

Minimum PC Settings for Launching Web-Based Content from the VA Learning Management System (VA LMS)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has deployed an enterprise-wide Learning Management System (LMS). The VA LMS offers many benefits to VA, including the seamless launch of web-based learning content and the automatic recording of learning progress from that content. In order to support these processes to the fullest extent possible, it is critical to ensure that certain elements relating to Learners' Internet access is managed. Specifically, there are settings in the Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) browser software that must be pushed out to the client computers managed by your facility. Without these settings, learners attempting to take training modules throughout the facility who "think" they are getting credit will be prevented from communicating between their computers, the web-based content, and the VA LMS. Without this communications, the learners may not be credited for the learning they accomplish.

Here are the specific settings necessary to support VA LMS online training activities as of Sep 29, 2010:

Internet Explorer > Internet Options> Security Tab

Add the following to the Trusted Sites List (Trusted Sites Zone):

<i>*.army.mil</i>	<i>*.skillsoft.com</i>	<i>*.skillport.com</i>
<i>*.skillwsa.com</i>	<i>*.performax.com</i>	<i>*.performax3.com</i>
<i>*.akamaiedge.net</i>	<i>*.edgesuite.net</i>	<i>*.edgekey.net</i>
<i>*.plateau.com</i>	<i>*.hmi.sinclair.edu</i>	<i>*.skilldialogue.com</i>
<i>*.books24x7.com</i>	<i>*.swankhealth.com</i>	<i>*.swank.com</i>
<i>*.swankmp.com</i>	<i>*.medcomrn.com</i>	

Once the above are added to the "Trusted Sites" Zone, then the following should be employed within that Zone's Custom Level:

<u>.NET Framework</u>		
	Loose XAML	Enable
	XAML browser applications	Enable
	XPS documents	Enable
<u>.NET Framework-reliant components</u>		
	Permissions for components with manifests	High Safety
	Run components not signed with Authenticode	Enable
	Run components signed with Authenticode	Enable
<u>ActiveX controls and plug-ins:</u>		
	Allow previously unused ActiveX controls to run without prompting	Enable
	Allow Scriptlets	Disable
	Automatic prompting for ActiveX controls	Disable
	Binary and script behaviors	Enable

	Display video and animation on a webpage that does not use external media player	Disable
	Download signed ActiveX controls	Enable
	Download unsigned ActiveX controls	Enable
	Initialize and script ActiveX controls not marked as safe for scripting	Disable
	Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins	Enable
	Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting	Enable
Downloads:		
	Automatic prompting for file downloads	Disable
	File download	Enable
	Font download	Enable
Enable .NET Framework setup		
		Enable
Java VM:		
	Java permissions	High Safety (JRE 6.0)
Miscellaneous:		
	Access data sources across domains	Enable
	Allow META REFRESH	Enable
	Allow scripting of Internet Browser Web browser control	Disable
	Allow script-initiated windows without size or position constraints	Disable
	Allow web pages to use restricted protocols for active content	Prompt
	Allow websites to open windows without address or status bars	Enable
	Display mixed content	Prompt
	Don't prompt for client certificate selection when no certificate or only one certificate exists	Disable
	Drag and drop or copy and paste files	Enable
	Include local directory path when uploading files to a server	Enable
	Installation of desktop items	Prompt
	Launching applications and unsafe files	Prompt
	Launching programs and files in an IFRAME	Prompt
	Navigate sub-frames across different domains	Enable
	Open files based on content, not file extension	Enable
	Software channel permissions	Medium Safety
	Submit non-encrypted form data	Enable
	Use Phishing Filter	Disable
	Use Pop-up Blocker	Enable
	User data persistence	Enable
	Websites in less privileged web content zone can navigate into this zone	Enable
Scripting:		
	Active scripting	Enable
	Allow Programmatic clipboard access	Prompt
	Allow status bar updates via script	Enable
	Allow websites to prompt for information using scripted windows	Enable
	Scripting of Java applets	Enable
User Authentication:		
	Logon	Automatic logon only in Intranet zone

Internet Explorer > Internet Options> Advanced Tab

On this tab, you will see the Virtual Machines (VM) which are installed and enabled within your browser. If you have the Sun Java VM loaded it will appear here, as will the Microsoft VM. Because the Microsoft VM is no longer available for installation, we recommend only the Sun JVM/JRE in support of the VA LMS. And, due to the limitations of other VA programs running enterprise-wide, the minimum versions of the Sun JVM/JRE recommended for deployment are 1.6.0 (9/29/2010) and above identified on the Sun Java sites as JRE 6.0 (downloadable from <http://java.sun.com/products/archive/index.html>). **While minimum for the VA LMS, these Java versions may conflict with specialty programs used at some facilities. If so, use of these computers with the VA LMS will be problematic.**

In order to enable the Sun Java VM (after downloading and installing it), set the checkbox under the “Java [Sun]” icon. **The Microsoft VM should be uninstalled from the PC.**

“Add-on” Toolbars to IE

Any desktops displaying the Yahoo™ toolbar on the Browser should disable the Yahoo™ pop-up blocker. If enabled, Learners will not be able to launch certain mandatory courses nor the Profile Update form. VA LMS Administrators will not be able to launch the Profile Maintenance form.

To disable the Yahoo™ pop-up blocker, find the icon on the Yahoo™ toolbar that looks like a red explosion, right-click on it, and opt to turn off the pop-up blocker. Also disable the pop-up blockers on Google™ toolbars and/or others.

General Recommendations

	Operating System (Client)
	Windows XP
	Browser
	Microsoft IE 7
	Java Plug-in
	Sun JRE (Java Plug-in) 1.6.X {latest version} Downloadable from http://java.sun.com/products/archive/index.html
	Adobe Flash Player
	Adobe Flash Player 10
	Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF)
	Acrobat Reader 8

* Note: Multiple versions of the Sun JRE installed on a machine can cause conflicts with LMS communications and may result in learning not being recorded.