

Support for Older Internet Explorer Versions Ended January 12, 2016

Don Cathey, KCJIS ISO

You may already be aware of this headline through Administrative messages in OpenFox or by service announcements from your other technology service providers.

But in case you haven't seen or heard... Microsoft has announced that support for versions of Internet Explorer prior to version 11 ended on January 12, 2016. Here is a link to information provided by Microsoft <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/WindowsForBusiness/End-of-IE-support>, and here are some excerpts from the link. They are edited for emphasis and to fit our allotted space and support options.

What is end of support?

Beginning January 12, 2016, only the most current version of Internet Explorer, which is 11, is available as a supported browser. Internet Explorer 11 is the last version of Internet Explorer, and will continue to receive security updates, compatibility fixes, and technical support on Windows 7, and Windows 8.1.

What does this mean?

It means you should take action. After January 12, 2016, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates or technical support for older versions of Internet Explorer. Security updates patch vulnerabilities that may be exploited by malware, helping to keep users and their data safer. Regular security updates help protect computers from malicious attacks, so upgrading and staying current is important.

Because Microsoft will no longer support older versions of internet explorer, KCJIS (the KBI helpdesk) will no longer be able to support them either. Here is the message language explaining that:

As of Tuesday (01/12/2016) the KCJIS network will no longer support any internet explorer version except version 11 as Microsoft will stop posting updates to older browsers after that date. If you are using an internet explorer version older than version 11 make sure to update it before Tuesday to prevent your computer from having issues that could include losing the ability to open KCJIS pages. That includes but is not limited to <https://kcjis.ks.gov/> and all pages accessed through it.

If you are unsure what version you have check by going to tools>about internet explorer.

It is important to note that the only Operating Systems and browser currently supported by the KBI helpdesk are Windows 7 and 8.1 along with Internet Explorer 11. If you use a browser based application other than those provided by KCJIS, you must work with your vendor to ensure they also work with Internet Explorer 11.

While support when something breaks is important, so is protection from vulnerabilities.

The FBI CJIS Security policy addresses the vulnerability aspect in policy 5.10.4.1 Patch Management. You may recall in 2014 that Windows XP reached its End of Life (EoL) and was deemed out of compliance with the FBI CJIS Security Policy. We explained then that when Microsoft, or any other vendor, stops support of products the vulnerabilities can continue to be developed and exploits will still be deployed to take advantage of the lack of support. The same rationale will now be applied to older versions of Internet Explorer. It will also be applied to other software installed on the same computers used to access KCJIS, regardless of vendor.

Compliance to policy 5.10.4.1 is confirmed during your KHP Information Technology security audits.

* The tools icon looks like a gear . You may need to find About Internet Explorer under Help on the Menu bar.