

# Have you disabled or removed Java from your computer?

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**Oracle seems to be having one security problem after another with Java.** Last fall, it was reported that Java 7 Update 7 had problems but that Java 6 was safe (no security problems). Oracle released Java 7 Update 8, Update 9, and Update 10 all of which had security problems. The latest security problem seems to affect both Java 6 and 7. Java 7 Update 11 is available for download. Apparently this fixes a few problems but not all of them. The status of a patch for Java 6 is unknown.

**While some tech gurus (Kim Komando for one) recommend** completely removing Java from your computer, the Department of Homeland Security is recommending disabling the Java plug-in in your browser(s). You can find a bunch of links by using the search term homeland+security+java in most any search engine. Homeland Security's recommendation leaves Java available in case any desktop applications might need it. The current crop of malware exploits security flaws in Java that allow the download of the malicious payload if you simply visit an infected website. The malware download may happen so quickly you don't notice it and there is no security pop-up to warn you, either.

## What to do, what to do?

**Several tech writers have suggested** disabling Java in your primary browser and leaving it enabled in a separate browser that is used only to access web sites that require Java. I have done a little checking using some of the websites in my bookmarks and found that disabling Java has no impact on the websites I visit most often.

**The only website I found in my bookmarks that uses** Java is the speed test at <http://dslreports.com/speedtest> and the site has alternatives to Java available. I didn't have any problems because the websites I checked use Java script, which does not have security issues as Java does. I rarely use Internet Explorer but decided to disable Java in IE anyway.