

Matrix of setting of "Internet Options" within Control Panel

MS description of setting	Trusted Sites	Local Intranet	Internet Zone	Restricted Zone
ActiveX controls and plug-ins	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Download unsigned ActiveX controls	Prompt	Prompt	Prompt	DISable
Initialise and script ActiveX controls not marked as safe	Prompt	Prompt	DISable	DISable
Run ActiveX controls and plug-ins	Enable	Prompt	Prompt	DISable
Script ActiveX controls marked safe for scripting	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
File download	Enable	Enable	Enable	DISable
Font download	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Java permissions	Low safety**	Medium safety	High safety	DISable Java
Access data sources across domains	Enable	Prompt	DISable	DISable
Allow META REFRESH	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Display mixed content	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Don't prompt for client certificate selection when no certificate or only one certificate	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Drag and drop or copy and paste files	Enable	Prompt	Prompt	DISable
Installation of desktop items	Prompt	Prompt	DISable	DISable
Launch proframs and files in an IFRAME	Enable	Prompt	DISable	DISable
Navigate sub-frames across different domains	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
Software channel permissions	Low safety	Medium safety	High safety	High safety
Submit nonencrypted form data	Enable	Enable	Enable**	DISable
Userdata persistence	Enable	Enable	DISable	DISable
Allow paste operations by script	Enable**	Prompt	DISable	DISable
Scripting of Java Applets	Enable	Enable	Prompt	DISable
User Authentication	Prompt for user name and password	Prompt for user name and password	Prompt for user name and password	Prompt for user name and password

Note that ** represents a setting which may not be ideal (i.e. too loose) but that is sufficiently safe that it may be made as indicated to avoid the constant irritation of prompting.

The principle way of using these zones is that you try to use all of the sites that you previously used with them in the Internet zone. If they stop functioning or are extremely irritating (eg constant prompts on all pages) then you may choose to promote the site to a higher zone but that is your decision based on your trust in the owner and provider of the site. When adding a site to a zone by clicking on "Sites" (and then "Advanced" when on Local Intranet Zone) you may need to put a wildcard in front of the site name instead of www - e.g. '*.btopenworld.com'.

If you are in the trusted zone (green with white tick) and you get a prompt to do something then think very, very hard about whether you have a recent, full systems backup of your data and windows system drive. Installing a desktop item from a squeaky-clean supplier over a secure link which you can see their authenticating certificate is saying the site is who you expect them to be **may** be OK but think twice anyway.

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