

TaskMap Tech Note

Visio 2003 Web Page Hyperlinks and IE7

Symptom

Internet Explorer 7 (IE7), released by Microsoft in 2006, cannot follow hyperlinks created by saving a Visio 2003 drawing as a web page. This issue affects all web pages created from any Visio 2003 drawing, including a TaskMap.

If you click on a Visio 2003-created hyperlink using IE7, you will encounter an error like the one shown below:



Problem Summary

Microsoft has changed the way that Internet Explorer 7 processes hyperlinks and the change conflicts with hyperlinks created by Visio 2003. Note that hyperlinks created by Visio 2002 work correctly with IE7, as do hyperlinks created by the newest version of Visio, Visio 2007.

The table below summarizes software combinations for which hyperlinks work (“OK”) and don’t work (“NO”).

	Internet Explorer 6	Internet Explorer 7
Visio 2002	OK	OK
Visio 2003	OK	NO
Visio 2007	OK	OK

Problem Affects Only One Web Page Format

This problem only affects web pages saved using a file format called Vector Markup Language (VML), however, this is the default file format used by Visio 2003, so unless you’ve explored the advanced options for saving web pages and had a reason to change the output file format, *this is the format you are using.*

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Resolution

Because TaskMap relies on Visio to produce web page output, there is nothing Harvard Computing Group can do to fix or resolve this problem. We will notify TaskMap customers as soon as Microsoft issues a permanent solution. In the interim, there are four workarounds:

Workaround #1 – Use IE6

Use Internet Explorer 6 to view web page versions of TaskMaps created with Visio 2003.

Workaround #2 – Upgrade to Visio 2007

Upgrade to Visio 2007. TaskMap is fully compatible with both the Standard and Professional editions of Visio 2007.

Workaround #3 – Edit the VML files

You can edit the VML produced by Visio 2003 in a way that allows IE7 to operate correctly. Although a VML file is a text file and you can edit it with a variety of utilities, e.g., Windows Notepad, you should be aware that a lot of editing may be required: you must edit the data for each hyperlink on a page, and there is a separate VML file for each page of your TaskMap.

A better alternative is to use a free program, written by a company in Germany, that makes all necessary changes automatically. You merely point the utility at each set of saved web pages and it edits all VML files. The hyperlink correction utility from DataAssist is available at <http://www.dataassist.de/index.php?id=64>.

Although the web site is in German, the link to download the *Visio Hyperlinks Corrector for IE 7* is quite obvious. Two notes about using this program:

- The *Visio Hyperlinks Corrector for IE 7* requires version 2 of the Microsoft .Net framework; if it is not present on your system, the *Hyperlinks Corrector* installation program will notify you of that fact and offer to take you to the appropriate Microsoft download page.
- VML files edited by the *Visio Hyperlinks Corrector for IE 7* will still work correctly with Internet Explorer 6.

Workaround #4 – Don't use VML output

The problem in IE7 does not affect hyperlinks in web pages that were created using file formats other than VML. For example, web pages created with JPEG images instead of VML will work correctly. The downside of saving in any format other than VML is that your web pages will not include the special “left pane” features: *Pan and Zoom*, *Details* and *Search*.

If you would like to save in a format other than VML, after selecting *File/Save as Web Page...*, click the *Publish* button instead of the *Save* button. In the resulting dialog, click the *Advanced* tab and use the *Output Format* dropdown to select an alternate format.

Additional Information

Some of the information in this Tech Note was drawn from an excellent discussion of the Visio-IE7 problem on a blog run by the Visio product team. Refer to <http://blogs.msdn.com/visio/archive/2006/11/03/hyperlink-problem-in-internet-explorer-7.aspx>

If you have any questions about this issue, don't hesitate to contact the TaskMap support desk at TM-Help@harvardcomputing.com or +1 978-800-4590 option 8.

