1. Introduction

This document explains "what's new" with the next release of the Secure Payment System (SPS RelP 17.3) from the perspective of SPS DEO and CO user roles. This new release offers an update to the SPS Self-Contained version on Windows XP and Windows 7, as well as an update to the Keystore file used by SPS for validating the SPS Application code used by SPS installations. This document also contains information about upcoming changes to SPS, and to the list of supported operating systems and Java Plug-ins.

This new release is expected to be in production on Monday February 13, 2012. A new SPS Installation CD is available for installing the new version of SPS Self-Contained on Windows 7 and XP Operating Systems. Please contact your servicing RFC (Regional Financial Center) for obtaining copies of the new installation CDs.

2. What's New

All Roles – Update to SPS Self-Contained Installations

A new version of SPS Self-Contained is now available for both Windows 7 Operating System (Professional and Enterprise editions, for both 32-bit and 64-bit versions) and XP Operating System (Professional edition). Users logging in to SPS on or after Monday February 13, 2012 may see an alert pop-up that looks similar to the one shown here in Figure 1:
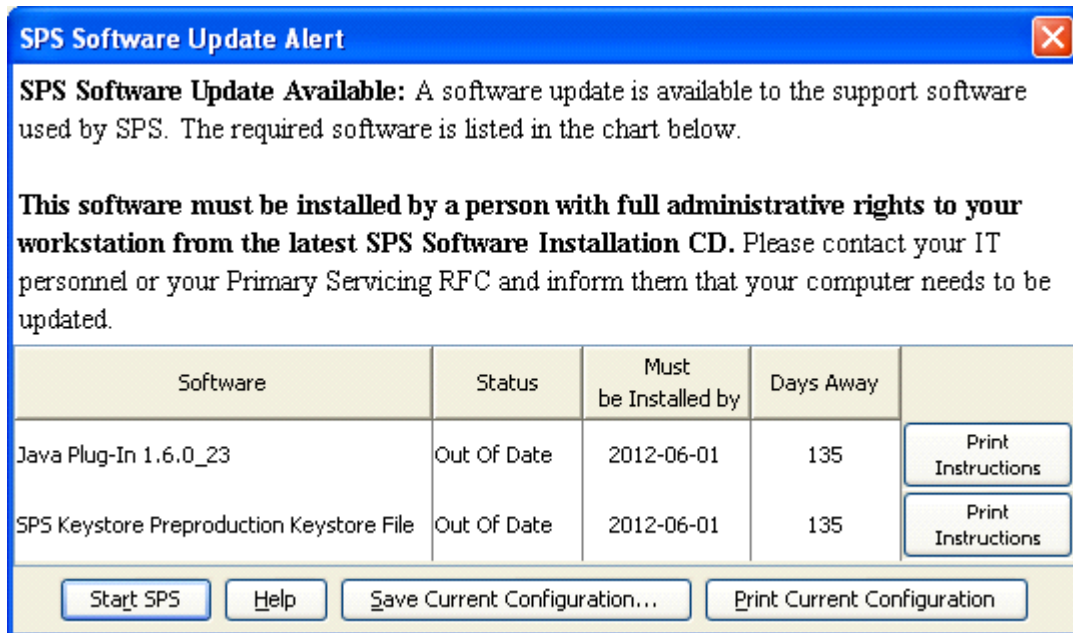

Figure 1: Example SPS Alert Pop-Up

All SPS users need to update their SPS installations before July 2012.

The SPS installations below must be installed by a person with full administrative privileges for the workstation and/or laptop.

For new installations on Windows 7: Please use the new SPS Install CD (dated February 2012) 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 new installations on Windows XP: Please use the new SPS Install CD (dated February 2012) and follow instructions on the CD.

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 February 2012) and follow instructions on the CD.

For existing SPS Self-Contained installations on Windows XP: Please un-install the existing SPS Self-Contained installation and then re-install SPS Self-Contained from the new SPS Install CD (dated February 2012) and follow instructions on the CD.

For existing SPS Web installations on Windows XP: Please un-install the existing SPS Web installation and then re-install SPS Web (or SPS Self-Contained) from the new SPS Install CD (dated February 2012) and follow instructions on the CD.

For re-installations on Windows XP: Agencies wishing to re-install SPS on existing XP machines are advised to completely uninstall SPS and use the new SPS Install CD (dated February 2012) and follow instructions on the CD. To uninstall existing SPS installations, each of the following components need to be uninstalled: a) SPS Web and/or SPS Self-Contained, b) Datakey CIP middlware and C) Rainbow iKey driver.

NOTE: All workstations and laptops used for disaster recovery and COOP must be updated as well.

All Roles – Java Plug-in version support for SPS
SPS supports Java Plug-in versions 1.6.0_23 and 1.5.0_11. The support for 1.5.x_y is being discontinued by August of 2012. After August 2012, all SPS Self-Contained installations on Microsoft XP and Windows 7 Operating Systems must use 1.6.0_23. SPS Web installations on Microsoft XP can use any version of 1.6.0_23 or higher.

Note that SPS no longer supports the Java Plug-in versions 1.3.x_y or 1.4.x_y. Also, SPS does not support Java Plug-in version 1.7.x_y at this time.

3. Upcoming Changes to SPS

The next release of SPS (slated for August 2012) is expected to offer modifications arising from the "Government Wide Accounting Modernization" (GWA) efforts currently underway at FMS.

Windows XP (with latest patches and updates) and Windows 7 (32-bit and 64-bit) are the only two supported Operating Systems for SPS. The support for Windows XP is expected to continue at least for two more years (until 2013). SPS does not support Windows Vista.

4. For More Information

Please contact your servicing RFC (Regional Financial Center) for any questions, concerns or additional information.