

## Adobe Flash Player and SOBT Courseware Compatibility

Newer versions of Adobe's Flash Player have a new security model for Flash content run from a local source that blocks potentially unsafe activity. This article applies to computers running Flash Player version 8 and above. SOBT courses that contain Flash files have been impacted by these new security enhancements. Due to this you may see a warning from the Flash Player similar to the following:



Fortunately, Adobe has published information on how to allow Flash content to run on local (non-Internet-connected) computers in a trusted mode.

Two possible options that you could implement to allow Flash content in SOBT courseware to play without running into the security barriers are:

**OPTION ONE** - Implement Adobe's fix for relaxing security for local Flash content. Local content is content launched from the CD ROM drive, the local hard drive or a mapped network share (but not from the Internet or a web server on an intranet). The process for this is:

**Step One** – Create a new folder called FlashPlayerTrust in the system32\Macromed\Flash folder.

On a Windows XP computer, the full path would be:

C:\WINDOWS\system32\Macromed\Flash\FlashPlayerTrust

On a Windows 2000 computer, the full path would be:

C:\WINNT\System32\Macromed\Flash\FlashPlayerTrust

(Admin privileges may be needed for creation of folders in the System32 directory and the path to the System32 directory will vary depending on your operating system.) The following example is for Windows 2000:

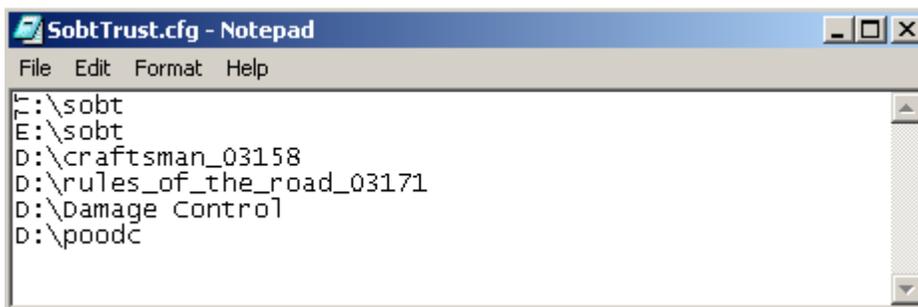


**Step Two** – Open Notepad to create a file. Add trusted locations for SOBT courseware. Following are two examples:



The listing in the above example relaxes security on Flash and HTML page intercommunication as follows:

- C:\sobt - Trusts the sobt folder on the local hard drive.
- D:\ - Trusts any CD that is put into the CD drive (if CD drive is D:\).



The listing in the above example relaxes security on Flash and HTML page intercommunication as follows:

- C:\sobt - Trusts the sobt folder on the local hard drive.
- E:\sobt - Trusts the sobt folder on this mapped shared network drive.
- D:\craftsman\_03158 - Trusts this course when played from CD drive.
- D:\rules\_of\_the\_road\_03171 - Trusts this course when played from CD drive.
- D:\Damage Control - Trusts this course when played from CD drive.
- D:\poodc - Trusts this course when played from CD drive.
- Add additional specific entries as needed...

**Step Three** – Save the file using “Save As...”

- Under “File name:” type SOBTTrust.cfg
- Under “Save as type:” select “All files”
- Under “Encoding:” select **Unicode**
- Save the file in the new FlashPlayerTrust folder created in Step One above.

**CAUTION** – It is NOT recommended to use the system drive path (C:\). This will allow all content on the hard drive, CD ROM player, and all mapped drives to be trusted and should NOT be used. This will defeat the security capabilities of Flash Player, and therefore is not recommended. A more specific approach should be implemented, as shown above, that targets only trusted content in very specific paths.

Notes:

- If you wish to include comments in this file, then the comment line must begin with the pound sign - #.
- The approach in Steps 1 - 3 lets you relax the security for trusted local content, yet keep the computer secure from attacks from malicious Flash content.
- This is the only option for boats using the legacy SOBT CMI program, since all content launched via this program is considered “local” to the Flash Player.

**OPTION TWO** – The Web Server approach.

You can use this option if you have a web server running on your intranet. The new security restrictions impact local content but not HTTP content. This option is an easy way to make courses available to everyone on your network if you do not yet have an LMS installed, and will get around the Flash Player security restrictions. SCORM-formatted courses will work in this setup whether or not they contain Flash content.

This option can only be used for the newer SCORM-formatted courseware which is designed to be run from a web server or from a web-based Learning Management System (LMS) over HTTP. It cannot be used for older SOBT CMI-formatted courses which will not work properly if run from a web server. The exams will fail and other errors may occur since they were not created to work in this environment.

Please note that SCORM-formatted courses can **also** be run from the local file system and if run in that fashion will fall under OPTION ONE if they contain Flash content.

A typical setup is:

**Step One** - Create a virtual directory in IIS on the web server that maps to the sobt directory. Many will have this directory already if they have the SOBT CMI program set up to use a network share for courses and the progress tracking database. Adding SCORM-formatted courses to that folder will not impact the existing CMI network setup.

**Step Two** - Create an HTML Links Page with links to the no\_lms\_start.htm page of each SCORM course in the sobt folder.

**Step Three** - Create a link on your home page/portal page that launches the Links Page which will allow the student to launch one of the SCORM-formatted courses in the browser and print out a completion certificate at the end.