

Updated: November 1, 2011

## Background

HSPnet is a web-enabled system for coordination of student placements in all health sciences disciplines across a practice education jurisdiction (typically a province). As a web-enabled application, introducing HSPnet in an organization has negligible IT impact. User support is provided by the HSPnet Help Desk (via email or phone) and system requirements are limited to Internet Explorer, Adobe Reader, and an email account.

This document provides information on system requirements to support organizations in assessing the system requirements for user access to HSPnet.

## System Specifications and User Requirements

Component	User System and Setup Requirements
<p><b>Client Interface</b> - HTML pages with significant use of JavaScript, DHTML and CSS. SSL encryption (128-bit) is used on all pages and transmissions. The application is designed for use within IE 6 or higher and has not been tested extensively on other browsers (see next page).</p>	<p>Internet Explorer version 8 or higher is recommended, with the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable JavaScript</li> <li>• Enable Session cookies <sup>i</sup></li> <li>• Set Popup blocker (Windows XP SP2) to "Medium" or HSPnet should be added to the "allowed" sites list. <sup>ii</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Email Interface</b> – HSPnet permits users to generate context-appropriate email through "mailto" links embedded throughout the application; no email automation (scripting) is performed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local email client such as Outlook, Outlook Express, or Lotus Notes</li> <li>• Internet Explorer must be set to launch the correct email client under Tools / Internet Options / Programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Web Server</b> - Windows 2008 Server running IIS version 6. Most application pages are written in ASP.Net (C#) and communicate with the database via ADO.Net. Some page generation is via ASP pages which use a COM DLL written in Visual Basic 6.0. The COM DLL communicates with the database using ADO.</p>	
<p><b>Database Server</b> - Windows 2008 Server running SQL Server 2008. All database operations are performed using SQL Server stored procedures.</p>	
<p><b>Print Server</b> - Windows 2008 Server running IIS version 6</p>	
<p><b>Reporting</b> - Uses Crystal Reports 9 and PDFPrepTool 2.35. Crystal Reports runs on the Print Server, communicating with the database using ADO. Reports are scheduled and run periodically using a scheduled EXE application, using Crystal Reports to generate a PDF file. Reports can be batched, resulting in several PDF files being combined in a single file.</p>	<p>Adobe Reader Version 5.0 or later with the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow sending PDF files as an email attachment (rather than sending as a link)</li> <li>• May require adjustment to allow PDF files to be viewed within the browser</li> </ul>

## Support for Other Browsers

HSPnet has been developed for use in Internet Explorer, as the browser available in most agencies that use the network. We test and support HSPnet on Internet Explorer version 6 and higher; use of version 8 or higher is strongly recommended.

HSPnet should also work well on current versions of other standards-compliant browsers including Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, and Safari; however these have not been tested extensively. Users are welcome to use the browser of their choice, but HSPnet Help Desk may recommend the use of Internet Explorer in the event of problems encountered while using another browser.

HSPnet is not designed for, or tested on, mobile browsers and it is unlikely to function well on mobile devices.

## Maintenance Schedule

Our maintenance schedule provides the following maintenance windows:

### Weekly Maintenance Windows

- 1600 to 1700 hours each Friday (Pacific time), later in other provinces - approx.10 minutes/server)
- 0900 to 1100 each Sunday (Pacific time) for server utilities

A test site is available for anyone wishing to test email links and printing of PDF forms:

[www.hspcanada.net/training/HSPnet\\_Test1.asp](http://www.hspcanada.net/training/HSPnet_Test1.asp)

---

<sup>i</sup> To maintain a high level of security on HSPnet screens, each user's web browser must be setup to accept a browser "cookie" to secure their session.

<sup>ii</sup> HSPnet will occasionally popup a secondary window, at the request of the user only (never automatically).