

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is moving towards the enterprise-wide rollout of a 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 the communications, the learners will not be credited for the learning they accomplish.

Here are the specific settings necessary to support VA LMS activities today:

Internet Explorer > Internet Options> Security Tab

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

- *.skillsoft.com
- *.va.gov
- *.vcampus.com

If the above are added to the “**Trusted Sites**” **Zone**, then the following should be employed within that Zone’s **Custom Level**:

ActiveX controls and plug-ins:

- Download signed ActiveX controls – Enable
- Download unsigned ActiveX controls – Enable
- Initialize and script ActiveX controls not marked safe – Enable
- Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins – Enable
- Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting – Enable

Downloads:

- Automatic prompting for file downloads – Enable
- File download – Enable

Java VM:

- Java permissions – Low Safety

Miscellaneous:

- Access data sources across domains – Enable
- Allow META REFRESH – Enable
- Allow scripting of Internet Browser Web browser control – Enable
- Allow script-initiated windows without size or position constraints – Enable
- Display mixed content – Enable
- Installation of desktop items – Enable (or Prompt)
- Navigate sub-frames across different domains – Enable
- Use Pop-up Blocker – Disable

Scripting:

- Active scripting – Enable
- Scripting of Java applets – Enable

If the “Trusted Sites” Zone was amended to include the three domains identified above, then the “**Internet**” **Zone**’s **Custom Level** security settings must reflect the following:

ActiveX controls and plug-ins:

- Download signed ActiveX controls – Enable
- Download unsigned ActiveX controls – Disable
- Initialize and script ActiveX controls not marked safe – Disable
- Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins – Enable

Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting – Enable

Downloads:

Automatic prompting for file downloads – Enable
File download – Enable

Java VM:

Java permissions – High Safety

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
Display mixed content – Prompt
Installation of desktop items – Prompt
Navigate sub-frames across different domains – Enable
Use Pop-up Blocker – Disable

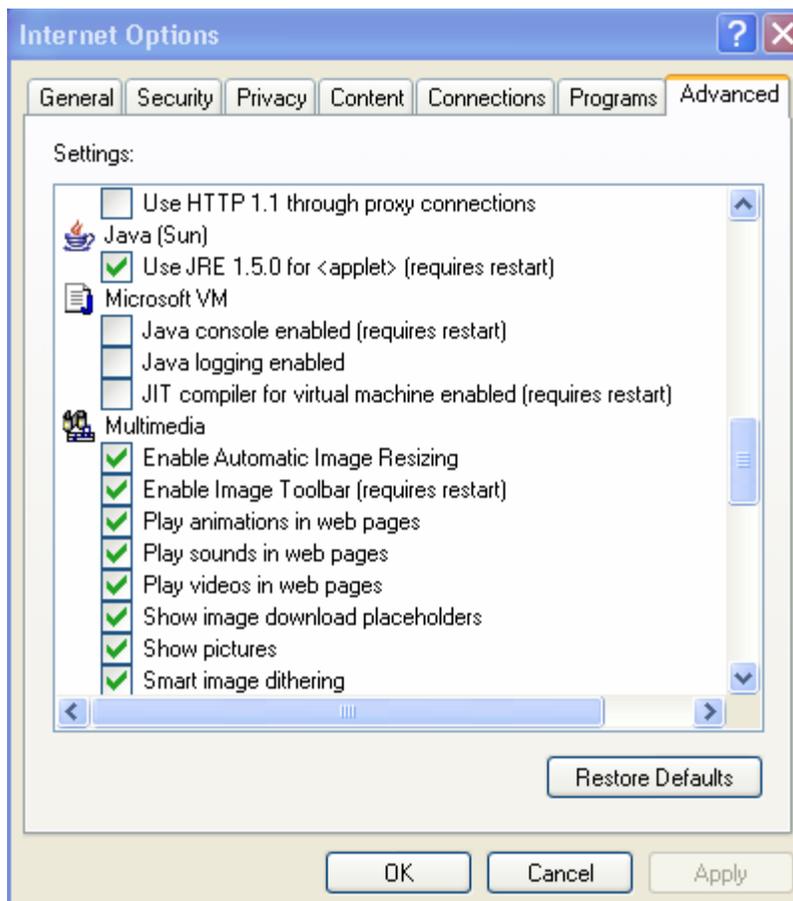
Scripting:

Active scripting – Enable
Scripting of Java applets – Enable

Internet Explorer > Internet Options > Advanced Tab

In here, you will see the Virtual Machines (VM) which are installed and enabled in 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 versions of the Sun JVM/JRE recommended for deployment are 1.5.0 (3/16/2006) and above identified on the Sun Java sites as JRE 5.0 (downloadable from <http://java.sun.com/products/archive/index.html>). Later versions of the Sun JRE may conflict with specific other programs in VA.

In order to enable the Sun Java VM (after downloading and installing it), set the checkbox under the “Java [Sun]” icon and uncheck the “Java Console Enabled” and “Java Logging Enabled” boxes under the “Microsoft VM” header (if present). See the image below for appropriate VM settings.



“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 (Cyber Security Awareness, ADR, Good Clinical Practice) nor the Profile Update form. VA LMS Administrators will not be able to launch the ANL 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 2000
- Windows XP

Browser

- Microsoft IE 6.X (Windows)

Java Plug-in

- Sun JRE (Java Plug-in) 1.5.X

Downloadable from <http://java.sun.com/products/archive/index.html>

Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF)

VA LMS reports output to PDF. The LMS supports the following PDF Reader:

- Acrobat Reader 6.01