



ACT Security Alert: Time to Move from Internet Explorer 6 to a Newer Version

You wouldn't use old oil in your car. Are you using an old browser on your PC? Internet Explorer 6 was released more than eight years ago. If you are using this old browser now might be the right time to upgrade to a newer version of Microsoft's browser. Internet Explorer 7 was released in October 2006 and Internet Explorer 8 was released in March 2008. Security, performance, and compatibility are areas where the newer browsers are an improvement over Internet Explorer 6. The choice of which browser to upgrade to depends on the other applications you are running. Since Internet Explorer 7 was released a few years ago it is more likely to be compatible with all the applications you are currently running. Some carriers and vendors have reported that their websites are not yet compatible with Internet Explorer 8.

Being in the insurance industry, adequate security to protect your client's private information is critical. There have been general concerns about Internet Explorer 6 security being too weak. Recent events, including the January breach of Gmail accounts, exploited a vulnerability in this browser. Since then Google has communicated they will stop supporting Internet Explorer 6 for some of their applications including Gmail and Calendar. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), part of the Department of Homeland Security, has also issued an advisory about Internet Explorer 6.

To improve security there are two suggested actions: apply the Microsoft patch to Internet Explorer 6 or upgrade to a more current version of Microsoft's browser. The latter would make more sense and result in performance benefits besides the important security improvement. *Contact Jeff Yates, ACT Executive Director, for more information (jeff.yates@iiba.net).*

Additional references:

US CERT ==> <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/492515>

Google support == >

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9151578/Gmail_to_drop_IE6_support_this_year