

Internet Explorer 8 Release Candidate 1 (RC1) Business FAQ

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# What’s New in Windows Internet Explorer 8 for my Business?

## What’s new in Internet Explorer 8 for my business?

Most businesses have two main uses for the Web browser: as the tool customers use to browse your Web site and as a piece of software running on your desktop PCs. On your desktop PCs Internet Explorer® 8 is used as both a platform for line-of-business applications and to access the Web. In many businesses, the Web site and desktops are managed by two different groups—a development organization and IT department. Internet Explorer 8 contains features for your development organization, IT professionals, and end users.

Internet Explorer 8 includes the following:

* Our latest protections against a range of security and privacy threats on the Internet
* The tools and resources to plan and execute a deployment of Internet Explorer 8 on your desktop PCs
* New features to help users complete their everyday browsing tasks more quickly and easily
* Compatibility features for Internet Explorer 7 sites and applications
* Platform features that help you connect your Web site more quickly and easily with your users and customers

## What are the new security and privacy features in Internet Explorer 8?

Our approach to security and privacy in Internet Explorer 8 is based on three principles:

* Users should be free from intrusions like pop-up ads
* The browser has a role in actively protecting against deceptive Web sites, malicious code, and online fraud
* The user should have control over what information is shared with whom, both locally on their PC and online

With those principles in mind, Internet Explorer 8 introduces an enhanced Delete Browsing History feature, DEP/NX support, a Cross-site Scripting Filter, Domain Name Highlighting, protection from clickjacking, the SmartScreen® Filter to help protect against phishing and malware attacks, and a new private browsing mode called InPrivate™ that helps users control their local and online privacy.

The [Technology Overview for Businesses and IT Pros](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink?LinkID=111416) provides more detail on these features.

## What are the new features for deployment and management?

Having a complete set of tools for deployment and management is critical for a piece of Enterprise software. Internet Explorer 8 has an [all-new deployment guide](http://technet.microsoft.com/library/cc985339.aspx) to help plan your deployment. The [Internet Explorer Administration Kit](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=65033653-2721-4232-84E1-BF863631BA47&displaylang=en) has been revised to simplify the process of building a customized Internet Explorer 8 package. The [Internet Explorer 8 Blocker Toolkit](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=133921) prevents Automatic Updates and the Windows Update and Microsoft Update sites from offering Internet Explorer 8 as a high-priority update to ensure IT Professionals retain control over how and when Internet Explorer 8 is introduced to their organizations. Internet Explorer 8 can now be easily integrated into a Windows Vista® image before it is deployed using a process called Slipstream. Slipstream saves considerable time over existing methodologies that rely on installing the operating system and then updating the browser. We have again expanded the IT professional’s ability to control and manage Internet Explorer 8 through Group Policy by exposing more than 100 new group policies bringing the total to more than 1300. This includes group policies for new end-user features like Accelerators as well as most requested group policies not present in Internet Explorer 7, such as the ability to prevent users to bypassing the SmartScreen Filter block screen and the ability to customize secondary home pages.

Of course, IT professionals can still use Systems Center Configuration Manager, Windows Server® Update Services and several other methods to deploy Internet Explorer 8.

## What are the new features for our Web site or line-of-business application?

In Internet Explorer 8, the browser architecture has been reengineered to address interoperability with other browsers, and offers additional support for popular standards. Most notably, it includes improved support for the Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) 2.1 specification and it displays the ACID2 test correctly. In addition, Internet Explorer 8 offers enhancements to DOM L2 & HTML support. The final release will have complete CSS 2.1 support. These enhancements will save developers time when developing Web sites and translate into lower costs for you to develop and maintain your Web site and internal Web applications.

In addition to our support for standards, we have provided a number of features that help enrich your business applications:

* [Accelerators](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125138) give you a way to provide your online service to consumers from whatever site they are visiting on the Web
* [Web Slices](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125139) create an ongoing view of your Web site and Web applications even after the user has browsed away from your site
* Developer platform enhancements like support for [DOM Storage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc197062%28VS.85%29.aspx) (offline storage) and [connectivity events](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc304129%28VS.85%29.aspx) to detect lost connections
* [Integrated Developer Tools](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc848894%28VS.85%29.aspx) give developers the ability to debug, edit and profile the code that make up Web pages including HTML, CSS and JavaScript

For more information on new developer and platform features in Internet Explorer 8, visit <http://msdn.microsoft.com/ie>.

## What are the new features for our users?

There are too many exciting new features in Internet Explorer 8 to list in this document. Highlights include:

* [**Search Suggestions**](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125140)**:** With appropriate support from your search provider, you can now type a search term and see real-time search suggestions from your chosen search provider based on common searches related to the text that is typed. Click on a suggestion at any time to immediately execute the search, saving you time and increasing the relevance of the search.
* [**Smarter Address bar**](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125147)**:** The Address bar in Internet Explorer 8 makes navigation easier than ever, becoming a useful search tool that enables you to just type a few characters and then go directly to sites in your History, Favorites, and feeds.
* [**Accelerators**](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125138)**:** Accelerators make it faster and easier to connect the Web services you care about to any Web page you browse. Web services are the common, everyday tasks most of us use on the Web, such as looking up addresses using a map service, sharing content on a social network, or searching for products from a retail service.
* [**Web Slices**](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=125139)**:** As part of our daily Web browsing, most of us visit many different sites. Browsing directly to each of our favorite sites to stay up to date can be time consuming, and in some cases, not really possible. What if the most compelling content from our favorite Web sites was delivered to us instead? Internet Explorer 8 Web Slices brings it to you.

For more information on user features in Internet Explorer 8, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/ie8>.

## What does Internet Explorer 8 mean for my existing Web site and line-of-business applications?

In keeping with the [Interoperability Principles](http://www.microsoft.com/interop/principles/default.mspx), which Microsoft® Chief Software Architect Ray Ozzie announced in February 2008, Internet Explorer 8 displays content in Internet Explorer 8 “Standards” mode by default. Enabling Internet Explorer 8 to display Web content in its most standards-compliant way by default is the right way to help move the Web forward. This big step in real-world interoperability allows us to:

* Help Web developers and designers drive toward the ideal of “write once, run anywhere,” freeing up more time to innovate versus modify content for different browsers
* Address several major development and design pain points from previous Internet Explorer releases
* Partner closely with Web standards working groups to be a key contributor in Web standards evolution

Since announcing our decision to give top priority to Web standards interoperability, response from the Web community has been very positive. However, browsing in Internet Explorer 8 Standards mode may cause content written for previous versions of Internet Explorer to display differently than intended and we acknowledge that Web site compatibility is very important to IT organizations and Web developers.

There are several ways to become compatible with Internet Explorer 8 :

1. Code your Web site to adhere to Web standards like CSS 2.1 and ensure that you deliver that version of the site when users browse your site with Internet Explorer 8
2. Ask your Web site developers to add a simple **meta** tag to their Web site that will ensure Internet Explorer 8 displays the page as Internet Explorer 7 did. The tag is: <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=EmulateIE7">. For guidance on applying the tag, visit our [KB Article](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/952030/en-us) , the [MSDN Internet Explorer Compatibility Center](http://msdn.microsoft.com/iecompat), or <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc817570.aspx>.
3. Activate “Compatibility View” which is a mode in Internet Explorer 8 that displays web sites in the same way that Internet Explorer 7 did.

## How can I activate Compatibility View in Internet Explorer 8?

“Compatibility View” is a mode in Internet Explorer 8 that displays web sites in the same way that Internet Explorer 7 did. This helps ensure that users can browse Web content specifically designed for Internet Explorer 7. In addition to developers adding the Internet Explorer compatibility **meta** tag discussed elsewhere in this FAQ, there are different ways that the Compatibility View feature can be activated :

1. Users can click the **Compatibility View** button for a site they are visiting that exhibits compatibility problems. Internet Explorer 8 then remembers the Web site so that next time the user visits that site, they continue to view it in Compatibility View.
2. Microsoft has pre-configured Compatibility View with a list of sites known to require Compatibility View as of the launch of Internet Explorer 8. This ensures that end users have the very best experience browsing common sites on the Internet. This list will be updated as sites need to be added to or removed from the list.
3. Sites in the Intranet zone are displayed by default using Compatibility View to ensure that intranet sites and applications built for Internet Explorer 7 continue to display correctly.
4. IT Professionals can control the list of sites displayed in Compatibility View through Group Policy, or switch on Compatibility View for all sites.

## If Internet Explorer 8 has an Internet Explorer 7 Compatibility Mode, why is that not the default way Web sites are displayed so that Internet Explorer 8 is compatible with existing pages?

Enabling Internet Explorer 8 to display Web content in its most standards compliant way by default is the right way to help move the Web forward. This big step in real-world interoperability allows us to:

* Help Web developers and designers drive toward the ideal of “write once, run anywhere,” freeing up more time to innovate versus modify content for different browsers
* Address several major development and design pain points from previous Internet Explorer releases
* Partner closely with Web standards working groups to be a key contributor in Web standards evolution

## Where can I find out more about these new features?

* IT Professionals should visit <http://technet.microsoft.com/ie>
* Developers should visit <http://msdn.microsoft.com/ie>
* End users should visit <http://www.microsoft.com/ie8>

## Deploying Internet Explorer

### Should our end users download and use Internet Explorer 8 today? Should we deploy Internet Explorer 8 today?

Internet Explorer 8 is ready for you to begin testing your Web site and internal line-of-business applications and conducting a pilot with your user base to see the benefits they will get from the latest version of Internet Explorer.

### What resources are available to help me plan a deployment of Internet Explorer 8?

The [Internet Explorer 8 Deployment Guide](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc985339.aspx) contains topics updated with our latest deployment guidance for Internet Explorer 8. The latest [Application Compatibility Toolkit](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc994321%28VS.85%29.aspx) (ACT) contains the [Internet Explorer Compatibility Test Tool](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc749257.aspx), which helps identify potential compatibility issues with Internet Explorer 8. The accompanying [white paper](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc994321%28VS.85%29.aspx) helps understand and resolve the compatibility issues identified through the test tool.

### Is there a new version of the Internet Explorer Administration Kit for Internet Explorer 8?

Yes! The new [Internet Explorer Administration Kit 8](http://ieak.microsoft.com) (IEAK) Beta is available today. The new IEAK has been optimized to help you build your customized Internet Explorer packages more quickly and allow you to configure and customize new features in Internet Explorer 8 like Accelerators and Web Slices.

### When will the Internet Explorer Administration Kit be available in other languages?

We will make the IEAK available initially in four languages: English, Simplified Chinese, German and Hebrew. The IEAK will be able to build customized packages in all supported languages for Internet Explorer 8.

### Will our line-of-business apps continue to work in Internet Explorer 8?

Internet Explorer 8 has a range of features to maintain compatibility with sites written for Internet Explorer 7. Refer to the question “What does Internet Explorer 8 mean for my existing Web site and line-of-business applications?” in this FAQ.

### What Microsoft products are compatible with Internet Explorer 8?

Each Microsoft product has its own schedule for support of Internet Explorer 8. In many cases, Internet Explorer 8 running in Compatibility View will ensure Web-based products work with Internet Explorer 8. We recommend you check in with the Web site for the Microsoft products you use in your organization.

### Should we download and begin using Internet Explorer 8 to test our internal systems and line-of-business applications right now?

Yes. Microsoft encourages customers to download Internet Explorer 8 and begin testing application compatibility.

### What changes have you made to Group Policy in Internet Explorer 8?

Internet Explorer 8 supports more than 1300 Group Policies with more than 100 new Group Policies for Internet Explorer 8. New Group Policies include the ability to manage new features like Accelerators and Web Slices. We have also provided commonly requested group policies like the ability to prevent users from bypassing SmartScreen Filter warnings.

### Is the feature set in Internet Explorer 8 the same in Windows XP and Windows Vista?

In Internet Explorer 8, the feature set is essentially the same—the exception being Protected Mode, which, as with Internet Explorer 7, remains a feature exclusive to Windows Vista. For Windows Vista, we have also added the ability to install many existing and future Microsoft ActiveX® controls for non-administrator accounts without the need for the ActiveX Installation Service.

### My line-of-business application reports that I should “upgrade to a new version of Internet Explorer” or this “Internet Explorer version is unsupported” even though I’m running Internet Explorer 8. Why am I getting this error?

Some Web applications are designed to check which version of Internet Explorer is browsing their site so they can warn users who are using an unknown or unsupported version of Internet Explorer. Sometimes the browser version detection logic used by the Web site can be improperly written so it fails to account for later versions of Internet Explorer that will be created after the Web site application code was written. If you choose **Compatibility View** from the **Tools** menu, or click the button next to the Refresh Button (see the following figure), your site should render correctly.



### Where can I find more information about application compatibility in Internet Explorer 8 and Internet Explorer 7?

We recommend you visit <http://msdn.microsoft.com/iecompat>.

### Can I install Internet Explorer 8 side-by-side with previous versions of Internet Explorer for testing purposes?

No, it is not possible to have more than a single version of Internet Explorer installed at the same time on any Windows® platform. People who want to run Internet Explorer 7 and Internet Explorer 8 side-by-side have several options:

1. Install [Microsoft Virtual PC](http://www.microsoft.com/virtualpc), and then download the [Internet Explorer Virtual PC images for Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, Internet Explorer 7, and Internet Explorer 8](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=21EABB90-958F-4B64-B5F1-73D0A413C8EF&displaylang=en)
2. Use the new [Internet Explorer 8 Developer Tools](http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc304131%28VS.85%29.aspx) to switch Internet Explorer 8 between different rendering modes on the fly. The Developer Tools are installed by default with the browser and can be accessed by pressing F12 or by choosing **Developer Tools** from the **Tools** menu when running Internet Explorer 8.

### Our current line-of-business applications only work in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6. How will Internet Explorer 8 help?

Internet Explorer 6 was designed for the Web as it was in 2001. In the last 7 years the Web has changed and evolved. The way people use the Web has changed, Web standards have evolved, and there are increasingly sophisticated security threats. Internet Explorer 7 was designed for this more modern Web with advances like tabbed browsing, enabling users to simultaneously visit multiple sites in a single browser window, and the Phishing Filter, protecting them against “phishing” attacks. However, in redesigning Internet Explorer 7 to be compatible with the modern Web, the way Internet Explorer 7 displayed Web pages changed and caused some applications to display and work incorrectly. Internet Explorer 8 is designed to be compatible with applications written for Internet Explorer 7. Because of the changes between Internet Explorer 6 and Internet Explorer 7, Internet Explorer 8 is not able to provide compatibility for Internet Explorer 6. Internet Explorer 8 provides the latest features to help users get work done more quickly, and browse the Web more safely and more reliably.

Customers who have applications for Internet Explorer 6 should visit <http://msdn.microsoft.com/iecompat> for the latest guidance on migrating from Internet Explorer 6 to Internet Explorer 7 and Internet Explorer 8.

### Should we hold off deploying Internet Explorer 7 and switch to deploying Internet Explorer 8?

This decision can only be taken on a company-by-company basis. If you are still using Internet Explorer 6 and are ready to deploy Internet Explorer 7, our recommendation is to deploy Internet Explorer 7 today. The product is released, stable, and enables your users to be more secure and productive when performing their work or browsing the Internet. If you are still working to get ready for an Internet Explorer 7 deployment, work done to update applications for Internet Explorer 7 should include the Internet Explorer 7 **meta** tag (<meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=EmulateIE7" />) which will give you the option of deploying Internet Explorer 7 or Internet Explorer 8 more easily. You can find out more about the **meta** tag at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/iecompat>.

### What are the new developer features in Internet Explorer 8?

We recommend you visit the [MSDN Internet Explorer Developer Center](http://msdn.microsoft.com/ie) to learn more about features for developers.

### How can I give feedback on Internet Explorer 8?

We strongly encourage posting to the Internet Explorer newsgroup ([microsoft.public.internetexplorer](http://www.microsoft.com/communities/newsgroups/list/en-us/default.aspx?dg=microsoft.public.internetexplorer.general&cat=en_us_28cca3eb-7037-4d4f-bde1-d8efee1f1420&lang=en&cr=us)) for reporting issues encountered during testing.

### My customer has specific requirements for Internet Explorer, how can they make those requests for Internet Explorer 8?

We recognize that some organizations will have specific requirements or design change requests to meet their needs. Unfortunately it is not possible to accept all of those requests and build a product in the iteration cycle to which we are committed for Internet Explorer 8. Customer feedback on features and functionality requirements specifically targeting enterprise deployment can be submitted to iedeploy@microsoft.com .

# Release Details

## When was Internet Explorer 8 released?

Microsoft released Windows Internet Explorer 8 Release Candidate 1 in 25 languages on January 19, 2009. Release languages include English, German, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Arabic, Chinese (Traditional and Hong Kong), Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Swedish.

## Who are the target customers for Internet Explorer 8?

Internet Explorer 8 is suitable for all types of users.

## Where can I learn more about Internet Explorer 8?

The [Internet Explorer 8 Technology Overview](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink?LinkID=111416) contains more technical detail on new features in Internet Explorer 8. You can also visit <http://www.microsoft.com/ie8> to learn more about all aspects of Internet Explorer 8.

## Where can I download Internet Explorer 8?

Internet Explorer 8 (for all current Windows platforms) is freely available now through the Microsoft Download Center at <http://www.microsoft.com/ie8>. Click **Download Now** to download the appropriate installer for your platform and processor architecture. You can download versions of Internet Explorer 8 for other processor architectures and languages by visiting the [Worldwide Download Page](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=123316).

## What platforms will Internet Explorer 8 run on? Will Internet Explorer 8 be supported on Windows 2000?

Internet Explorer 8 will run on Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2), Windows XP SP3, Windows Server 2003 SP2, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista and Windows Vista SP1. Windows 2000 is not supported.

## When will you release the final version of Internet Explorer 8?

We have not yet committed to a release date for Internet Explorer 8. We have released Internet Explorer 8 Release Candidate 1 to get feedback from end users and businesses. Once we are confident of product quality among all audiences, we will announce a final release date.

## Will the Internet Explorer 8 release include support for any other languages or just US English?

In addition to US English, the Internet Explorer 8 release will be available in a further 24 languages including Arabic, Japanese, German, Chinese (Simplified, Traditional and Hong Kong), Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Swedish.

## In how many languages will you release Internet Explorer 8?

We plan to continue efforts to localize Internet Explorer 8 long after its initial release. We don’t have a target for the final number of languages that Internet Explorer 8 will be released in but it is planned to exceed the 25 languages available for Internet Explorer 8 today.

## Will Internet Explorer 8 and Silverlight ship together?

Microsoft Silverlight® and Internet Explorer 8 will ship independently.

## Will Internet Explorer 8 be distributed through Automatic Updates (or Windows Server Update Services) like you did with Internet Explorer 7?

We have not yet finalized distribution plans for the final release of the product at this time. We have provided a [Blocker Toolkit](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=136269) so that business customers can retain control over when Internet Explorer 8 is deployed in their organizations.