

Re: Medium setting in IE ok for home user?

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In article <9534CCE6F133431E75@127.0.0.1>, franklin_lo@mail.com says...

> *It is ok for a home user on WinXP to set IE6's Security Settings to*

> *'Medium'.*

>

> *Are there any malware exploits, malicious websites, etc which might*

> *cause my PC damage on that setting?*

There is a very good explanation of how you should have your internet security settings configured available from Microsoft – I'll post the link at the bottom.

Here is what I tell clients when asked about IE Security:

In the last month we've seen a large number of customers and friends that have home computers that are constantly getting pop-ups and other nasties. The easiest way to clean a machine is to download SpyBot Search and Destroy from <http://www.safer-networking.org/index.php?page=download> and the update and run it several times (about half-way down the page).

Once you get your machine cleaned, you can make the following changes to your Internet Explorer settings to help keep web sites from installing bad things on your computers.

There are a couple simple things that you can do if you are using IE, they make browsing a little more of a challenge, but they make it more secure and still provide full ability on sites you trust:

- 1) Open IE, select TOOLS, Internet Options
- 2) Select Security TAB
- 3) Select "Internet" globe
- 4) Click DEFAULT LEVEL, then SELECT HIGH
- 5) Select "Custom Level"
- 6) Select "Scripting – Active Scripting – Prompt"
- 7) Click OK
- 8) Select "Trusted Sites Check Mark Circle"
- 9) Select "SITES", uncheck "Require Server Verification" – you will be adding the normal and secure sites in here that you trust, if you don't uncheck this you can't enter non-secure sites in this list.

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- 10) Type "<http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com>" in the ADD box and click ADD
- 11) Type "<http://Windowsupdate.microsoft.com>" in the ADD box and click ADD, click OK to close window
- 12) Click "Default Level" then change to "Medium".
- 13) Select "Privacy" tab, set to MEDIUM HIGH
- 14) Select "General" tab, select "Temporary Internet Files – Settings"
- 15) Select "Every visit to the page"
- 16) Select 20MB for the temp internet files size, click OK
- 17) Select "Advanced" Tab
- 18) Uncheck both "Enable Install On Demand" items
- 19) Uncheck "Enable third-party browser extensions"
- 20) Uncheck "Play Animations, sounds, videos in web pages"
- 21) Select/Check "Empty Temporary Internet file folder..."
- 22) Click OK to close the settings window

Now, when you browse to a site you want to trust, it may not work, you are going to have to ADD the site to the TRUSTED SITES in the OPTIONS / SECURITY tab. This can be a real pain, but it can save your butt when it comes to sites that can compromise your system.

You will find that after the first week that you are not adding sites to the list any more and that you're experience is a lot nicer, less pop-ups, and less chance for something to hack your browser.

Don't forget, you should only ADD TRUSTED SITES to the list. Even if you make a mistake, we set the TRUSTED SITES to MEDIUM in stead of it's default LOW, but you really want to limit the ones you add to verifiable commercial quality sites.

The Microsoft version of this suggestion is at:
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/incident/settings.msp>

If I were you, I would download and install Mozilla Firefox 0.9.2 from:
<http://www.mozilla.org/download.html>

I use Mozilla on almost every web site, except MS Outlook Web Access sites, and it's a very capable browser, even works at my online bank.

Good Luck,
Mark

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(Remove 999 to reply to me)