

VBA macros, and sometimes Word docs, revert to prior versions – Here’s a fix

I don’t know why this happens (if you know, pls tell me!), but here’s what to do.

First, diagnose (or at least confirm) the problem

In MS Word, go to Developer > Macros > Visual Basic. At the top of the left-hand Project pane, click to open the Normal template. If that line says “Normal”, we’re probably okay. But continue, anyway, to verify it. However, if it says “Normal (~WRLxxxx.tmp)” (where the x’s are numbers), then there’s a problem.

Continue under the Normal line to click “Modules” then click one of the modules listed that is known to contain a macro or program that’s recently been changed or updated.

Open that macro via the down-triangle in the upper-right text box (which may say something like “(Declarations)”). Check to see if this macro is the latest version or if it’s reverted to a previous version.

Now, if the macro has *not* reverted *and* the Project name says “Normal” (without the “~WRLxxx.tmp” file), it’s probably okay. However, if *either* the macro has reverted *or* the Project name says “Normal (~WRLxxx.tmp)”, continue below.

The fix

First, close MS Word. This doesn’t work if Word is still open, and may mess things up.

Then open Windows File Explorer and navigate to the template folder where the Normal.dotm template is stored. This is usually at “C:\Users\[userID]\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Templates” (fill in your UserID).

Delete any and all files with names like “~WRLxxxx.tmp” (where xxxx are numbers).

Oddly, that probably fixed the problem. I don’t know why, but it usually works.

Verify

Reopen MS Word and try it. See if the docs and macros are current (see step 1 for how to do this). Most of the time, it’ll be fine. But if they reverted again, then the damage has been done and you may have to fix them by hand one more time: but only once! This time, after the fix, it should do the trick and the changes should stick. (Whereas, fixing the macros and docs without deleting the ~WRL tmp files will not do it. We’d just lose the fix because the files would revert again. With the ~WRL deletions, it will not.)