and exceptional value for consumers, small to medium business and enterprise clients. AVG delivers always-on, always up-to-date protection across desktop, and notebook PCs, plus file and e-mail servers in the home and at work in SMBs, corporations, government agencies and educational institutions.

#### AVG products actively

protect over 110 million users worldwide, including more than 3.6 million users in Australia and New Zealand.

AVG (AU/NZ) has more than  
2600 resellers across Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

For  
more detailed information please contact:

Lloyd Borrett AVG  
(AU/NZ) 03  
9581 0807

Shuna  
Boyd BoydPR 02  
9418 8100

Media  
resources, including logos, box shots, screen shots etc., are available online  
at: [www.avg.com.au/media](http://www.avg.com.au/media)