

~ *The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY* ~
November 16 - 23, 2007



The Impact of Internet Explorer 7.0 on HSEN Applications...

The following information was previously communicated in an OFT Bulletin (07-CHS-04) on January 22, 2007.

As we shared with you in a previous Weekly, this bulletin informed local DSS LAN Administrators of problems discovered when HSEN browser applications are run on equipment housing the Microsoft Internet Explorer version 7.0. In the communication, OFT asked that users refrain from upgrading local equipment, or purchasing local equipment with Internet Explorer version 7.0, if that equipment will access State HSEN browser applications; and they cautioned that **no state equipment should be upgraded by county LAN Administrators.**

The bulletin directed that counties using WSUS, SUS or Windows Update to apply Microsoft patches must take action through those applications to make sure that Internet Explorer 7.0 is not applied. If local LAN Administrators download IE 7.0 and start using it, they may have issues running *some* OCFS Web based applications. In essence, you should not begin using IE 7.0 until you receive direction from OFT and OCFS.

We thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

A Reminder About the Remote Access Services (or RAS)...

As you are aware, on Thursday, November 1st, a communication about the decommissioning of the RAS, or Remote Access Services was sent to individual users at the local districts (241 users) and voluntary agencies (73 users), who have used the dial up service to access the HSEN. The communication was also sent to the agency and district Implementation Coordinator and Directors of Service,

and included a letter, explaining some alternate methods to dial in, as well as a survey questionnaire that was to be completed by the RAS user and returned by Wednesday, November 7th, to ocfs.dl.it.ras@ocfs.state.ny.us. The point of the survey questionnaire is to help OCFS IT identify alternative methods for current RAS users to access email or other OCFS HSEN application(s).

It should be noted that the phase out of the RAS service will begin on December 1, 2007.

For your reference, the information below was included in the recent communication.

The following are a listing of alternate access methods that require that you have your own internet service provider (ISP). In some cases public Internet access may be used.

1. For general **Email** access, including Outlook Calendar and Global Address Book - anyone with a HSEN account and Internet access can use Outlook Web Access (OWA). Instructions can be found at <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/remote%20access.asp>
2. If you require **access to a specific application, such as Connections or Webstar, you may be able to use SSLVPN from a non state imaged device**. Details may be found here: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/vpn/sslvpn/>, including the link to form OCFS-4827 to request SSLVPN access. This request must be submitted by your agency security administrator to comctrup@dfa.state.ny.us
3. If you require access to **an application NOT available through SSLVPN**, you may be able to use CISCO VPN. To use CISCO VPN you will need a state-imaged laptop or desktop with the VPN software installed, and you will need special access granted. More information may be found here: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/vpn/>. This request must be submitted by your agency security administrator to comctrup@dfa.state.ny.us
4. If none of these solutions support your need for this access, please fill out the attached questionnaire and mail it to ocfs.dl.it.ras@ocfs.state.ny.us by close of business, Wednesday, November 7th.
5. If one of these solutions **does** meet your needs, please send an email to ocfs.dl.it.ras@ocfs.state.ny.us by close of business Wednesday, November 7th, specifying which one(s) it is. Please include the Serial Number of the PC or laptop that you use. (It should be on the underside of the laptop, and will be after either "S/N" or "Service Tag." On a desktop, it will be on a tag on top of the tower that houses the hard drive.)
6. If your district or agency no longer needs the PC or laptop that you have been using to RAS in, please send an email to comctrup@dfa.state.ny.us to request pickup of the device.
7. If you need more information, please contact the RAS issues mailbox <mailto:ocfs.dl.it.ras@ocfs.state.ny.us> . Please include: your contact information **and what you use the RAS server for**, as well as your questions or concerns.

****Please note: If you use RAS, but have not received your survey, or if you have any questions regarding the decommissioning of RAS, please send e-mail to ocfs.dl.it.ras@ocfs.state.ny.us. Please include: your contact information, your use of the RAS server (if any), as well as your questions or concerns.**

Important Information Regarding What is Happening in the OCFS Data Warehouse ...

The new **Cognos 8** environment is available to all existing OCFS Data Warehouse users! For more information on accessing Cognos 8 or to view the interactive "OCFS Data Warehouse Basic Training for Cognos 8", visit the Intranet site at <http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse> or contact the Data Warehouse Team at data.warehouse@ocfs.state.ny.us.

The OCFS Data Warehouse Team has begun disabling the predefined reports in the old ReportNet and PowerPlay/Impromptu environments. From now on, users should access predefined reports from the new Cognos 8 environment. [Note: The PowerPlay reports/cubes and BECS daycare provider reports must still be accessed through the PowerPlay/Impromptu environment until further notice.]

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly

Weekly System Maintenance...

CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- **Wednesday, 11/21/07** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 11/23/07** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **Wednesday, 11/28/07** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM