

ConsoleWorks

by  **TECSys**
Development

www.tditx.com

CONSOLEWORKS SMC JAVA CERTIFICATE EXPIRATION WORKAROUND

The Problem

The signing certificate originally distributed with ConsoleWorks SMC will expire on June 22, 2002. This affects you depending on which browser you are using to access the SMC. The table below lists the browsers ConsoleWorks SMC supports along with the changes needed to make it work after the certificate's expiration date.

The Limitations

These are the problems you might see if you try to access the SMC with an expired certificate:

1. Cut and paste in the telnet applet will not work
2. "Send file" to the telnet applet will not work

You might see a number of error messages from the Java Runtime Environment software, complaining about the certificate being expired. Here are samples of the messages you will see:

Browser	Effect	Action needed
IE 4.0 with NT4 SP3	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 5.0 with NT4 SP3	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 5.0 with Win2000 SP2	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 5.5 with NT4 SP3	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 5.5 with Win2000 SP2	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 6.0 with NT4 SP6a	No effect	No change or apply fix
IE 6.0 with Win2000 SP2	No effect	No change or apply fix
Netscape 4.51 with NT4 SP3	No message; see "The Limitations"	Use workaround or apply fix
Netscape 4.6 with NT4 SP6a	No message; see "The Limitations"	Use workaround or apply fix
Netscape 4.7 with NT4 SP6a	No message; see "The Limitations"	Use workaround or apply fix
Netscape 4.78 with NT4 SP6a	No message; see "The Limitations"	Use workaround or apply fix
Netscape 6.0	Not supported	Not supported
Netscape 6.1	Message; see "The Limitations"	Apply fix
Netscape 6.2	Message; see "The Limitations"	Apply fix

“The certificate is expired. Do you want to ignore this warning and proceed?”

“Unable to verify the certificate – code will be treated as unsigned.”

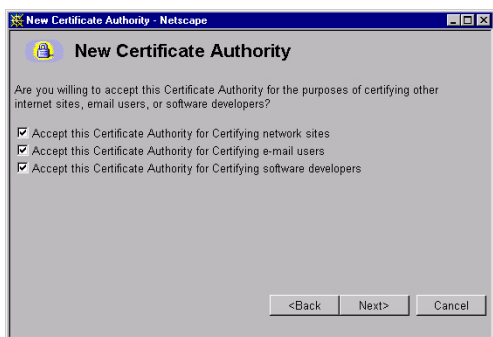
You can either continue to function with this limitation, use the workaround or apply the fix. The preferable way is to apply the fix so that everything will continue to work as before. If this is not possible, the workaround should provide you a way you can use to get your work done while still functioning with the expired certificate.

The Workaround

Connections via Internet Explorer will continue to work as before. All versions of IE tested seem to ignore the expired certificate and work as normal. We do recommend that you apply the fix if possible. This will prepare you in case IE ever does start supporting certificate expiration dates.

If you use Netscape, your options vary by release. If you use V4.78 or earlier, you can switch to IE for your browser, function with the limitations on the telnet Java applet, use your own terminal emulator or apply the workaround described in the next paragraph. If you use V6.1 or V6.2, you can switch to IE or apply the fix. Note that V6.0 is not supported.

For Netscape V4.78 and prior, the workaround is to load the TDi CA certificate. Use Netscape to access the SMC and login as normal. Begin by navigating to the Download: Local: TDi Certificate screen. Keep clicking the Next button until you get to the screen entitled “New Certificate Authority”:



You should check all three boxes then continue clicking the Next button until you get to the final screen. On that screen, put in a name like “TECSys Development CA” as the name of the certificate authority.



This workaround will allow the telnet Java applet to work until 2010.

The Fix

TDi's preference is that you actually fix the problem. It is easy to do and the steps are the same for both Internet Explorer and Netscape. The only thing that needs to be done is to replace the TELNET.JAR and TELNET.CAB files in the C:\CWKS\HTML directory on the SMC system. The new versions of these two files are the same as before except that their signing now expires in 2010. Close all instances of IE or Netscape then restart. The problem has now been fixed.

You will receive these two files with this TechNote. If you have not received the two telnet files with this TechNote, have your Field Service engineer contact SMC support in Colorado Springs for a copy of the files.

American Headquarters
TECSys Development, Inc.
1600 10th Street, Suite B
Plano, TX, USA 75074-8671
Tel: +1 800.695.1258
Tel: +1 972.881.1553
<http://www.tditx.com/>

European Contact
XuiS
The Pavilions
Kiln Lane
Epsom, Surrey, UK KT17 1 JF
Tel: +44 (0) 1372 728881
<http://www.XuiS.com/>