

## Microsoft 365 Safe Links | How Safe Links protects you from malicious websites & phishing

**What are Microsoft Safe Links?** Safe Links automatically scans every link you click in **email, Teams, and Office apps**. It checks URLs in real time against a database of known malicious sites and blocks dangerous links before they can harm you.

### 1 Links in Emails Are Rewritten

When you receive an email, Safe Links rewrites URLs so they route through Microsoft's security servers for real-time scanning when they are clicked.

#### ✉ Outlook

From: **vendor@supplier-invoice.com** Subject: **Your invoice is ready – click to view**  
Hi, your invoice is ready. Please click the link below to view it online:

✓ **Link appears rewritten as:** <https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsupplier-invoice.com%2Fview&data=05...>

🔍 Hover to see original: <https://supplier-invoice.com/view>

### 2 Malicious Links Are Blocked

If Safe Links detects a malicious URL, you'll see a warning page instead of the dangerous site, protecting you before any harm occurs.

🔴 🟡 🟢 <https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/...>



**This website has been classified as malicious.**

The URL you are attempting to visit has been identified as a threat by Microsoft Defender for Office 365.

⚠️ <https://supplier-invoice.com/view>

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### 3 Protection in Microsoft Teams

Links in Teams chats, group chats, and channels are scanned in real time when clicked. URLs in Teams are not rewritten, but are still checked against known threats.

#### 👤 Teams — General Channel

JD Hey, check out this resource: <https://example-resource.com/doc>

⚠️ Safe Links scans this URL when you click it. If malicious, a warning page appears in your browser.

### 4 Protection in Office Apps

Links inside documents opened in Office apps are scanned in real-time when you click them. This includes hyperlinks in both shared files and attachments.

**Word** **Excel** **PowerPoint** **OneNote** **Visio**

Click link in document → Safe Links scans URL → ✓ Safe — Opens / ✗ Blocked

### ! What You Should Know

#### 🔗 URLs Look Different

Links are rewritten to *safelinks.protection.outlook.com*. This is **normal**. Hover to see the original URL.

#### ⚠️ Warning = Protection

A red warning page means the site is dangerous. **Do not bypass it**. Contact IT if you think it's a false positive.

#### 🕒 Brief Scanning Delay

A short delay when clicking links is normal — Safe Links is verifying the URL. Takes just a **few seconds**.