

## Outlook Express : Spell Check no longer works properly after installing “Microsoft Office 2007”

### How this document came about

This document came about after one of our clients installed **Microsoft Office 2007**, and directly afterwards she noticed that the **Spell Checker** facility in her **Outlook Express 6.0** had changed from English to French. What's more, she wasn't able to change the language back to English, as French was the only option available to her in **Outlook Express**.

### Why does this happen

Outlook Express does not have its own spell checker. It relies entirely on the spell checker engines installed by the Microsoft Office programs – this is why, if you do not have any Microsoft Office programs installed (ie. you use Star Office, WordPerfect Office, or Lotus SmartSuite), then the Outlook Express Spell Check does not work. When you install **Microsoft Office 2007** all old spell check files are removed from the PC and replaced with newer versions of the files which are NOT compatible with **Outlook Express 6** ! Microsoft have acknowledged this problem (and bug, if you ask us) but, at the time of writing, 1-Apr-2007, they do not intend to provide a fix. You can read more about in article **KB932974** in the **Microsoft Knowledge Base**.

### The Fix

- Download and install a free third-party spell check program from the internet.** Yes, at the time of writing, this is the solution advocated by Microsoft!
- For US users we have made available in the [Downright Useful Downloads](#) section of our website, a free Spell Checker called **Spell Checker for OE 2.1**. This program is free and installs an **English US** Spell Checker in **Outlook Express**.
- If you require a spell check program in another language (e.g. English UK, Canadian English, Australian English, Spanish, French, German, etc..), then you will need to search the Internet. There are many around but, unfortunately, very very few are free.

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