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### Internet Explorer and FUFOR's FBI/NSA FOIA CD-ROM

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve@konsulting.com](mailto:steve@konsulting.com)>  
Date: Tue, 26 Jan 1999 12:11:42 -0500  
Fwd Date: Tue, 26 Jan 1999 16:32:54 -0500  
Subject: Internet Explorer and FUFOR's FBI/NSA FOIA CD-ROM

While working on additional CD-ROM projects for the Fund for UFO Research and the Center for UFO Studies, I've found a problem that affects the previously released FBI/NSA archive as well. The following was recently posted to the FUFOR web site:

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It has been found that an "undocumented feature" (which some might call a "bug") has been identified in Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE). This could impact those trying to view the large Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files on the FBI/NSA FOIA CD-ROM. I would note that only affects those who are using IE as their web browser of choice. Those using Netscape Navigator do not face the same limitation.

According to information available from both Adobe and Microsoft, IE is unable to view .pdf files that are 4 MB in size or larger, unless they are being pulled from a web server. When large files of that type are accessed, the system will either display an error message or a blank screen. Unfortunately, this "feature" prohibits the viewing of a number of the files contained on the FOIA CD-ROM being distributed by FUFOR (primarily the larger FBI files). Files that are smaller than 4 MB appear to work properly.

There have been no reports of problems from any of those who have purchased the CD, with the limitation being discovered while preparing additional releases. It is assumed that most are using the Netscape browser, and that is why this issue hasn't surfaced until now.

Once Adobe Acrobat is properly installed on your computer the Operating System (i.e. Windows 95) is aware of it as a utility. This means that the Windows Explorer can be used to point to the folder containing the large files on the CD, and then those files can be selected manually and opened normally. It is also possible to open the Adobe Acrobat reader and then use the "File" / "Open" commands to open the files on the CD. Again, this is a problem with the menu system, and not with the files.

The options outlined in the previous paragraph are the recommended solutions offered by Microsoft on their web site. While this limitation makes the browser less useful in the establishment of an "INTRANET", it appears that there is no hurry to try and resolve it through changes in IE. Fufor and I regret any confusion that this may cause and would like to hear from anyone who experiences a difficulty with the CD. Please forward comments and suggestions to [steve@konsulting.com](mailto:steve@konsulting.com) or to

[support@fufor.org](mailto:support@fufor.org).

Once again, this does NOT affect anyone who is using Netscape Navigator, and one suggested solution would be to load Netscape as a second browser and use it to access files such as those contained on the FOIA CD-ROM.

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I have two projects that were near completion, and they've now been put on hold until I can make the necessary modifications. I wish the developers at Microsoft had corrected this "flaw", but I guess they're concentrating on their legal battle here in DC.

Steve

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