



# All You Need to Know About AutoCAD SecureLoad

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# Agenda

- Brief look at Virus History
- AutoCAD 2012 - First Response
- AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014 - Enter SECURELOAD
- Questions

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# Windows XP

Open, Powerful, and, Ravaged!



# Windows Vista

## The 'Cure' for Windows XP users – Se'cure'

- Introduction of UAC (User Access Control)
  - Realization that you can't detect all virus's
    - Warn the user that something is about to run, OK?
  - Lock down System files, folders and registry
    - %windir%, %programfiles%, etc – administrator w+
    - Sandboxing of apps run from untrusted locations and domains
      - USB drive, temp folder, etc
    - HKLM - administrator w+
  - Most XP programs stopped working ☹

# Windows Vista

## Too strict

- Vista Failed
  - Too controlling
  - Too Restrictive
  - Too many UAC warning dialogs
  - Hard migration from XP
- Hello Windows 7!
  - We all learned a valuable lesson

# History of AutoCAD Exploits

- 2000 - Kaspersky announces the discovery of the first computer virus to affect AutoCAD
  - Classified as a “First try”
  - Low threat
- 2003 – ASL Bursted
- 2009 – acad.vlx, acadodoc.lsp
  - Low threat
- 2012 – ACAD/Medre
  - High threat!!



# AutoCAD

Open, Powerful and, oh no! Ravaged too!!

**welivesecurity**  
news, views and insight from the ESET security community

ACAD/Medre.A 10000's of AutoCAD files leaked in suspected industrial espionage

BY RICHARD ZWIENENBERG POSTED 21 JUN 2012 AT 04:58AM

"VIRUSES REVEALED" 1 TAGS AUTOCAD

The malware news today is all about new targeted, high-profile worms like Stuxnet, Duqu and Flamer that have grabbed headlines. This time, however, it's a worm, written in AutoLISP, the scripting language that runs in AutoCAD, that has been found in one country on ESET's LiveGrid® two months ago.



**ThreatTrack**  
Security

**Worm Found in Peru Systems was Stealing Data**

Posted by Jovi Umawing On June 25, 2012 In ThreatTrack Security Labs No comments



Our colleagues at ESET discovered a worm malware that was propagating within computer systems in Peru, its neighbouring countries, and some parts of Asia. Their target? **AutoCAD** drawing files (.dwg).

**AutoCAD** is a computer software generally used by engineers and architects for designing.

**cadalyst**

Get productive with CAD and get the job done.

AutoCAD

**Malware Circulating in Peru Reportedly Was Sending AutoCAD Drawings to China**

22 Jun, 2012

By: [Cadalyt Staff](#)

Security software developer ESET claims it has stopped file transmission and offers free cleaner for public use.

ESET, a developer of computer security solutions for home and corporate use, yesterday announced it has found a worm that targets AutoCAD drawings. Tens of thousands of AutoCAD files from infected computers were leaked to other Spanish-speaking nations, reportedly were leaking

AutoCAD files from infected computers and with Tencent, the owner of the domain that runs the Computer Virus Emergency Response team's reports. The e-mail accounts associated with the worm were also leaked.





# The Exploit

- The AutoCAD Autoload Feature
  - Load the first acad/acaddoc/acad20xx/acad20xxdoc.lsp/fas/vlx or acad.dvb found in the Support path
- The Problem
  - Zip file containing DWG file (and virus lsp file) unzipped and autoloaded without control
    - Perfect for exploitation!

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- AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014 - Enter SECURELOAD
- Questions

# First Response

## AutoCAD 2012 Service Pack 1

- New system variables
  - LISPENABLED, AUTOLOAD, AUTOLOADPATH
- New command line startup switch
  - /nolisp
- Change load rules for acad20xx.lsp and acad20xxdoc.lsp
- Minor Options Dialog updates



# First Response

## AutoCAD 2012 Service Pack 1

### New system variables

- LISPENABLED
  - Controls whether LISP is enabled for the AutoCAD session (includes LSP, FAS, VLX)
- AUTOLOAD
  - Controls whether or not AutoCAD autoloads LSP, FAS, VLX, DVB files
- AUTOLOADPATH
  - Controls where AutoCAD autoloads acad.lsp/fas/vlx, acad.doc.lsp/fas/vlx, acad.dvb files from

# First Response

## AutoCAD 2012 Service Pack 1

### New Command Line Startup Switch /nolisp

- disables Lisp (.lsp, .fas and .vlx) in AutoCAD
- Turns off new **LISPENABLED**
- Useful for isolation

# First Response

## AutoCAD 2012 Service Pack 1

### Change load rules for acad20xx.lsp and acad20xxdoc.lsp

- acad20??.lsp and acad20xxdoc.lsp no longer be autoloaded
  - Can now only be run from the AutoCAD install/Support path
    - e.g. Program Files\Autodesk\AutoCAD 2012\Support

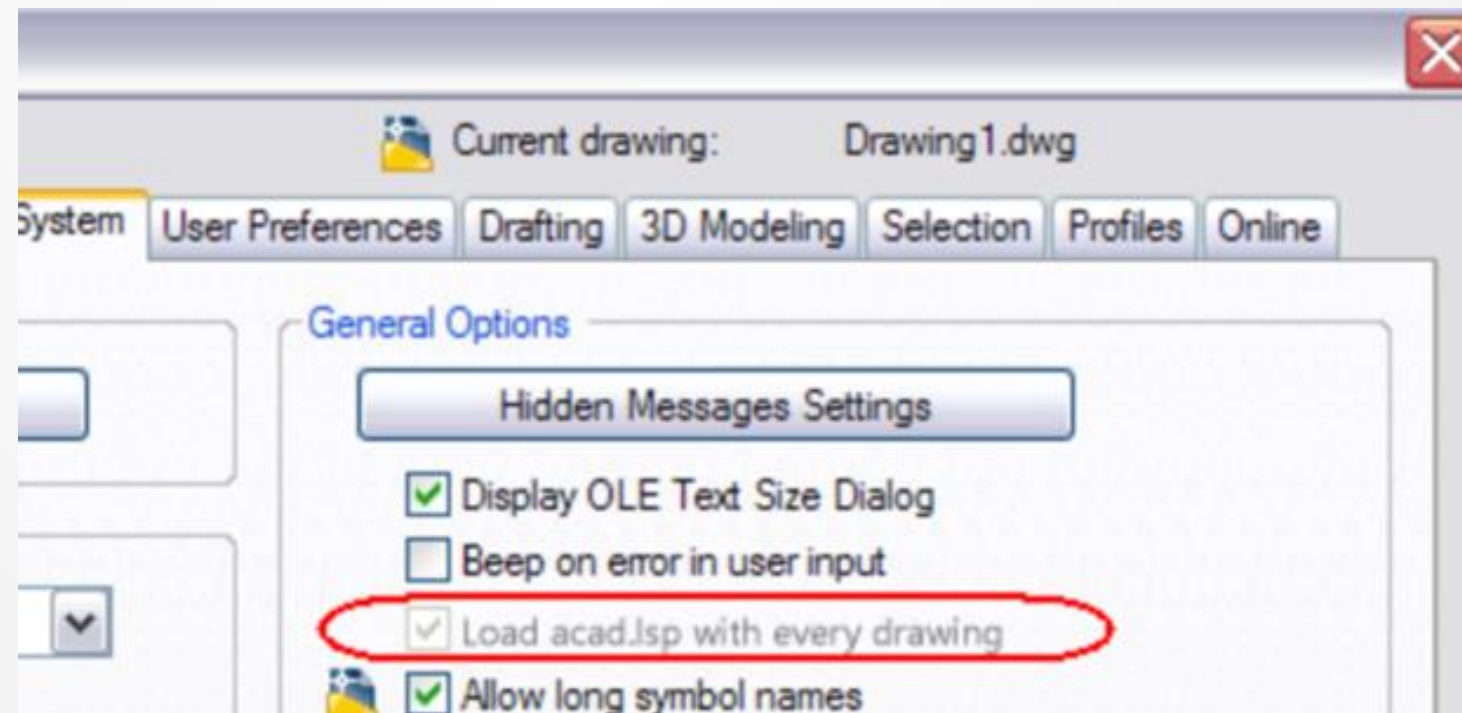


# First Response

## AutoCAD 2012 Service Pack 1

### Minor Options Dialog updates

- “Load acad.lsp with every drawing”
  - disabled when AUTOLOAD=0
  - and/or disabled when LISPENABLED=0.



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# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

- Expanded default file types that are detected by SECURELOAD (formally AUTOLOAD)
- Split AUTOLOADPATH into 2 sysvars (TRUSTEDPATHS, TRUSTEDDOMAINS)
- Added new settings to Options dialog
- Implicitly “trust” digitally signed executable files (DLL, EXE, ARX, DBX, etc.)
- “/safemode” startup switch, SAFEMODE & SAFEMODEAPPS system variables
- New warning dialog to warn users when executable files are detected that are not included in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS
- Change Loading for CUIx/MNL files
- Add warning message to warn users when writable locations are specified in TRUSTEDPATHS
- New LISP function (findtrustedfile) as opposed to (findfile)
- Add new settings to Network Deployment Wizard



# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## Expanded default file types that are detected by SECURELOAD

- Previously, AUTOLOAD supported LSP, FAS, VLX, DVB
  - AUTOLOAD renamed to SECURELOAD
- SECURELOAD now supports
  - ARX/DBX/CRX
  - LSP/FAS/VLX/MNL
  - .NET assemblies
  - VBA macros, acad.rx, acVBA.arx, acad.dvb
  - Javascript
  - DLL
  - SCR files (located on network)

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

- SECURELOAD SYSVAR Settings
  - 0 - Load without warning (Legacy Behavior).
  - 1 - Load without warning if the file is also in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS. If not in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS, display warning dialog before loading. Applies to autoloading & manual loading.
  - 2 - Load without warning if the file is also in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS. If not in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS, do not display warning dialog. Applies to autoloading & manual loading.
- If a file found is not trusted, the command line displays the same error message as selecting “Do Not Load” in the File Loading - Security Concern task dialog. File load canceled: <path\filename>

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

**Split AUTLOADPATH into 2 sysvars (TRUSTEDPATHS, TRUSTEDDOMAINS)**

2012 sp1 AUTLOADPATH renamed to TRUSTEDPATHS

- **TRUSTEDPATHS**

- Specifies the folders from where AutoCAD can load and execute files that contain code.
- Used in conjunction with SECURELOAD= 1 or 2

- **TRUSTEDDOMAINS**

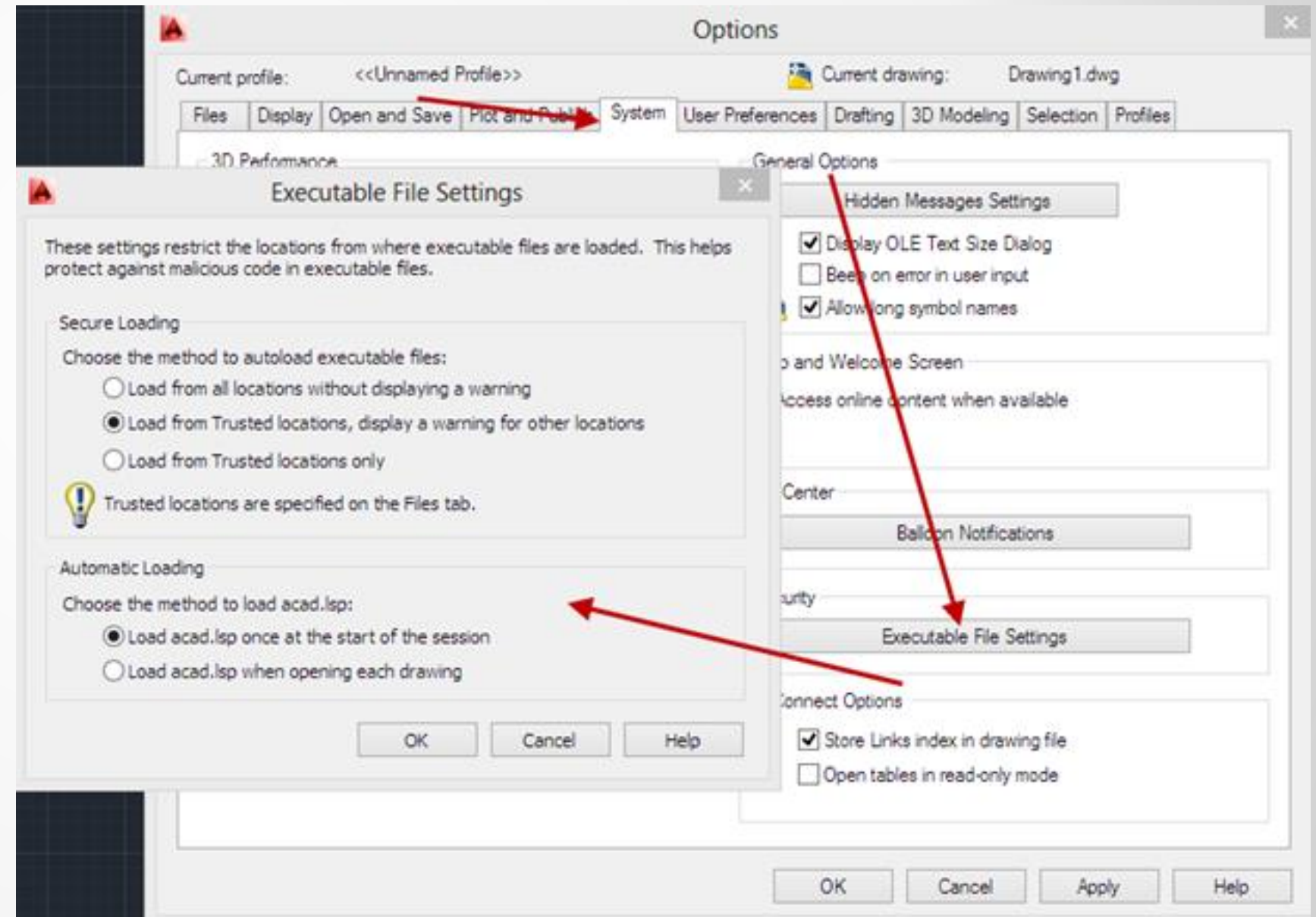
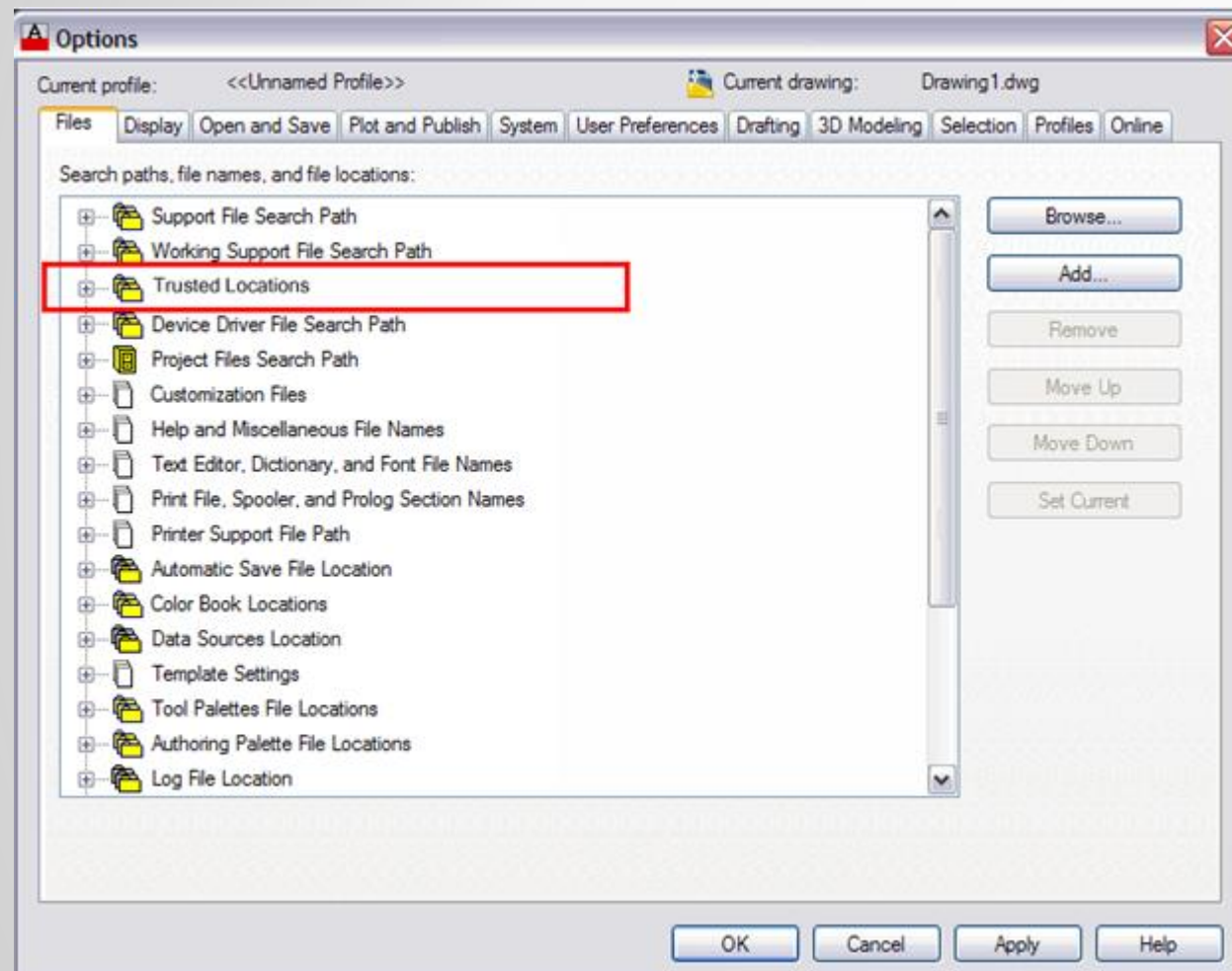
- Specifies the domain names or URLs from which AutoCAD can run JavaScript code.
- Users can specify multiple URLs for JavaScript servers.
  - The URLs support wildcards e.g.:
    - \*.autodesk.com/\* // trust anything from Autodesk
    - \*.autocadws.com/\* // trust anything from AutoCAD WS
    - \*.codeplex.com/site/MyProject/\* // trust anything from a subdomain
    - https://144.111.123.123/\* // trust only https protocol from a specific IP address



# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## Added new settings to Options dialog



# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

**Implicitly “trust” digitally signed executable files (DLL, EXE, ARX, DBX, etc.)**

- All Digitally Signed modules are trusted
  - Regardless of location
- You can obtain Digital Signatures from [VeriSign.com](http://VeriSign.com)

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## “/safemode” startup switch, SAFEMODE & SAFEMODEAPPS system variables

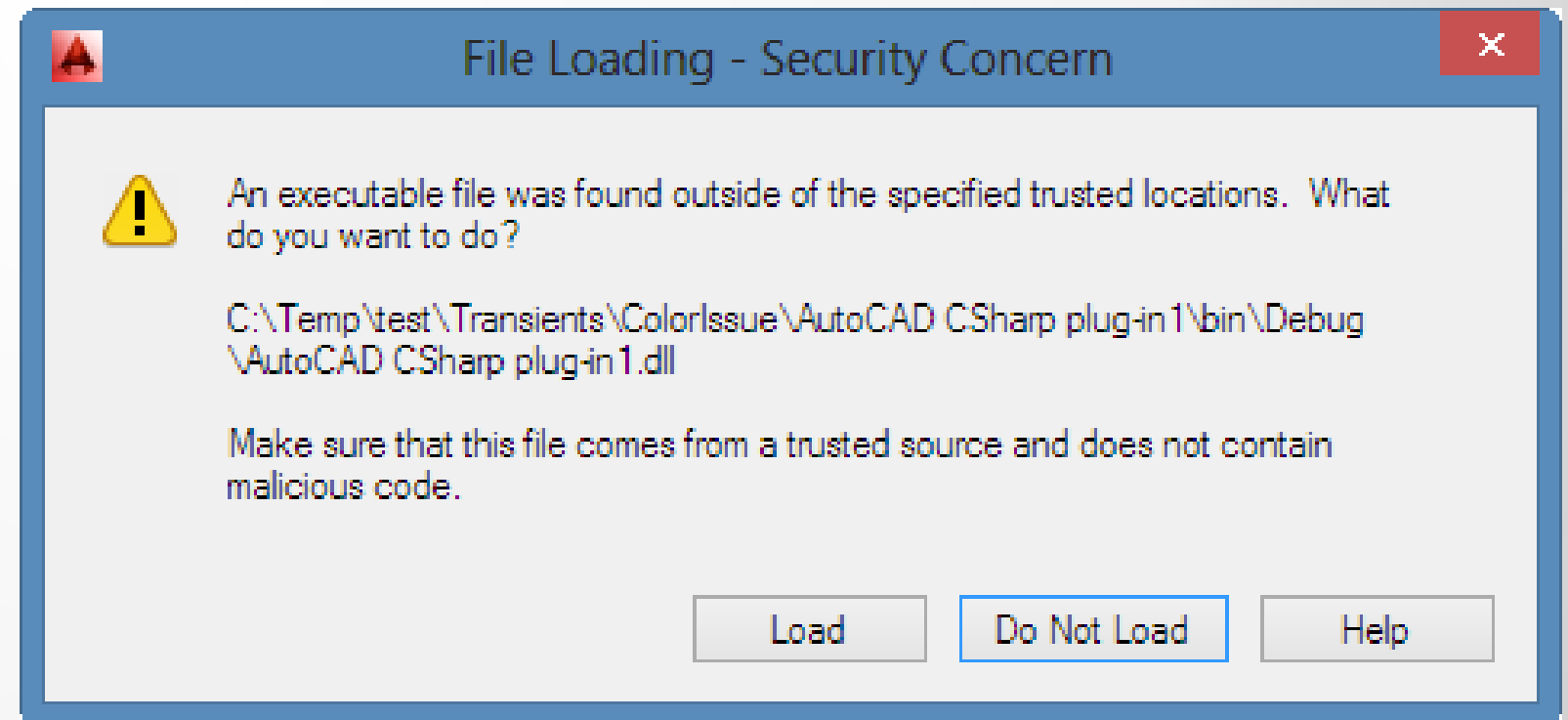
- 2012 /nolisp startup switch renamed to ‘/safemode’
  - /safemode now includes all executable code files too
  - Starts AutoCAD in a ‘bare minimum state’ to allow users to change AUTLOADPATH in Options dialog without risking loading unsafe modules
- SAFEMODE
  - Specifies whether executable code can be loaded and executed for the AutoCAD session 0 or 1
- SAFEMODEAPPS
  - Specifies which apps can be loaded in safemode.
  - Semi-colon split multiple paths

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

**New warning dialog: warn users when executable files are detected that are not included in TRUSTEDPATHS & TRUSTEDDOMAINS**

- Dialog appears only when SECURELOAD = 1
- Best way for users to find out something is loading – tell them!





# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## Change Loading for CUIx/MNL files

- Previously in the user's roamable support folder: %appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD 20xx - <lang>\R19.0\enu\Support
  - **MNL** - moved to the localized Support folder of the Install Dir: C:\Program Files\Autodesk\AutoCAD 20xx\Support\en-us.
  - **CUIX** - staying in the user's roamable support folder because they need to be easily edited.

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## Add warning message: to warn users when writable locations are specified in TRUSTEDPATHS

- If your Trusted Path is writable under your current login
  - You risk a virus writing itself to that folder
  - Get warned!



# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## **New LISP function (findtrustedfile) as opposed to (findfile)**

- Behaves the same as the existing (findfile) function except it searches the Trusted Locations (TRUSTEDPATHS)
  - Even your own LISP modules can be protected!

# The SECURELOAD Solution

AutoCAD 2013 sp1/2014

## Add new settings to Network Deployment Wizard

- Allows the setting of the “Trusted Locations” & “Trusted Domain” Locations
- Deploy the same settings across your Enterprise
  - Without the risk of missing a machine!



# Trustworthy Computing

- 2002 - Bill Gates – *“In the past, we've made our software and services more compelling for users by adding new features and functionality, and by making our platform richly extensible.*

*We've done a terrific job at that, but all those great features won't matter unless customers trust our software... when we face a choice between adding features and resolving security issues, we need to choose security.”*

- 2012 – Microsoft was the only company that managed to report fewer vulnerabilities in 2012 than its 10-year average, according to a study of vulnerability data by NSS Labs. (eWeek)

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