

## **Termination of SPS Support for MS Windows XP O/S and termination of use for Java JRE Plug-ins**

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>). Treasury (Fiscal Service) will drop support for Windows XP at some point in time after this April date for SPS.

Windows XP has technical limitations for being simultaneously compliant with:

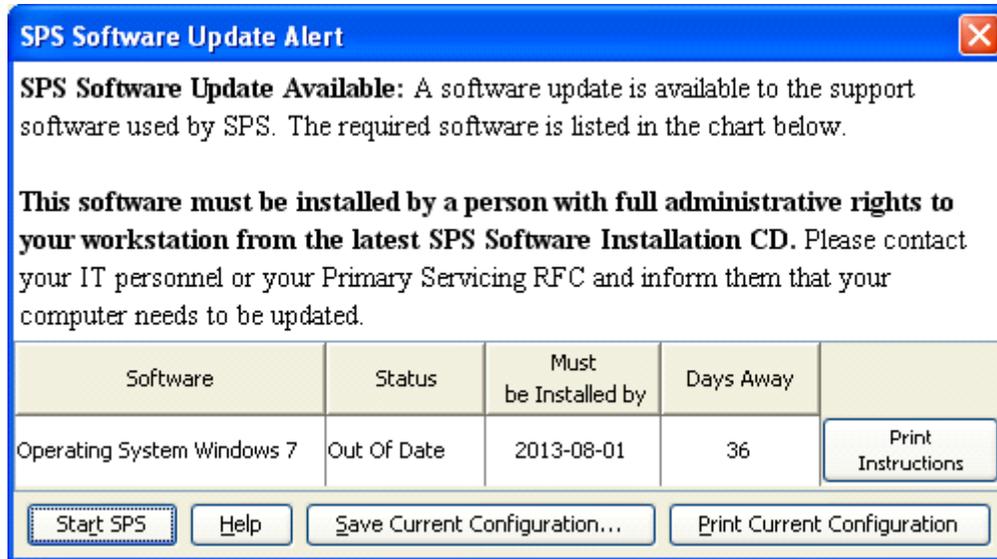
- A) NIST guidance for digital signatures, and
- B) OMB mandates for NIST FIPS-201 (PIV).

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 the Windows XP sometime in late summer 2014 may see an alert pop-up that looks similar to the one shown here in Figure 1:



**Figure 1: 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.

**Starting late summer of 2014 SPS is only supported on Windows 7. On Windows 7, SPS does not need nor depend on the Java Web Plug-in version installed. Users may install any Java Web Plug-in as they need with out worrying about SPS requirements. There are no plans to support SPS on Windows 8 Operating System.**