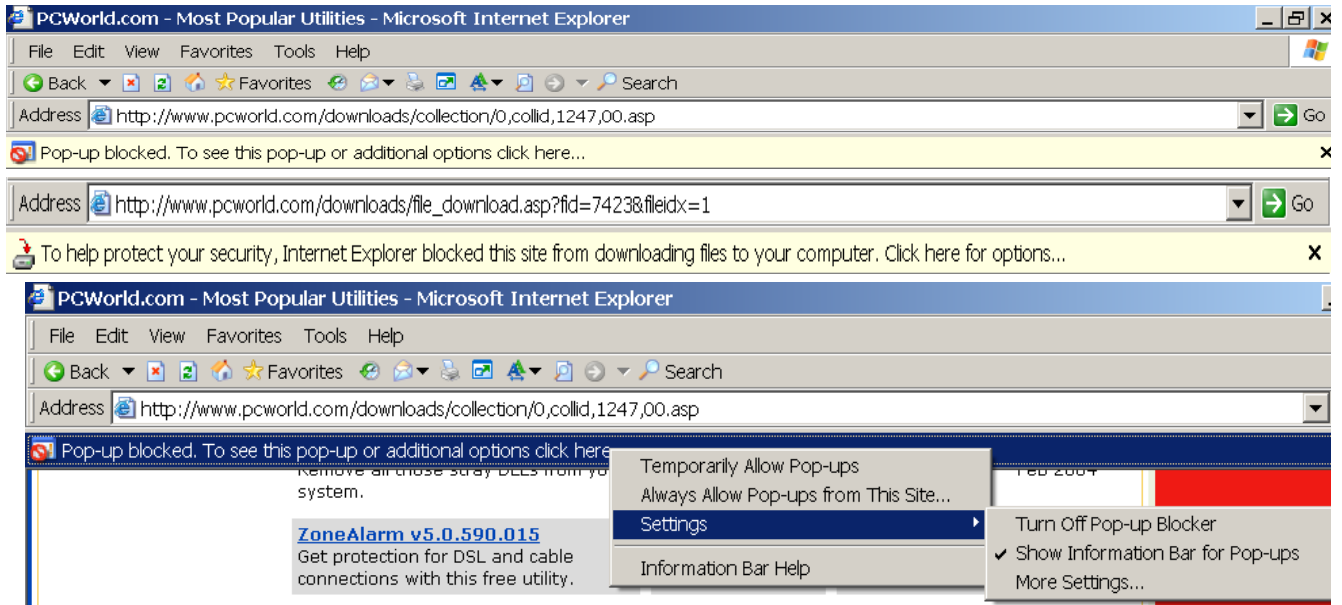


## Chapter 20 The Information Bar



### Understanding the Internet Explorer Information Bar

Internet Explorer displays an Information Bar (just below the address bar) as a pop-up display where you can see information about downloads, blocked pop-up windows, and other activities. This information helps you to avoid potentially harmful files that you might otherwise accept from the Internet. It becomes installed automatically in your computer with the upgrade Service Pack 2 (SP2) for Windows XP users.

If Internet Explorer default settings are on, you'll see the Information Bar pop up when a Web site tries to:

- Install an ActiveX control on your computer.
- Open a pop-up window.
- Download a file to your computer.
- Run active content on your computer.
- Run an ActiveX control on your computer in an unsafe manner.

You will be notified (the information bar will pop up under the address bar) when Internet Explorer blocks:

- A control or active content on a Web page. Internet Explorer still allows the rest of the Web page to open, which lets you see how the Web page works without the control. Many times you will not notice any difference, but your computer is less vulnerable when you don't install controls that you don't need.
- A Web site from downloading a file to your computer. It will still allow you to download the file if you want to, but this prevents the Web site from downloading any files without your knowledge or permission.

When you see a message in the Information Bar, you can click the message bar to see more information or to take action.

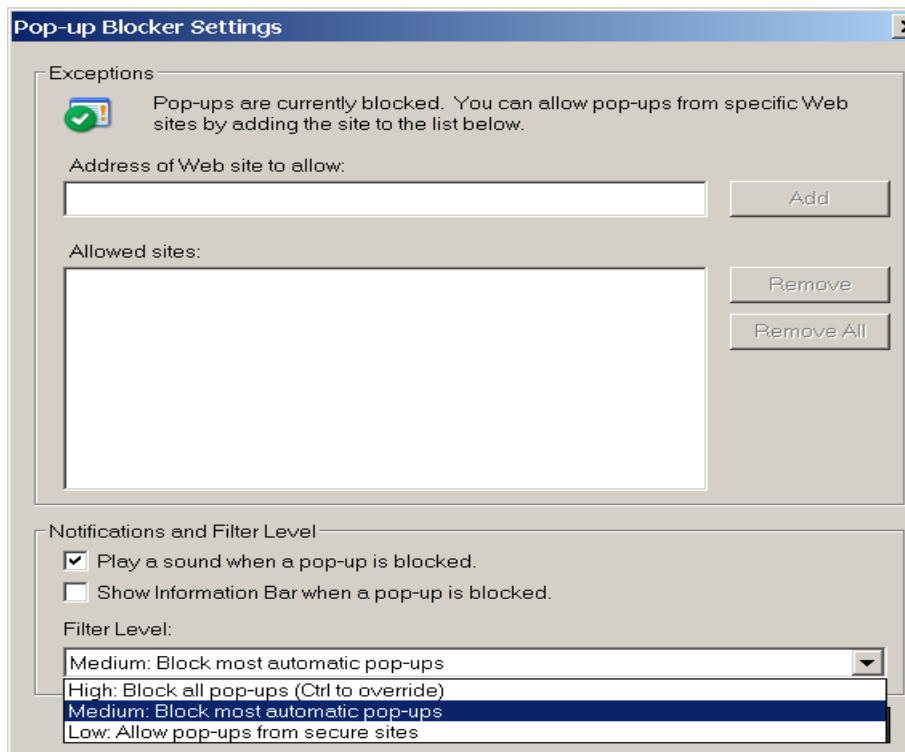
When you click on the pop-up message a window will open with several options.

1. Temporarily Allow Pop-ups - This will allow all pop-up from this site to show while you are on this site for now.
2. Always allow Pop-up from this site. - This will change your setting permanently by putting this site on the allow pop-ups list
3. Settings (clicking on settings will open up another window to set or control your settings)

If you want to access your settings without being on line:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. On the **Tools** menu, point to **Pop-up Blocker**, and then click **Pop-up Blocker Settings**.
3. Clear the **Show Information Bar when a pop-up is blocked** check box.

All of the site's exceptions to the blocked address and web sites will be listed in this list below. You can also check the boxes described for sound, etc. Note the choices of Filter Levels you may choose and set.



This procedure will allow Web sites to automatically prompt you when downloading files and software (by passing the Information Bar).

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. On the **Tools** menu, click **Internet Options**.
3. On the **Security** tab, click **Custom Level**.
4. Do one or both of the following:  
To turn off the Information Bar for file downloads, in the **Downloads** section of the list, under **Automatic prompting for file downloads**, click **Enable**.

To turn off the Information Bar for ActiveX controls, in the **ActiveX controls and plug-ins** section of the list, under **Automatic prompting for ActiveX controls**, click **Enable**.

- Click **Install Software**.
- Click **Download File**.

When you are prompted to download the file, read the information in the dialog box very carefully. Make sure the file is from a Web site that you absolutely trust.

- On the **Tools** menu, click **Internet Options**.
- On the **Security** tab, click **Default Level**.
- Click **Allow Blocked Content**.
- Click **Show Restricted Content**.

To turn off the the information message bar for blocked pop-up windows:

- Open Internet Explorer.
- On the **Tools** menu, point to **Pop-up Blocker**, and then click **Pop-up Blocker Settings**.
- Clear the **Show Information Bar when a pop-up is blocked** check box.

To stop file and software downloads with the information bar:

This procedure will allow Web sites to automatically prompt you when downloading files and software (bypassing the Information Bar).

Open Internet Explorer.

On the **Tools** menu, click **Internet Options**.

On the **Security** tab, click **Custom Level**.

Do one or both of the following:

To turn off the Information Bar for file downloads, in the **Downloads** section of the list, under **Automatic prompting for file downloads**, click **Enable**.

To turn off the Information Bar for ActiveX controls, in the **ActiveX controls and plug-ins** section of the list, under **Automatic prompting for ActiveX controls**, click **Enable**.

### ***Important***

You may be tempted to turn off the information bar. Don't do it. You can, but I don't recommend it. If you do want to turn it off, why not to turn it off for each type of message. It is somewhat of a nuisance but its security is well worth.

The default security settings in Internet Explorer are designed to help protect your computer from viruses and attacks over the Internet. Microsoft strongly recommends that you leave these security settings at their default level or higher.