

Lately some web page content (including menu functions, media player, and adobe files) seems to have lost some functionality when using Internet Explorer. What is the problem?

As a result of an on-going legal battle, Microsoft recently released an update to Internet Explorer 6 that changes the way in which Internet Explorer handles some Web pages that use ActiveX controls. Examples of ActiveX controls include the following:

- Adobe Reader
- Apple QuickTime Player
- Macromedia Flash Player
- Microsoft Windows Media Player
- Real Networks RealPlayer
- Sun Java Virtual Machine

After this update is installed (either manually initiated or through Windows automatic updates), you cannot interact with ActiveX controls from certain Web pages until these controls are enabled and you will be required to manually enable the ActiveX control by clicking on it.

So what does this mean for me? Many menus and other links with “rollover” effects in which a link changes its look when the mouse is hovered over it will no longer maintain this functionality. Additionally, you will be required to click twice on some items that formerly only took one mouse click to activate or follow the link. This can sometimes be mistaken for a faulty or “broken” link if a person only clicks on the item once and the person observes no response. However, if the link is clicked on twice the control should function normally.

This “inconvenience” is a result of an on-going legal battle that affects a great many web sites currently in existence. If your web site seems to have lost some functionality that is similar to the issues described above, it is possible that Microsoft’s software upgrades may be the culprit. If you feel this loss in functionality is unacceptable, there may be ways to reestablish the original functionality. However, in most cases it will require modifications to your web site. If you would like to discuss this matter further, you may Hotdog Webs and we will be happy to discuss solutions and provide cost estimates to help alleviate your problems.

To read the technical details regarding this issue, you can find more information on Microsoft’s web site at: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/912945>