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RM Kaleidos® Learning Platform - Optimising performance with Microsoft® Internet Explorer®

Published Date : 02 Nov 2007 Last Updated : 15 Aug 2008 Content Ref: TEC1045855

Operating System	(All)
Part No	(none)
Summary	Applicable to Kaleidos Learning Platform Portal+ Version 1 and 2. Guidance for optimising Internet Explorer for use with RM Kaleidos Learning Platform.

:: Symptoms

Much of the content delivered by the Learning Platform is delivered over a secure Internet connection; this means that it will not be cached by any cache server within the school. However there are certain browser settings that can be set in order to maximise the amount of static data that is cached on the computer being used; these settings will dramatically improve performance by reducing the amount of data being delivered through the school's Internet feed.

Changing these settings to enhance performance introduces a reduction in the security of Internet Explorer. For most schools, the level of risk is very low; this is explained in the 'User Browser Settings - performance versus security' section below.

The risk can be mitigated further by setting Internet Explorer to delete the temporary Internet files when the browser is closed which is detailed below.

:: Requirements

Optimising Internet Explorer Settings for use with RM Kaleidos Learning Platform

To ensure the optimal performance of RM Kaleidos Learning Platform, we strongly recommend configuring a number of settings within Internet Explorer. These settings are applicable to Internet Explorer® 6 and Internet Explorer® 7.

All of the changes are user-specific not computer-specific. You therefore need to adjust the settings for every user that is likely to use the RM Kaleidos Learning Platform even though they may be accessing it from the same computer.

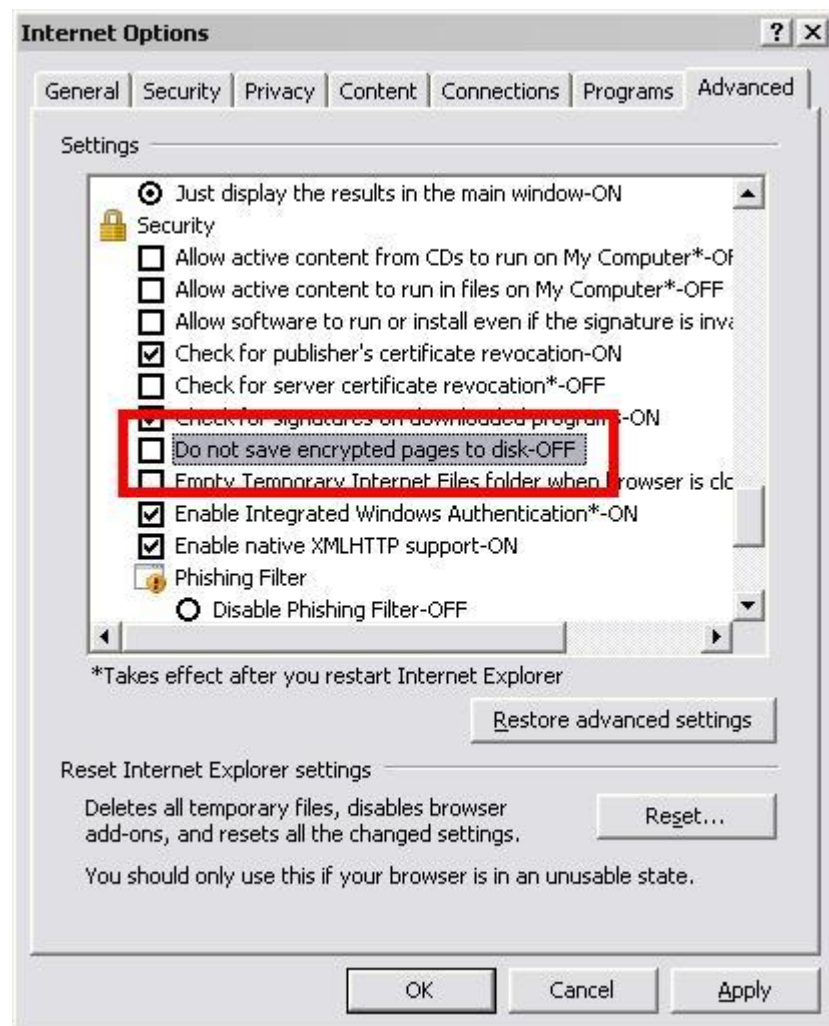
:: Procedure

Allowing encrypted pages to be saved

1. In Internet Explorer, select Tools, Options, Advanced. Ensure that under Security the setting 'Do not save encrypted pages to disk' is not checked.

With this setting, Internet Explorer caches information on the local disk. This helps speed up access to sites that you visit frequently, as data can be retrieved from the cache rather than having to re-download pages.

This setting reduces the amount of data that has to be transmitted and provides faster Internet performance.

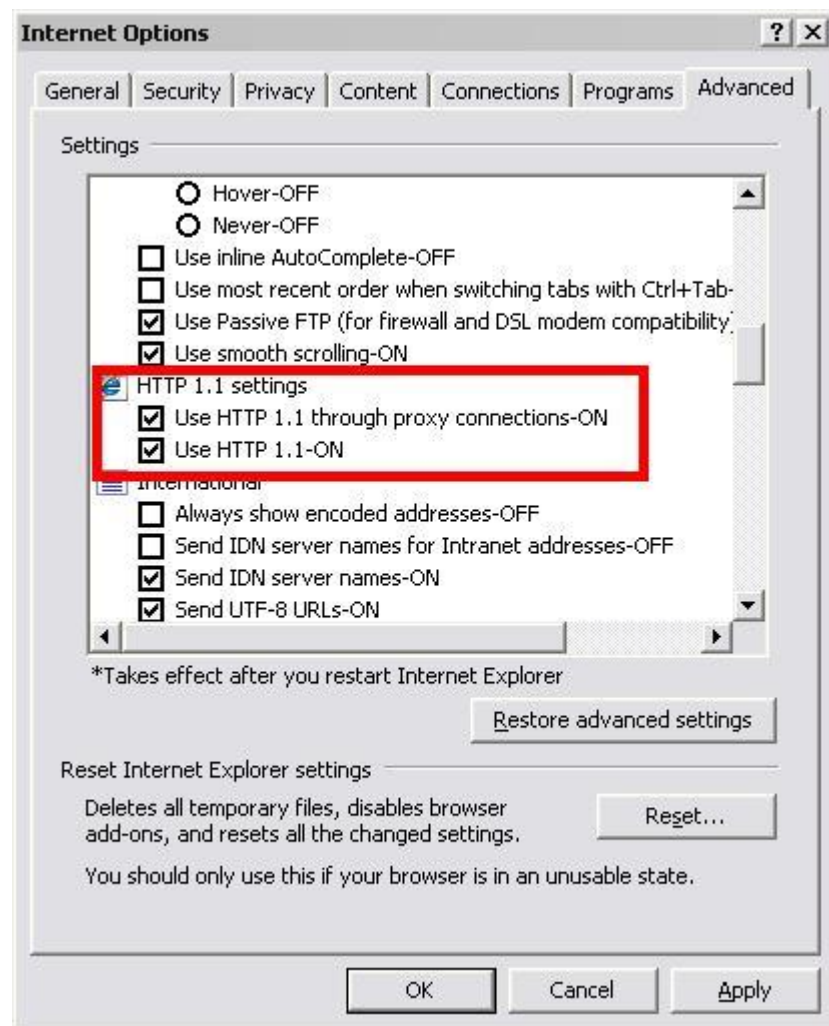


Enabling HTTP 1.1

2. Ensure in Internet Explorer, under Tools, Options, Advanced, that 'Use HTTP 1.1 through proxy connections' is checked.

With this setting, Internet Explorer will be able to decompress HTML files and data will be compressed for transport across the Internet.

This setting reduces the amount of data that has to be transmitted.

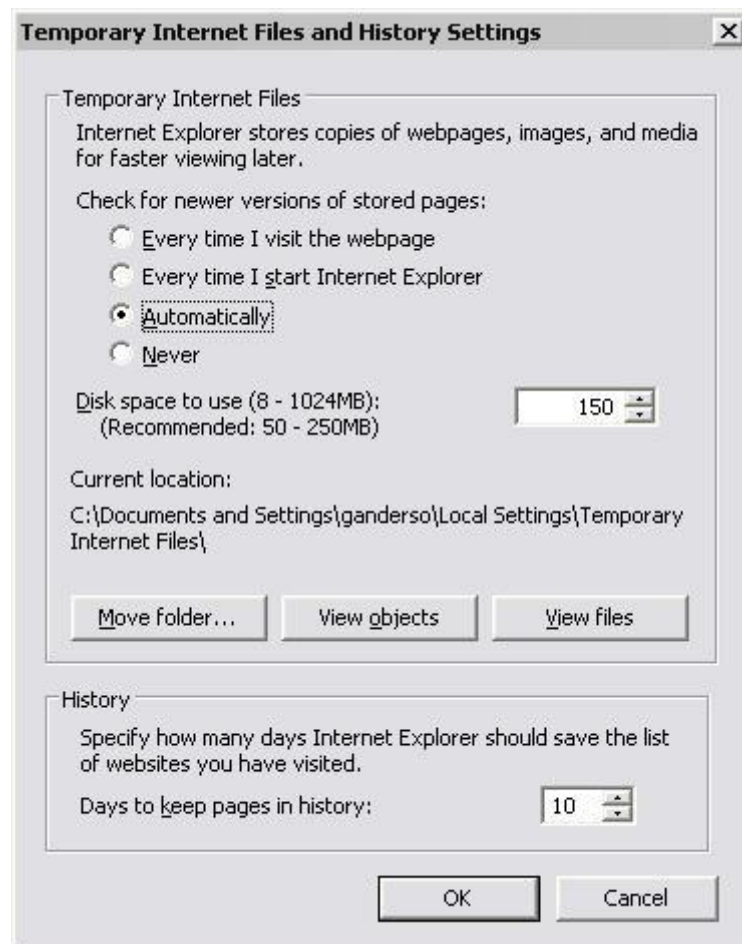


Managing temporary Internet files

3. Set your temporary Internet files settings to Automatic and set the 'Disk space to use' to 150MB

With this setting, Internet Explorer will check for new content only when visiting a page that was viewed in an earlier session of Internet Explorer or on a previous day.

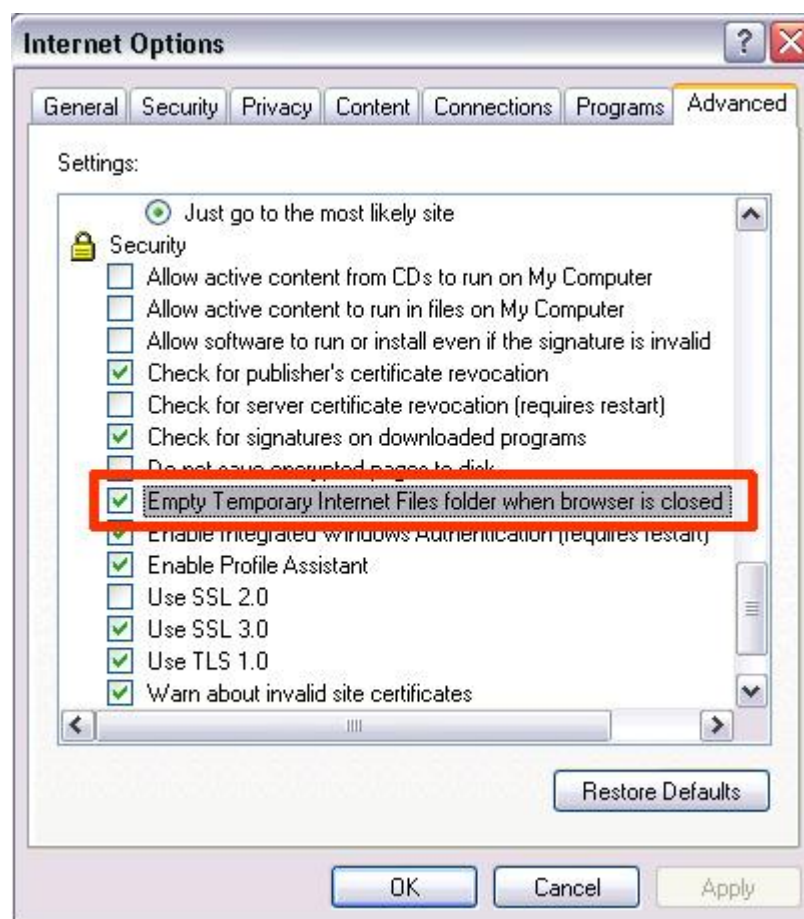
This setting can provide the most speed when browsing through pages you have already viewed.



Clearing browser cache when closing browser

4. Ensure that under Security the setting 'Empty Temporary Internet Files folder when browser is closed' is checked.

With this setting, Internet Explorer will delete the temporary Internet files when the Internet Explorer session is closed, thereby reducing the risk of any other users accessing those files.



:: Possible Issues

User Browser Settings - performance versus security

As the cached files are stored in the user profile they will be protected by the file system security in place on that workstation. Under certain circumstances, other users, if they have access to these cached files, may be able to view the parts of the Web pages that are cached to disk.

This could happen if:

- 1 the other user has administrative permissions on that workstation, or
- 1 the workstation has been configured so that users don't need to log on, or
- 1 several users are sharing a generic user account.

In most situations this will not apply and the cached files will only be accessible to the user that visited those pages and caused them to be cached. In addition, the risk of disclosure of sensitive data is further reduced because no data that is displayed in the MIS data Web parts (eg student personal details) is ever cached to disk, regardless of the Internet Explorer security settings.

:: Other Useful Articles

[Guidelines for optimising RM Kaleidos® Learning Platform performance](#)

(TEC1118471)

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