

Netscape 8 and Internet Explorer's Save As dialog

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6.browser/2005-08/msg0307>

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When you install Netscape 8, Internet Explorer surprisingly starts to check the "C:\Program Files\Netscape\Netscape Browser\plugins" folder and if it finds a corresponding plugin it registers it at:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Plugins\Extension

(e.g. if you download a zip file IE looks for a plugin in the Netscape 8 plugins created for this extension and if it finds such IE registers it to its plugins).

You can see how IE checks the Netscape 8 plugins folder with the File Monitor utility from Sysinternals. Just to note that before installation of Netscape 8 there was not such problem.

The problem may cause unpredictable results in Internet Explorer.

How to reproduce the problem:

Copy a Netscape-style plugin to the Netscape 8 plugins folder (just pick up some popular download manager and install its Netscape/Opera plugin or use the example plugin from iGetter, a download manger that we develop, available at post #2 here:

<http://community.netscape.com/n/pfx/forum.aspx?msg=2694.1&nav=messages&webtag=ws-nscpbrowser>

). Now, run Internet Explorer and try to load a "zip" file. Then run regedit and navigate to the keys listed below. Result, Internet Explorer has registered the Netscape 8 plugin at:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Plugins\Extension

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Plugins\MIME

The problem causes disappearing of Internet Explorer Save As dialog for "zip" files, even if you delete the plugin from Netscape 8 plugins folder. The Save As dialog never shows up until you delete the "zip" node at "...Plugins\Extension" registry key. Similar problem, but not with Netscape 8, is explained here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=180553>

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We sent a bug report to Netscape when version 8.0.2 was released, but still without response. Version 8.0.3.3 of Netscape doesn't fix the problem, yet. There should be a way to stop Internet Explorer to register Netscape 8 plugins.

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