

- "Latest Developments from Apple Regarding Java." (20 April 2012). *The Electronic Appellate Report*, 12/16.

Apple has been relatively slow to release security patches for Java, for example taking nearly 2 months to release Java 1.6 Update 31 after it came out on Windows. This recently caused a widespread problem for Mac users, as the "Flashback" trojan was able to take advantage of the known security hole in the outof-date software.

In response, Apple sent out the current version of Java as part of their software update process to prevent the problem. Further, they have taken measures that are designed to make the system harder to attack in the future. In particular, in the Safari browser they are disabling applets, so to run the current version of CM/ECF Appellate, Mac users will have to turn this back on. Further, if it goes unused for 31 days, it will reportedly turn off applet access again, requiring a user to re-enable it if they are infrequent CM/ECF users. This disabling is apparently for Safari only, but Mozilla has said they'll put this in Firefox in the future.

See <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5241> for further information on how to enable/disable Java in Safari.

In keeping with their corporate strategy of not supporting older products, they are not releasing the Java update for Leopard and older versions of OS/X. Anyone running older versions of the Mac operating system can disable Java to avoid the Flashback trojan, but that will apparently cause applications like Photoshop and Illustrator to stop working. The alternative is to update the operating system to one Apple is still supporting, which currently is just Snow Leopard or Lion.

As you know, we have been making plans to move away from the Java applet technology for CM/ECF. The draft plans for the first release of Next Gen will eliminate the need for Java on the client for attorneys, and later releases will move us to new interface for all users, where only the PDF plug-in (or the equivalent, "Preview" for the Mac) will be used. The new interface should make it easier to support Apple users.