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## PDF Document – Spot Report

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GovCertUK are aware of an increase in the use of PDF documents as a method to compromise end user systems. This has been highlighted by recent news articles<sup>1</sup>.

GovCertUK's recommendation is to follow our standard mitigation advice:

- Ensure that PDF viewing software is fully up-to-date with software patches.
- Ensure that the system is fully patched.
- Don't trust documents received from unknown sources.
- Virus scan attachments before opening them.

It is possible to stop some PDF viewers from executing JavaScript code, which can be embedded in documents. These instructions detail how to block JavaScript in Adobe Acrobat Reader:

1. Open Adobe Acrobat Reader.
2. Select 'Edit' and then 'Preferences' from the menu.
3. Select the JavaScript category.
4. Uncheck the option 'Enable Acrobat JavaScript'
5. Click OK

<sup>1</sup> <http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=4177>

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