

ASA Clientless SSL VPN (WebVPN) Troubleshooting Tech Note

Document ID: 104298

Contents

Introduction

Prerequisites

Requirements

Components Used

Conventions

Troubleshooting

ASA Version 7.1/7.2 Clientless

ASA Version 8.0 Clientless

Procedures

Add the ASA as a Trusted Site

Enable Cookies

Clear the Browser Cache

Clear the Java Cache

Enable Java Applet Debugging Options

Enable the HTML Capture Tools

Related Information

Introduction

This document lists the Clientless SSL VPN (WebVPN) troubleshooting techniques adopted for ASA versions 7.1, 7.2, and 8.0. There are significant advancements between these releases that require varied troubleshooting techniques to be adopted.

Prerequisites

Requirements

There are no specific requirements for this document.

Components Used

The information in this document is based on the Cisco 5500 Series ASA that runs software version 7.1 or higher.

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, make sure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

Conventions

Refer to Cisco Technical Tips Conventions for more information on document conventions.

Troubleshooting

The prerequisite for troubleshooting clientless SSL VPN connections (WebVPN) on the ASA is to gain visibility into both the client experience via screenshots and HTML capture tools and then to compare this to the same information when connected directly to the URL/Application being accessed.

ASA Version 7.1/7.2 Clientless

This section describes the troubleshooting techniques for ASA Versions 7.1/7.2 and all interims up to, but not including, the 8.0 release.

In this release if complex Java/Javascript functions have difficulty, other options (such as application access port forwarding or the use of proxy–bypass) might be considered. Refer to Configuring Application Access and Using Proxy Bypass for more information about these alternatives.

In most scenarios, if the URL that is accessed through Clientless SSL VPN fails for Internet Explorer, it will also fail for another browser.

In order to ensure that this is not dependant on the client PC or operating system, use another client from a different location. The use of an IPsec or SSL VPN client can also be tested.

Ensure that the ASA is included in the browser Trusted Zone as described in Enabling Cookies on Browsers for WebVPN and that cookies are enabled as described in Enable Cookies.

If the process still fails, complete these steps in order to gather the necessary information, and then open a TAC case.

1. Clear the browser cache as described in Clear the Browser Cache.
2. Clear the Java cache as described in Clear the Java Cache.
3. Disable the WebVPN cache on the ASA as described in Configuring Caching.
4. If a Java applet is present, use debug level 5 in the applet window as described in Enable Java Applet Debugging Options.
5. Log into the ASA via Clientless SSL VPN.
6. At the URL just prior to the problematic URL, enable an HTML capture tool in the browser as described in Enable the HTML Capture Tools.
7. Capture the sequence from this point to the problematic URL.
8. Press **Ctrl+Print Screen** on your keyboard in order to capture a screenshot.
9. Stop the HTML capture tool.
10. Perform the same steps 1 through 9 when you connect directly to the URL via either an IPsec or SSL VPN session through the ASA or directly connect on the same LAN segment (if possible) and send the data to TAC for analysis.

ASA Version 8.0 Clientless

This section describes the troubleshooting techniques used for ASA Versions 8.0 and all interims.

In this release if complex URLs or applications have difficulty through clientless SSL VPN, other options (such as the use of smart tunnels) are a powerful alternative. Refer to Configuring Smart Tunnel Access for more information about smart tunnels.

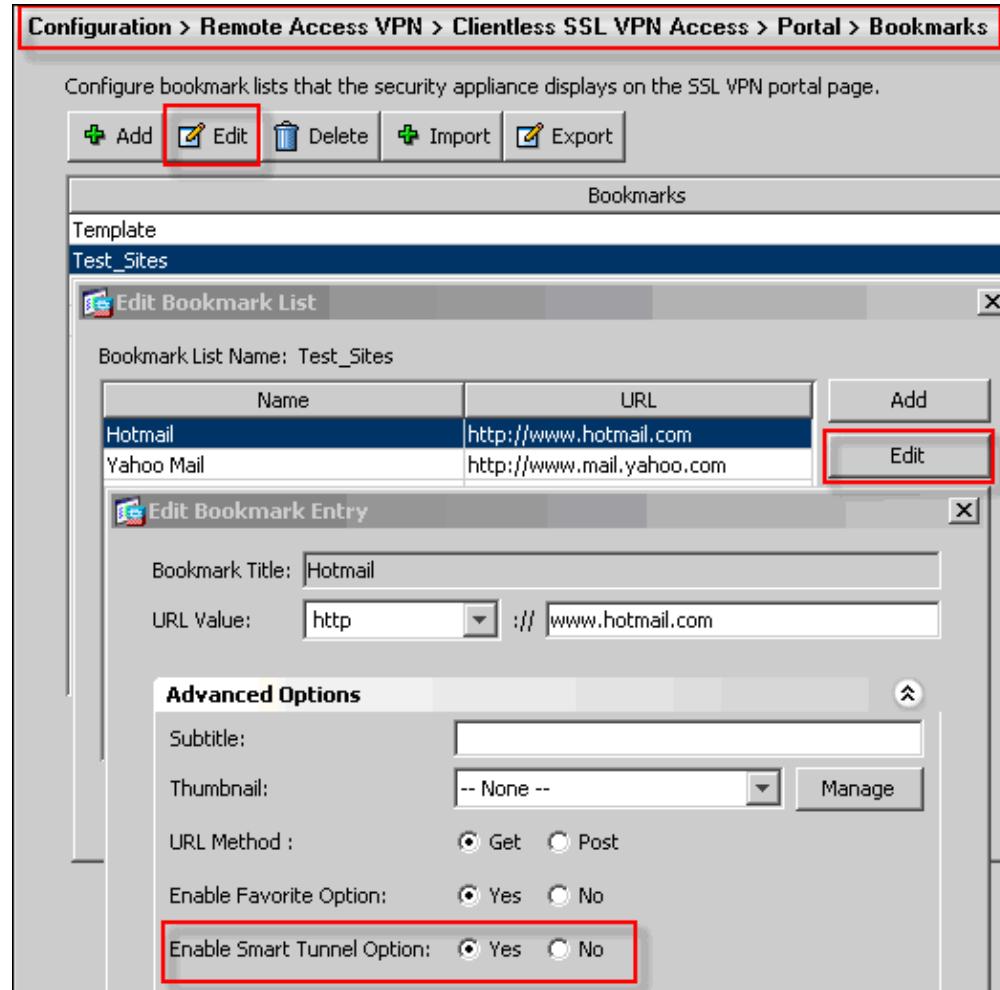
You might also consider application access port forwarding or the use of proxy–bypass. Refer to Configuring Application Access and Using Proxy Bypass for more information about these alternatives.

In most scenarios, if the URL that is accessed through Clientless SSL VPN fails for Internet Explorer, it will also fail for another browser.

In order to ensure that this is not dependant on the client PC or operating system, use another client from a different location. The use of an IPsec or SSL VPN client can also be tested.

Ensure that the ASA is included in the browser Trusted Zone as described in Enabling Cookies on Browsers for WebVPN and that cookies are enabled as described in Enable Cookies.

If an application experiences an issue with the clientless content transformation engine (CTE/rewriter), you can modify the bookmark for that application in order to enable the Smart Tunnel option as shown in this image:



Enabling this option for a bookmark does not require additional configuration. Similar to port forwarding, this is another convenient option to click a bookmark in order to open a new window that uses the smart tunnel to pass application traffic and avoid rewrite issues.

When you use this feature for TCP Winsock 32 applications (such as RDP), the administrator is required to identify the process(es) to be utilized through smart tunnels. For instance, RDP uses the mstsc.exe process; a simple smart tunnel entry can be created for this process.

More complicated applications may spawn multiple processes. From within the WebVPN Portal Page, choose the **Application Access** panel. As soon as it loads, the list of *allowed applications* are able to connect to the private side of the network.

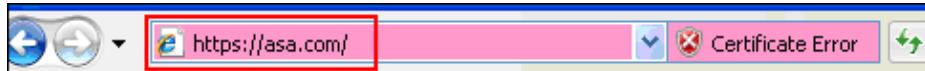
If the process still fails, complete these steps in order to gather the necessary information, and then open a TAC case.

1. Clear the browser cache as described in [Clear the Browser Cache](#).
2. Clear the Java cache as described in [Clear the Java Cache](#).
3. Disable the WebVPN cache on the ASA as described in [Configuring Caching](#).
4. If a Java applet is present, use debug level 5 in the applet window as described in [Enable Java Applet Debugging Options](#).
5. Log into the ASA via Clientless SSL VPN.
6. At the URL just prior to the problematic URL, enable an HTML capture tool in the browser as described in [Enable the HTML Capture Tools](#).
7. Capture the sequence from this point to the problematic URL.
8. Press **Ctrl+Print Screen** on your keyboard in order to capture a screenshot.
9. Stop the HTML capture tool.
10. Perform the steps 1 through 9 when you connect directly to the URL via either an IPsec or Any Connect SSL session through the ASA or directly connect on the same LAN segment (if possible), complete these steps, and send the data to TAC for analysis

Procedures

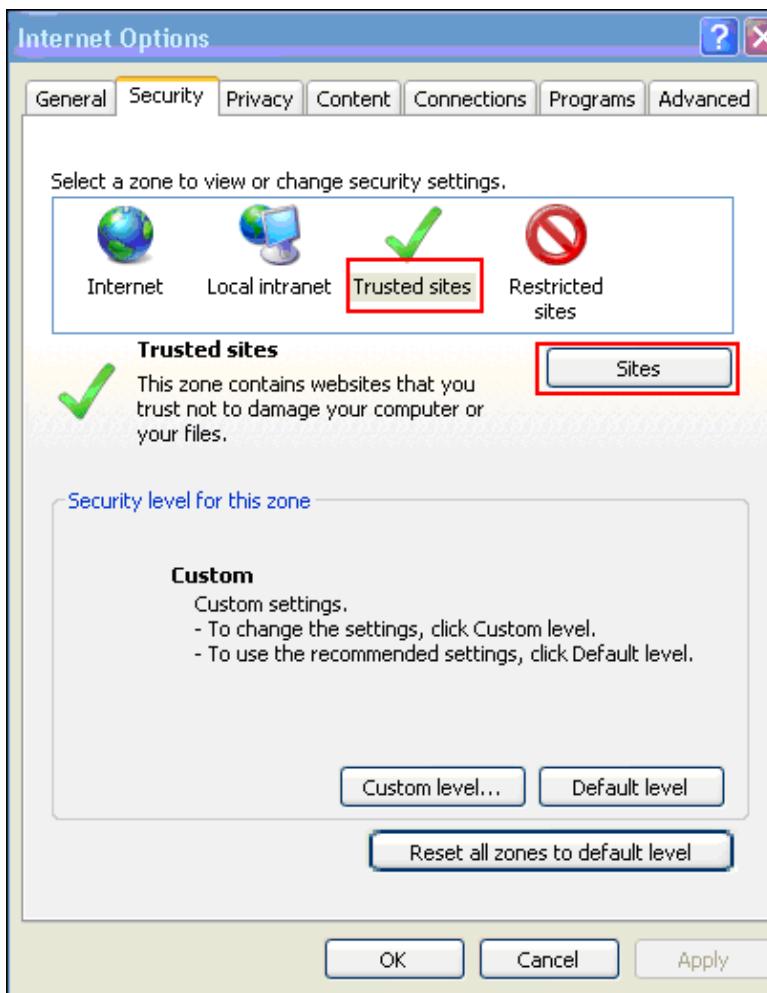
Add the ASA as a Trusted Site

When you access the ASA in Internet Explorer, you will receive a certificate error if the site is not included as a trusted site.

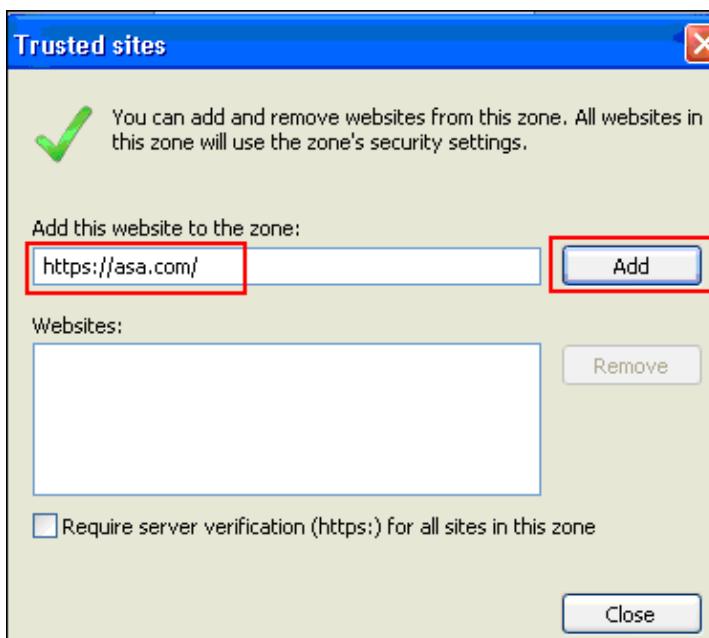


Complete these steps in order to add the ASA as a trusted site:

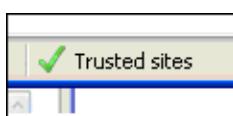
1. In Internet Explorer, choose **Tools > Internet Options**.
2. Click the **Security** tab, and choose **Trusted sites**.



3. Click **Sites**.
4. Add the https:// address of the ASA, and click **Add**.



5. Once the site is added, the Trusted sites icon appears in the Internet Explorer status bar.

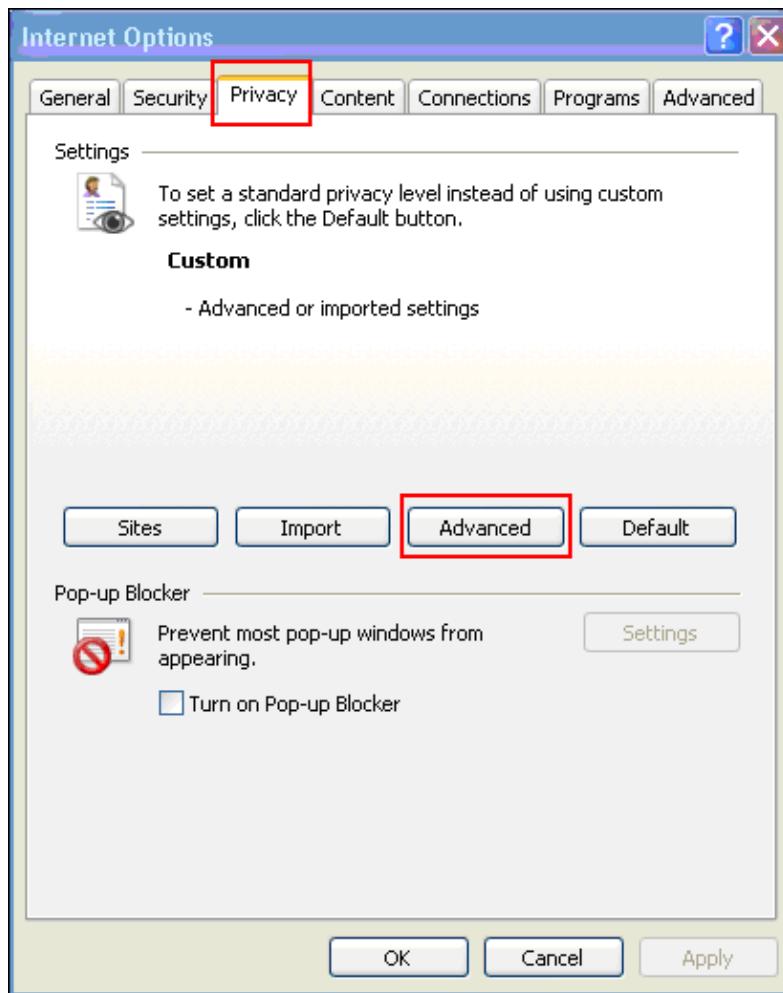


Note: Refer to Working with Internet Explorer 6 Security Settings [↗](#) for detailed information about this procedure.

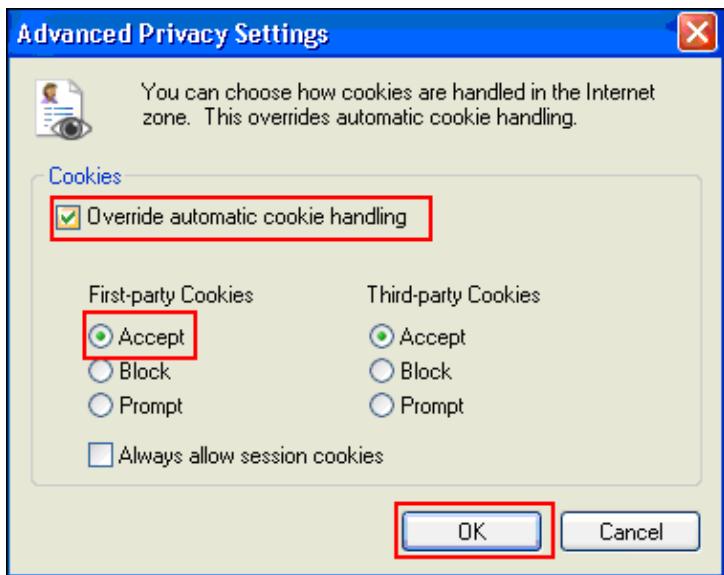
Enable Cookies

Complete these steps in order to enable cookies:

1. In Internet Explorer, choose **Tools > Internet Options**.
2. Click the **Privacy** tab, and then click **Advanced**.



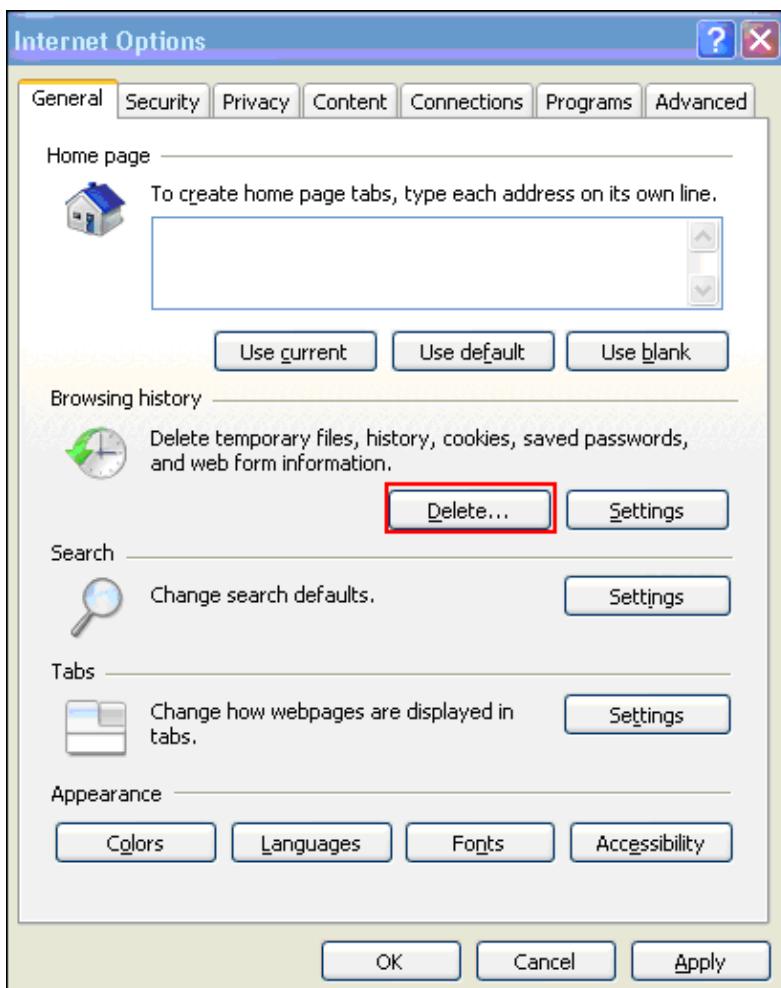
3. In the Advanced Privacy Settings dialog box, check the **Override automatic cookie handling** check box, click the **Accept** radio button, and click **OK**.



Clear the Browser Cache

Complete these steps in order to clear the cache for Internet Explorer:

1. In Internet Explorer, choose **Tools > Internet Options**.



2. On the General tab, click **Delete** within the Browsing history section.



3. Click **Delete All**.



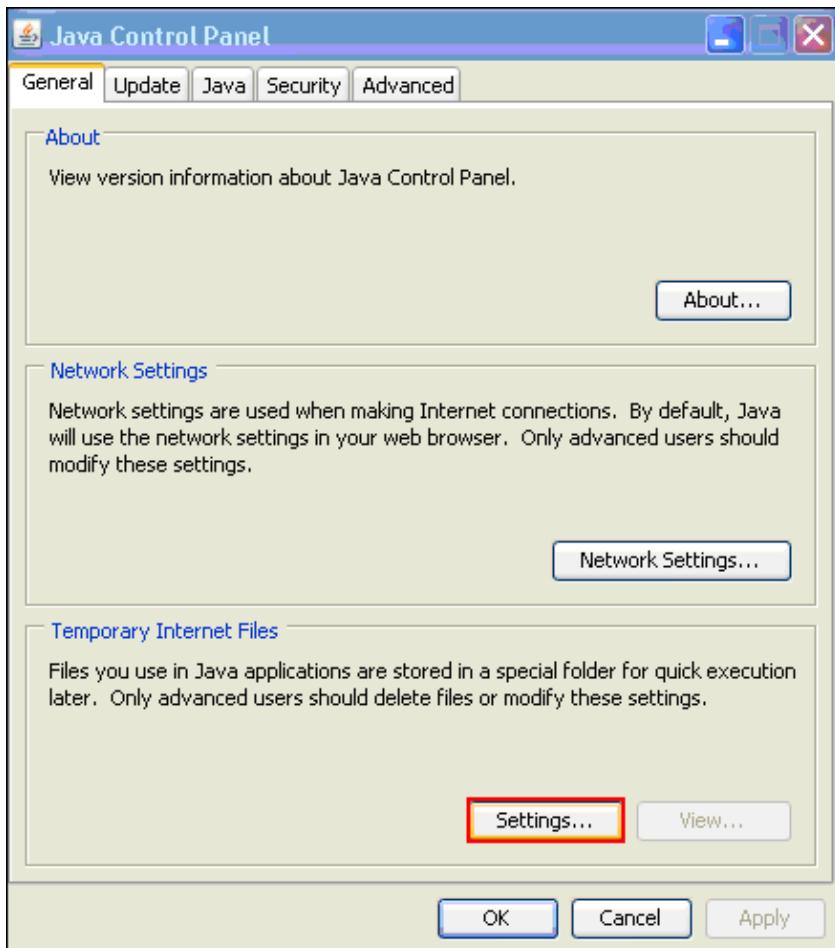
4. Check the **Also delete files and settings stored by add-ons** check box, and click **Yes**.
5. Once the cache is cleared, shut down all instances of the browser, and restart the browser.

Note: In order to clear the cache for other browsers, refer to How do I clear my browser's cache (to improve its performance)? [↗](#)

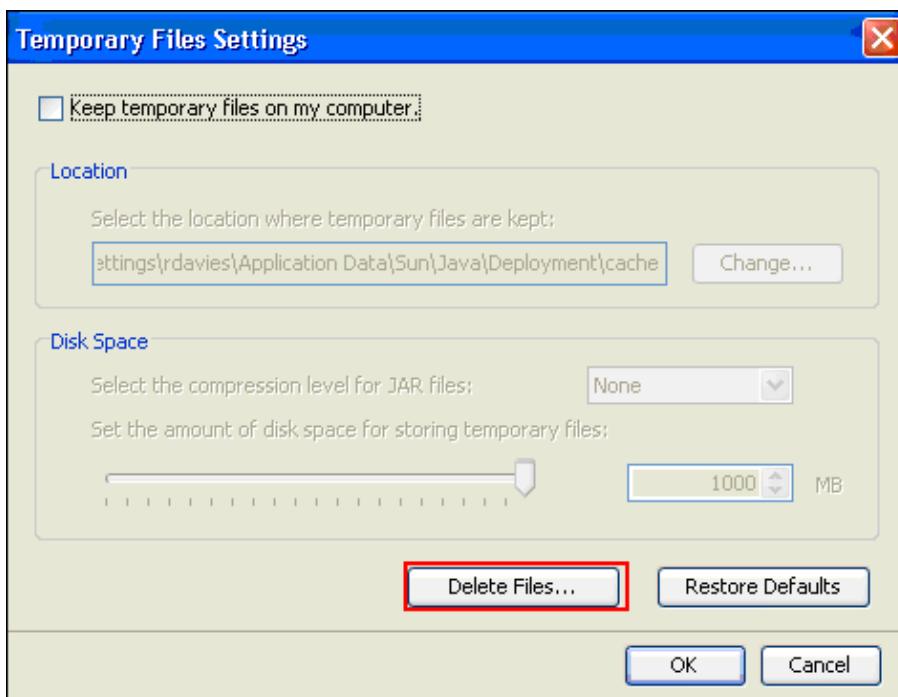
Clear the Java Cache

Complete these steps in order to clear the Java cache:

1. Choose **Control Panel** from the Windows Start menu.
2. Double-click **Java**.



3. Click **Settings**.
4. Click **Delete Files**.



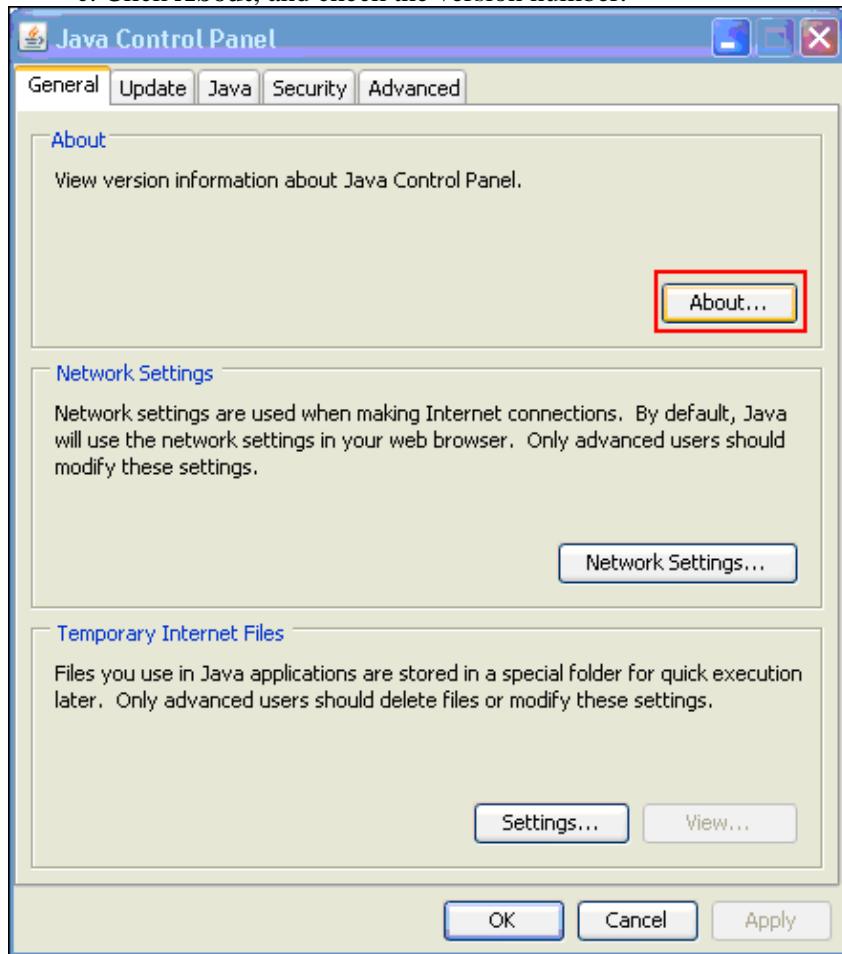
Note: Refer to How do I clear my Java cache? [↗](#) for more information about this procedure.

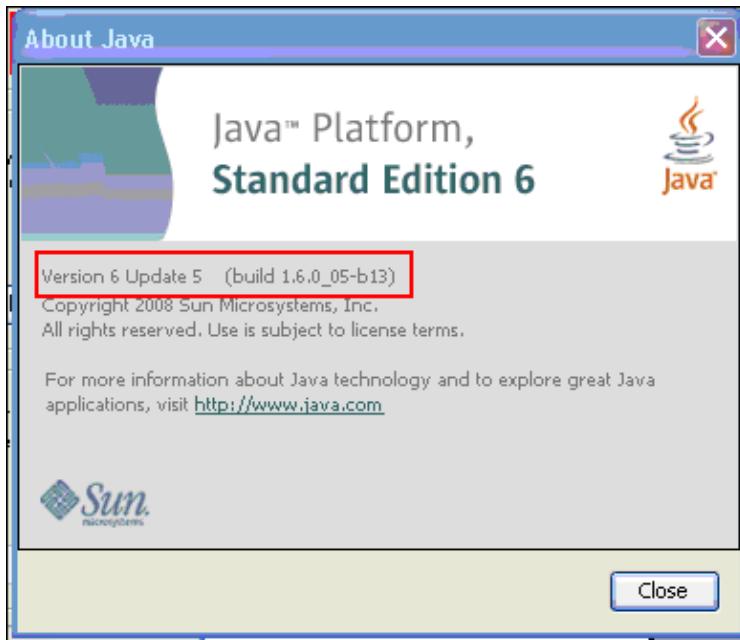
Enable Java Applet Debugging Options

Complete these steps in order to enable the Java applet debugging option:

1. Ensure Java 1.4 or above is enabled:

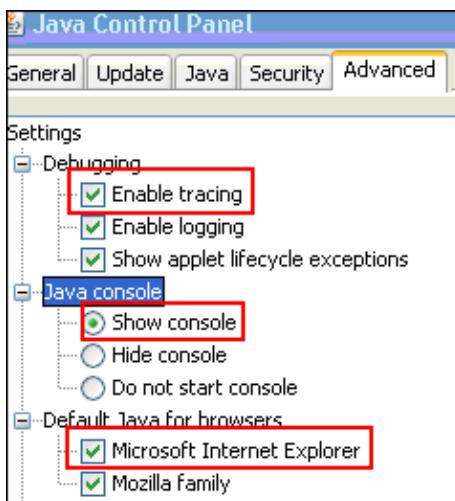
- a. Choose **Control Panel** from the Windows Start menu.
- b. Double-click **Java**.
- c. Click **About**, and check the version number.



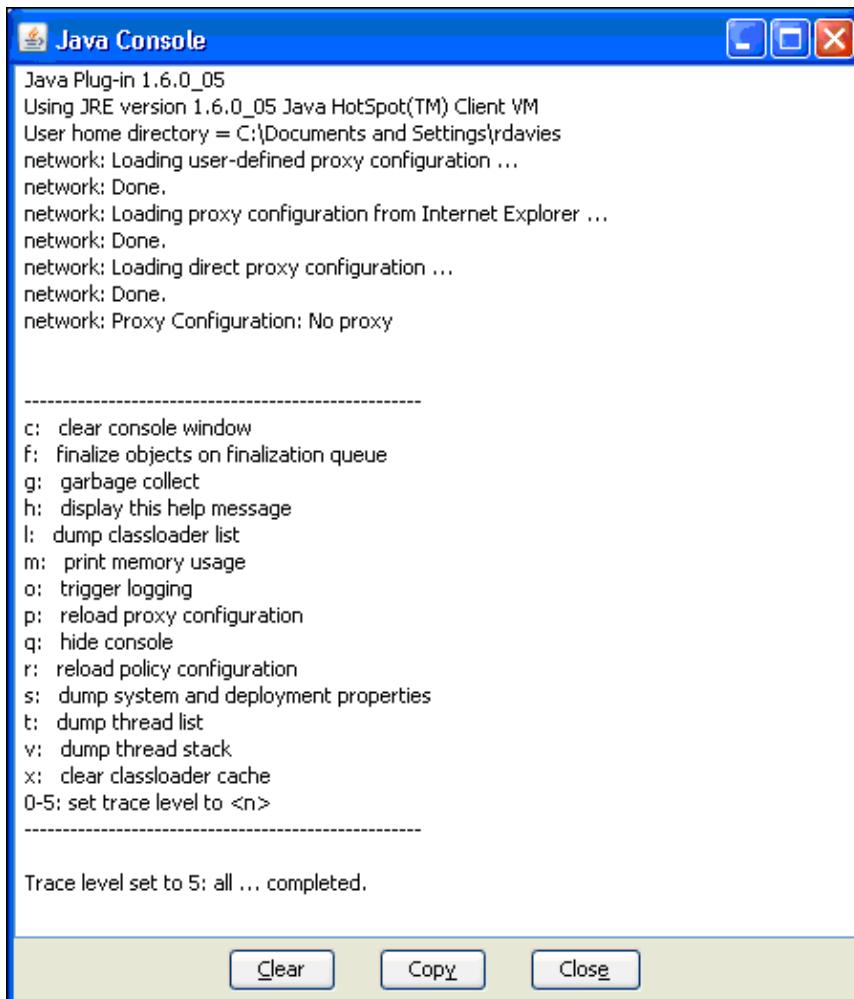


Note: You can download Java updates from <http://java.com/en/>.

2. Ensure that Java is configured to enable tracing, to show the console, and to set Microsoft Internet Explorer as the default browser as shown in this image:



3. Ensure that the Java cache is cleared as described in Clear the Java Cache.
4. In Internet Explorer, choose **Tools > Java Console** in order to open the Java debug window.



- Once the Java Console debug window is open, press **5** in order to set the trace level

When a URL is accessed that contains a Java Applet, the activity is captured in this window.

- Click **Copy** in order to copy the information.

Enable the HTML Capture Tools

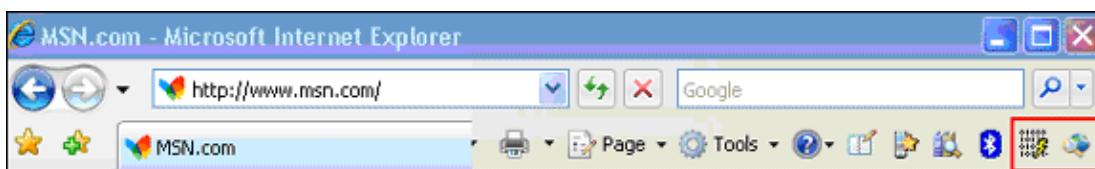
A number of different HTML capture tools are available to gather data, some of which have been listed here. Install one of these HTML capture tools onto the client PC that is used for is data gathering exercise:

- [HttpWatch](#)
- [IE Inspector](#)
- [Debug Proxy](#)

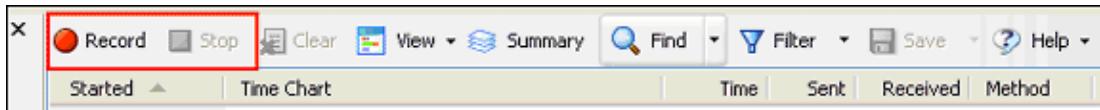
Note: This procedures uses the HTTPWatch application.

Once the application is installed, complete these steps:

- Press Shift+P+F+2 or click the icon in the browser window in order to enable HTTPWatch.



2. Once the application is enabled, a window appears embedded at the bottom of the browser window similar to this image:



3. Click **Record** in order to record data; click **Stop** in order to stop recording.

Note: It is recommended to use HttpWatch 7.x in order to record the data.

Related Information

- [Clientless SSL VPN \(WebVPN\) on ASA Configuration Example](#)
- [Cisco ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances](#)
- [Technical Support & Documentation – Cisco Systems](#)

[Contacts & Feedback](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2014 – 2015 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc.](#)

Updated: Apr 29, 2008

Document ID: 104298
