

CONNECTIONS WEEKLY SYSTEM UPDATE

Memo

To: CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators
From: CONNECTIONS Communications
CC: LAN Administrators/Security Coordinators, Keyusers, OCFS -Directors of Services, CONNECTIONS Project Team
Date: August 28, 2003
Re: Activities for the week of August 29, 2003 – September 5, 2003

1. Blaster and Welchia Worm Update

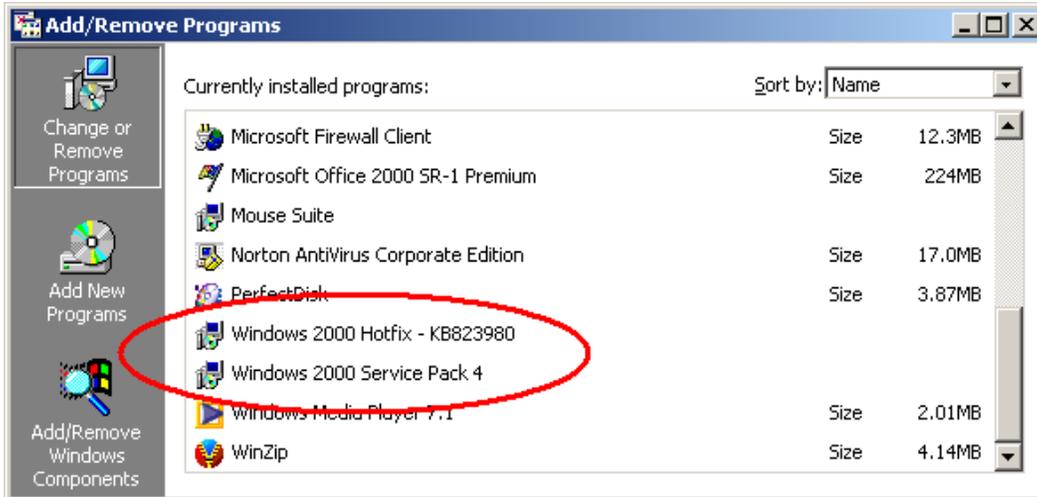
On Wednesday 8/27 and Thursday 8/28, Voluntary Agency Executive Directors and LDSS Commissioners were sent an update regarding the recent Blaster and Welchia Worm attacks that have severely impacted the operation of the State Human Services Network. The communication included a letter from Larry Brown, Deputy Commissioner, OCFS Division of Development and Prevention Services, and also included an update from the New York State Office for Technology (OFT) dated Wednesday 8/27/03. The above referenced communication was sent to Voluntary Agency Executive Directors via UPS overnight mail on 8/27 and sent to LDSS Commissioners via Fax on 8/28.

For your reference, we have attached the aforementioned communication materials to the cover of today's CONNECTIONS Weekly Update. In addition, we have attached a second document from OFT which contains a status update regarding the Blaster and Welchia Worm Virus as of today's date, Thursday 8/28/03.

If you have any questions regarding the aforementioned information you may contact the OCFS CONNECTIONS Communication Team. If you have additional questions related to the Blaster and Welchia Worm remedial activities, please contact the OFT Coordination Center 1-800-603-0877, your OFT Customer Relations representative, or your CONNECTIONS Regional Office Representative.

Helpful Hint -- How to tell if CD Service Pack and Hot fix have been Applied:

A quick way to tell if the service pack and hot fix were applied to a PC is to go to the "Control Panel" and open "Add/Remove Programs". If they were applied, they will be listed in there. See below.



2. NIS Sharepoint

Over the last several months, several Network WinInstall Packages were distributed to CONNECTIONS workstations that contained new client software. An example of this would be LearnLinc. Because NIS Agencies are not part of the Network WinInstall Environment, they are unable to receive software updates through these packages. OCFS IT/CONNECTIONS and OFT are pleased to announce that an NIS sharepoint has been identified that all NIS agencies may start using beginning **Friday, September 5th, 2003**. IT staff at NIS agencies or sites that have a need to update software (CONNECTIONS or Network related) are instructed to contact OCFS IT Operations for instructions on how to access the NIS sharepoint. Cathy Vallee, who works for the OCFS IT Operations Unit has been designated as the contact person for this initiative. Please feel free to contact Cathy via email, Cathy.Vallee@dfa.state.ny.us on or shortly before September 5th.

For those who are not familiar with Network Integration Services (NIS), NIS is an ongoing project coordinated with the NYS Office for Technology's Network Architecture Bureau intended to assist local districts, voluntary agencies and state agencies with the integration of state and local networks. The main objective of the Voluntary Agency NIS initiative is to allow voluntary agency staff access to the CONNECTIONS Application from voluntary agency PCs. Questions related to NIS should be forwarded to OFT Customer Relations. For information regarding NIS, please visit the OFT Customer Relations Command Center at <http://sdssnet5/crcc/>. To view NIS procedures and Online NIS Form and Survey, click on the NIS Form and Information Box. All completed NIS requests/surveys must be submitted electronically to COMCTRUP.

3. CONNECTIONS-In-A-Box (CIAB) Replacement Project (CIAB Sites Only)

The plans for the CONNECTIONS-In-A-Box (CIAB) Replacement Project will become finalized within the next few weeks. An announcement and materials will be forthcoming.

4. CONNECTIONS System Down Time

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

Friday, 8/29/2003 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am

Tuesday, 9/02/2003 from 5:45 am - 6:30 am

Friday, 9/05/2003 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am