

1. Introduction

This document explains “what’s new” with the next release of the Secure Payment System (SPS RelP 18.0) from the perspective of the SPS DEO and CO user roles. This new release offers an enhancement to SPS by providing an “Offline Version” of SPS to all users. In addition, this new release provides an update to the SPS Self-Contained version in preparation to discontinue the SPS support for Windows XP Operating System. This document also contains information about upcoming changes to SPS, and to the list of supported operating systems and Java Plug-ins.

This new release is expected to be in production on Monday September 23, 2013. A new SPS Installation CD (dated November 2013) for installing the new version of SPS Self-Contained and Offline will be available from the SPS Helpdesk in Kansas City beginning late November 2013.

2. SPS Offline Version

The SPS Offline is an application that is provided to users when the SPS Application is installed on end-user machines using the new SPS Installation CD. Please contact the SPS Help Desk at Kansas City Financial Center for obtaining copies of the new installation CDs (dated November 2013).

Features of SPS Self Contained Offline Application:

- a) Does not need Internet Connectivity nor a SPS Credential
- b) Can be used by Agencies to test SPS 440 legacy and GWA/CARS Reporter compliant Import files
- c) Not intended for use by Federal Program Agencies to Create/Process/Certify Schedules for making Payments On-Line.
- d) Can be used to create 440 Import files for Importing in to SPS Self Contained Online Application, and
- e) Can be used to train new/existing SPS Data Entry Operators with SPS Schedule Screens.

SPS **Offline** Application can be launched by double clicking the “Launch SPS Self Contained [offline]” Desktop Icon as shown below in Figure 1. In addition, SPS Offline Application can be launched by using the shortcut **Start -> All Programs -> Financial Management Service, Secure Payment System- Self Contained (SPS-SC) -> Launch SPS Self Contained (Offline)**.



Figure 1: SPS Offline Desktop Icon

When running, the SPS Self-Contained Offline Application is clearly identified by observing the Window Border of the Application. The Visual Indicator is the text “Secure Payment System - Self Contained (SPS-SC) [OFFLINE mode]” (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Visual Indicator for SPS Self Contained Offline Application

Please refer to Appendix A in the SPS DEO User Manual for detailed instructions regarding the installation, configuration and use of the SPS Self Contained Online Application.

The SPS **Online** Application can be launched by double clicking the “Launch SPS Self Contained [Online]” Desktop Icon as shown below in Figure 2. In addition, SPS **Online** Application can be launched by using the shortcut **Start -> All Programs -> Financial Management Service, Secure Payment System- Self Contained (SPS-SC) -> Launch SPS Self Contained (Online)**.



Figure 3: SPS Online Desktop Icon

When running, the SPS Self-Contained Online Application is clearly identified by observing the Window Border of the Application. The Visual Indicator is the text “Secure Payment System - Self Contained (SPS-SC) [ONLINE mode]” (Figure 4).

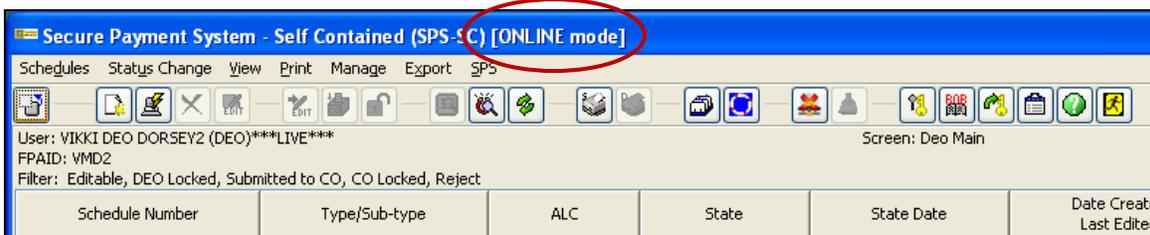


Figure 4: Visual Indicator for SPS Self Contained Online Application

The following table provides the key differences between Online and Offline versions of SPS Self Contained Application (Figure 5).

| | SPS Self Contained Online Application | SPS Self Contained Offline Application |
|---|--|---|
| Needs Internet Connectivity | Yes | No |
| Needs a SPS Credential | Yes | No |
| Used to Create/Edit/Certify Payments | Yes | No |
| Used for testing SPS 440 Import Files | No | Yes |
| Used for creating SPS Import Files | No | Yes |
| Used for training new/existing users | No | Yes |
| Updated automatically, upon login, when a new version is available | Yes | No |
| Windows Border Visual Indicator | ONLINE | OFFLINE |

Figure 5: Differences between Online and Offline versions of SPS Self Contained Application

3. Termination of SPS Support for Microsoft Windows Operating System

Microsoft is ending support for Windows XP on April 8, 2014. After this date, security updates for Windows XP will no longer be available (see: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/end-support-help>). Fiscal Service is planning to drop support for Windows XP at some point in time after this date for SPS.

Windows XP has technical limitations for being simultaneously compliant with:

- A) NIST guidance for digital signatures, and
- B) OMB mandates for NIST FIPS-201 (PIV).

NIST now requires that all digital signatures be created using "SHA2" message digest, which replaces the older "SHA1". Driven by NIST FIPS-201 (PIV) and associated OMB guidance, SPS is in the process of migrating users from their iKey token credentials to using their agency "PIV badges" as credentials. This process will start in CY2014.

To support PIV badge interactions, the SPS client will soon be using Microsoft's "CAPI" interface to interact with PKI token credentials, including both iKeys and PIV badges. Microsoft's CAPI interface provides more improved token support in Windows 7 than in Windows XP, and better support for SHA2. As a result, the SafeNet drivers used for iKey 2032 tokens do not support SHA2 digital signatures when used with CAPI under XP. There is no such limitation in Windows 7.

Starting in SPS releases for late summer 2014, iKey tokens used in Windows XP clients will fail to provide the required cryptographic functions, and access to SPS will fail from Windows XP workstations.

Users logging in to SPS, using Windows XP Operating System, on or after Monday September 23, 2013 may see an alert pop-up that looks similar to the one shown here in Figure 6:

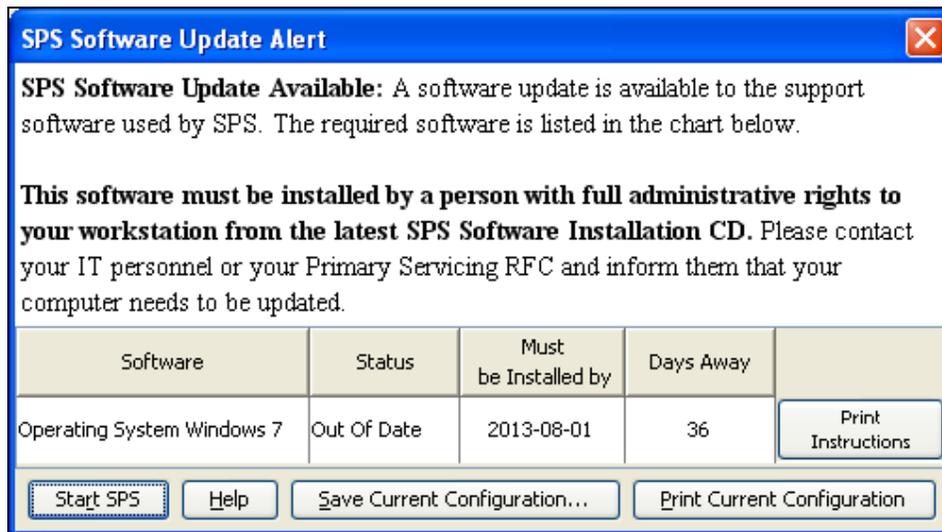


Figure 6: Example SPS Alert Pop-Up

All SPS users need to update their SPS machine Operating Systems to Windows 7 by Late Summer of 2014.

For new installations on Windows 7: Please use the new SPS Install CD (dated November 2013) and follow instructions on the CD to install SPS Self-Contained on Windows 7. Note that both Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Enterprise editions are supported on both 32-bit and 64-bit versions. SPS Web is not supported on Windows 7.

For existing SPS Self-Contained installations on Windows 7: Please un-install the existing SPS Self-Contained installation and then re-install SPS Self-Contained from the new SPS Install CD (dated November 2013) and follow instructions on the CD.

All Roles – Java Plug-in version support for SPS

SPS supports Java Web Plug-in version 1.6.0_XX. SPS Web installations on Microsoft XP can use any Java Web Plug-in version of 1.6.0_23 or higher.

Note that SPS no longer supports the Java Plug-in versions 1.4.x_y or 1.5.x_y. Also, SPS offers a Manual Workaround to provide support for Java Web Plug-in version 1.7.x_y. SPS Self Contained version is the recommended installation option for SPS.

4. Upcoming Changes to SPS

The next release of SPS (slated for Summer of 2014) is expected to provide the ability to use PIV-Badges to access SPS Application.

Windows XP (with latest patches and updates) and **Windows 7 (recommended)** are the only two supported Operating Systems for SPS. The support for Windows XP is expected to be discontinued in a release slated for Late Summer of 2014. SPS does not support Windows Vista. There are no plans to support Windows 8 at this time.

5. For More Information

Please contact the SPS Help Desk at Kansas City Financial Center for any questions, concerns or additional information.