



## **Public Access Information relating to Microsoft's XP Service Pack 2**

The latest version of Microsoft's XP operating system, Service Pack 2, will shortly be released. As part of this release, Microsoft has decided to considerably increase the default security on the XP platform which includes enhanced security in Internet Explorer (IE). This enhanced security is a worthwhile addition to windows XP but may require alterations to the default settings of IE for you or your citizens to be able to fully utilise your CAPS Solutions web applications.

Microsoft, to the relief of many IE users, has introduced a Pop-up Blocker tool that will by default prohibit the opening of pop-up windows propagated by web sites accessed over the Internet. This new functionality will particularly affect those customers using the PublicAccess application. Certain tools or options in PublicAccess are designed to open pop-up windows, for example, the help screen or the results of a map search. The Pop-up Blocker settings will have to be altered in order to permit the opening of PublicAccess's pop-up windows. There are different ways that this can be undertaken such as disabling the Pop-up Blocker or lowering the level of security. The recommended option, however, would be to simply add the PublicAccess website address to the 'Allowed Sites' list in the 'Exception' settings section. The 'Allowed Sites' list will permit all pop-ups from a list of specified web sites.

It would be worthwhile posting the above information on your corporate web site next to the link to PublicAccess in order to inform your citizens of the impact service pack 2 may have on the usage of PublicAccess. In addition, Microsoft has a publicly available test release of XP Service Pack 2 on their website. It may be useful for your IT section to familiarise themselves with the new service pack by downloading the package and installing it on a test XP computer. The XP Service Pack 2 can be downloaded at the following link –

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/winxppro/sp2preview.msp>

CAPS web applications designed to be used over an intranet, as opposed to over the Internet, should work without any changes being required to IE's settings. It is recommended that these settings are retained in order that your CAPS Web applications functionality remains intact.