



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830  
TTY 202 / 418-2555  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>  
<ftp.fcc.gov>

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## Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Implements ULS Filing via the Internet

*Universal Licensing System (ULS) users filing applications or notifications may now file in ULS either by the Internet or direct dial-up, whichever is more convenient.*

To further the ability of applicants to file electronically, Universal Licensing System (ULS) filing via the Internet was implemented on April 29, 2000. Whenever ULS users choose to access ULS, they can now choose between accessing the ULS on the Internet, by going to the ULS home page [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls), or by utilizing the dial-up service to the Commission's Wide Area Network (WAN).<sup>1</sup> (Filers of Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) applications should access the antenna homepage at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/antenna](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/antenna) or click on "ASR Home" at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls).)

When an applicant reaches the ULS homepage, clicking on the "Online Filing" button takes the applicant to the filing service. Applicants with high speed access to the Internet normally should find the ULS responding faster to their commands than through a modem dial-up to the WAN. Actual access responsiveness is subject to overall traffic conditions on the Internet. Please see the Software/System Requirements portion of this *Public Notice* for additional information concerning filing via the Internet. (ASR application filers click on the "ASR Electronic Filing" button on the antenna homepage.)

In its *Second Report and Order*,<sup>2</sup> the Commission authorized public access through the Internet, as soon as it would be technically feasible. Application and License search functions became available via the Internet on June 10, 1999. The Commission had cited concerns in the *Second Report and Order* regarding the integrity and security of data transmitted over the Internet. Subsequent technological advances in these areas, including new technologies and application of new technologies, have addressed these concerns, and now provide the

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<sup>1</sup> Full information on dial-up access is available at the ULS home page by clicking on "Connecting to ULS." That same document also provides information on "smart update" (discussed below) and Technical Support, available every Federal work day from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. ET at 202-414-1250, TTY: 202-414-1255.

<sup>2</sup> *See* Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 13, 22, 24, 26, 27, 80, 87, 90, 95, 97, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services Assessment and Collection of Charges for FCC Proprietary Remote Software Packages, On-Line Communications Service Charges, and Bidder's Information Packages in Connection with Auctionable Services, **FCC 99-140, Second Report and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 9851 (1999) (ULS Second R&O)**. This document is available from the ULS homepage: click on "ULS Rulemakings."

Commission with the ability to offer secure filing and application transactions over the Internet. Accordingly, by this Public Notice, we announce that applications for all services currently available in the ULS may be filed over the Internet.<sup>3</sup> NOTE: Filers must continue to provide ownership disclosure information (FCC Form 602) via paper filings; this form is not yet available in an electronic version.

If a filer's access to the Internet is disrupted (e.g., their Internet service provider is down), and there is a possibility that a filing deadline would be missed, then the filer should utilize the dial-up WAN service.

The regular maintenance downtime for filings is 12:15 a.m. to 2:15 a.m. ET. Information on any additional scheduled downtime is provided on the ULS homepage under system status.

### Software/System Requirements

ULS software works with the Netscape Navigator browser. (The software requires the standard implementation of Java applets adopted by Netscape.) The following Netscape Communicator versions (specifically the Netscape Navigator browser included with these versions) are compatible with the ULS: 4.5, 4.51, 4.61, and 4.7x. The following versions are NOT compatible with the ULS: 4.6 and versions earlier than 4.05.<sup>4</sup>

All ULS users will also want to have installed the Acrobat reader<sup>5</sup> to read certain ULS documents.

ULS' "Smart Update" feature downloads and installs an update of software and data that resides on the user's computer system. On first logging onto the ULS, the new ULS user will see a prompt asking the user's authorization to run the Smart Update. The user must grant permission to run Smart Update. Once Smart Update has run, the user will see that prompt again only when there is another software update. If a user's system anti-virus or other security software does not enable Java applet downloads, the download will fail and you will get an error message. Also, your Netscape preferences (under EDIT) must enable Smart Update, Java and JavaScript, and must accept cookies.

System requirements for Internet access remain as they were for WAN access. The one exception is that a user is not restricted to the use of a dial-up modem. The user may access the Internet with whatever hardware and Internet service provider he or she normally utilizes.

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<sup>3</sup> A list of services currently available in ULS is available on the ULS homepage.

<sup>4</sup> Releases of Netscape Navigator since 4.05 work with the ULS, except for known problems using version 4.6 with the ULS. New users still relying on version 4.05 will need either to update their version or download Java Development Kit (JDK) 1.1 or higher; see information at [help.netscape.com/filelib.html](http://help.netscape.com/filelib.html). Later versions of Netscape Navigator incorporate JDK 1.1 or higher. Regardless of whether ULS is accessed via the Internet or by dial-up to the WAN, new-to-ULS users whose PC's still run Microsoft Windows 3.1 should know that Netscape no longer distributes a version that supports that operating system and includes Smart Update.

<sup>5</sup> The Acrobat reader (for ".pdf" format documents) is a free download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). ULS accepts Acrobat 3.0 or subsequent versions.

## Security

All communications with the ULS are now protected by Secure Sockets Layer security (SSL mode) using up to 128 bits encryption, depending on the user's browser.<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, parties filing applications or notifications in the ULS may choose between access via the Internet and continuing to dial directly into the Wan by means of an 800 number.

The actual encryption is dependent on the user's browser. If a user's current Netscape version only supports 40 or 56-bit encryption, and **if the user plans on paying on-line for a filing with a credit card, a 128 bit encryption version** from Netscape must be installed **prior** to filing one's application.

## Free Access

ULS electronic filing, whether via Internet or via the FCC WAN, does not require applicants and licensees to pay per minute on-line charges to the FCC. Because application filing is subject to a separate fee schedule under Section 8 of the Communications Act, access to the FCC WAN for purposes of electronic filing of applications is not subject to on-line charges. As a result, filers in the ULS are charged only the filing fee and regulatory fee appropriate for their radio service and application purpose, and are not charged for on-line access while filing.<sup>7</sup> Users, accessing the ULS over the Internet, do pay their Internet Service Provider (ISP) and/or communications service provider(s) the usual tariffs, if any, for their connection to the Internet.

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<sup>6</sup> For further information on SSL, consult the following current reference: [www.netscape.com/security/techbriefs/ssl.html](http://www.netscape.com/security/techbriefs/ssl.html) and its links to other sources.

<sup>7</sup> *See ULS Second R&O, 14 FCC Rcd 9854 ¶ 10.*