

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS AND
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AND
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, INFORMATION RESOURCES

SUBJECT: Revised FMS Web Browser Policy

The Financial Management Service (FMS) serves Federal Program Agencies government-wide. FMS provides central payment services, operates the Federal Government's collections and deposit systems, provides government-wide accounting and reporting services, and manages the collection of delinquent debt.

In order to better support the many web-based applications which support the FMS programs, FMS will change our policy for the web browser used to access FMS applications. The change in browser policy is necessary in order to improve consistency and reliability of service to you and to reduce complexity and cost in application development. The change essentially continues support for Microsoft (MS) Internet Explorer (IE), maintaining currency with upgrades; however, the change leaves optional any support for Netscape/Mozilla.

The revised FMS Web Browser Policy supports the last two full releases of MS IE, such as MS IE 5.x and 6.x and all "dot releases" under 5.0 and 6.0. FMS web applications will be designed to work best with the last two full releases of MS IE. Support for Netscape/Mozilla releases will be optional, as of March 1, 2005.

New releases of MS IE will be supported within 270 days of general availability. Old releases of MS IE will cycle out at that time.

Existing systems shall have one year from the effective date to comply with this policy. Effective March 1, 2005, systems in existence or in development will no longer be required to support the Netscape browser.

This memorandum is being sent to all Chief Financial Officers and Chief Information Officers (CIO) with the expectation that you will distribute this very important information to all affected personnel in your Agency. Any employee accessing an FMS web application could be affected by this change. Please distribute a copy of this memo to your employees. In addition, FMS has posted this memo to the Treasury CIO web page (http://intranet.treas.gov/cio/cio_council/) and on the FMS public web site at (http://fms.treas.gov/news/cio_memo_browser_policy.pdf). If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact David Bell, david.bell@fms.treas.gov

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