1. Introduction

This document explains "what's new" with the next release of the Secure Payment System (SPS RelP 17.0) from the perspective of all SPS user roles. This new release offers compatibility with Microsoft Windows 7 Operating System. 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 May 09, 2011. A new SPS Installation CD is available for installing the new version of SPS 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 – Compatibility with Windows 7 Operating System
SPS is now compatible with both Windows 7 Operating System (Professional and Enterprise editions, for both 32-bit and 64-bit versions) and XP Operating System.

NOTE: All SPS installations must be installed using an Administrator account. For Windows 7 installations, right-click on the "SPS-SC Client Setup.exe" file and "Run as Administrator" to begin the installation process.

For new installations on Windows 7: Please use the new SPS Install CD (dated May 2011) 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 May 2011) and follow instructions on the CD. The New (Safenet) or Old (Datakey) version of SPS may be installed, however New (Safenet) is the preferred option.

For existing installations on Windows XP: There is no need to update/change the existing installations of SPS. The current SPS Web and SPS Self-Contained installations will continue to work and be supported.

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 May 2011) 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.

For users who access SPS and other FMS PKI Applications (ASAP, ITS, TCIS etc.) on Windows 7: The new "FMS PKI Install CD" and the new "SPS Client Combo CD" can be applied in any order on Windows 7 machines.

All Roles – Java Plug-in version support for SPS

SPS supports Java Plug-in versions 1.6.0_23, 1.6.0_20 and 1.5.0_11. Existing SPS installations on Microsoft XP Operating System use 1.6.0_20 (SPS Web) and 1.5.0_11 (SPS Self-Contained). All new installations on Microsoft XP and Windows 7 Operating Systems use 1.6.0_23 for both SPS Web and SPS Self-Contained installations.

Note that SPS no longer supports the Java Plug-in versions 1.3.x_y or 1.4.x_y. Also, the support for 1.5.x_y may soon be discontinued during Calendar year of 2012.

3. Upcoming Changes to SPS

The next release of SPS 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.

Datakey and Safenet middleware are the only two supported middleware components for SPS. The support for Datakey is expected to continue for now, however, it will be phased out in favor of the Safenet middleware during Calendar year of 2012.

4. For More Information

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