

# 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: December 19, 2002  
Re: Activities for the week of 12/20/02 – 12/27/02

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### 1. Internet Explorer Upgrade/128-bit Encryption (rescheduled)

**Note: The above activity was postponed last weekend and has been re-scheduled for this upcoming weekend 12/20/02**

CONNECTIONS Windows 2000 Workstations will receive an upgrade to Internet Explorer to version 5.5 and SP2 128-bit encryption. These changes improve security on Internet Explorer. This upgrade has been re-scheduled for distribution this upcoming weekend beginning Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. This distribution will be completed via a WinInstall package distribution. The schedule for this distribution is as follows:

- Distribution for CONNECTIONS Windows 2000 Workstation begins Friday evening, December 20th at 6pm.
- IE Upgrade and 128 Encryption will be in production beginning Monday, December 23rd at 8am.

**\*\*\*Important\*\*\*** Please make sure to alert staff to leave their workstations **“powered on”** so the workstations can receive the WinInstall package distribution. Users should log off the system with the “ctrl+alt+delete” message visible on the monitor. **Do not “power off” or shut down your workstation.**

**Please Note:** This distribution only applies to the CONNECTIONS Windows 2000 75% Replacement Computers that were distributed over the last year. The *state image* for the new CONNECTIONS Windows 2000 25% replacement computers **includes** the upgraded Internet Explorer and 128-bit encryption.

## 2. **95% Citrix Screen Resolution**

As we informed you over the last few weeks, our effort to implement the Citrix 95% screen display had been delayed. In our first effort to implement the 95% screen display, the issue we ran into was that users who had their local screen resolution set to 800x600 did not get the full view of the application. Parts of the application were truncated. After some extensive testing our technical team concluded that 95% mode was not feasible on workstations whose local screen resolution is set to 800x600 or below.

In our effort to provide CONNECTIONS users with the 95% Citrix screen display, we are pleased to announce that our technical team has found a solution to accommodate CONNECTIONS users who's PCs display pixel settings are 800x600 and 1024x768. When a users navigates to the CONNECTIONS logon page, the **website** will dynamically select the correct Citrix display mode depending upon the users local screen resolution. If the local screen resolution is set to 800x600 or lower, the display mode will remain full screen. If the local screen resolution is set to 1024x768 or higher, the display mode is 95%.

The date for implementing the 95% Citrix screen resolution has been scheduled for Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 during the regularly scheduled Network and CONNECTIONS System downtime.

## 3. **Desktop PC Replacement Project (the remaining 25%)**

\*\*\*All districts/agencies in **Region 5 (Yonkers) and Region 6 (NYC)** should send in their site reconciliation spreadsheets immediately. These must be submitted electronically to David Kislowski at [David.Kislowski@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:David.Kislowski@dfa.state.ny.us). All completed reconciliation spreadsheets must be in Excel format. When completing district/agency spreadsheets, please do not send the entire regional spreadsheet. Please copy and paste your district/agency information into a new Excel spreadsheet. Reconciliation spreadsheets in any other format will not be accepted.

### **PC Roll-Out Schedule**

- ❑ Region 4 (Albany) November 15 - November 22, 2002 (**Completed**)
- ❑ Region 3 (Syracuse) December 2 - December 6, 2002 (**Completed**)
- ❑ Region 2 (Rochester) December 9 - December 13, 2002 (**Completed**)
- ❑ Region 1 (Buffalo) December 16 – December 20, 2002 (**In Process**)
- ❑ Region 5 (Yonkers) – PC Rollout is scheduled for early January, 2003
- ❑ Region 6 (NYC) – PC Rollout is scheduled for mid January, 2003

**\*\*Important Note\*\*:** As referenced above, we expect the PC Rollout to be completed in Regions 1-4 by December 20, 2002. Any districts or voluntary agencies in Regions 1-4 that have not submitted their Site

Desktop PC Replacement Spreadsheets will not be scheduled for the CONNECTIONS 25% Desktop PC Replacement and Installation in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of dates listed above. Sites that don't send in the completed spreadsheets will be pushed to the end of the schedule after December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*Reminder to Regions 1-4 LAN Admins\*\*** To prepare for the delivery of the new PC's, we would like to remind LAN Administrators that there are several tasks and best practice guidelines that local district and voluntary agency LAN Administrators and Information Technology Staff should follow to facilitate the desktop PC replacement process. These tasks and best practices are outlined in the Desktop PC Replacement Preparation Materials located on the CONNECTIONS Intranet Website on the Implementation Page and in the Public Folders: All Public Folders>Statewide>CONNECTIONS>Desktop PC Replacement Project.

In addition to the "Best Practices" and "Desktop PC Replacement" materials, there are several companion reference documents, which provide either, helpful information and recommended time frames for preparing to migrate to your new CONNECTIONS workstation, or specific procedures for copying data from your current CONNECTIONS workstations to your new CONNECTIONS workstations. These procedures have been developed to assist a variety of staff with different skill sets, however, depending on local practice, they may be used primarily by LAN Administrators or IT Staff.

If you need to take action on any of these preparatory activities, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Old computers will be removed and the files purged on the day of installation.

The Command Center will contact Districts/Agencies involved in the desktop PC rollout approximately two weeks prior to your scheduled implementation date. At that time, the Command Center will send a follow-up letter to site contacts. This letter will contain instructions and stickers that will need to be placed on the computers that have been targeted for replacement. The stickers should be placed on the upper left hand corner of the monitor connected to the device being replaced.

**Please Note: The above referenced Desktop PC Replacement Project does not include supplemental equipment, CIABs, laptops, printers or servers.**

#### **4. CONNECTIONS System Down Time**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

Friday, 12/20/2002 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am  
Friday, 12/27/2002 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am

**5. Microsoft Exchange Servers**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance on MS Exchange E-mail 5.0 servers, all Exchange E-mail 5.0 servers will be unavailable on:

Sunday, 12/22/2002 from 1:00 am - 6:00 am  
Sunday, 12/29/2002 from 1:00 am - 6:00 am