United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

A Windows 10 Guide to PDFs, Microsoft Edge, and Internet Explorer

Introduction

The United States Army is a constantly evolving organization, and much of the improvement stems from the development and integration of new technology. The U.S. Army has begun and nearly completed its Windows 10 operating system (OS) integration into the current system. Due to the many changes that Windows 10 brings to the table, many Soldiers have been caught off guard due to the changes effecting their current workflow, and finding that things that used to work now don't work like they used to.

A major concern voiced from Soldiers is that Microsoft Edge is not working with .pdf files like Internet Explorer did back with the Windows 7 OS. Regardless of whether you have Adobe Acrobat XI or Adobe Reader DC installed on your computer, Microsoft Edge's .pdf viewer does not redirect the .pdf hyperlink to the Adobe applications. According to Adobe, this is because "the new Edge browser will not have any support for ActiveX plug-ins. Therefore, the Acrobat/Reader plug-in won't work with Edge."
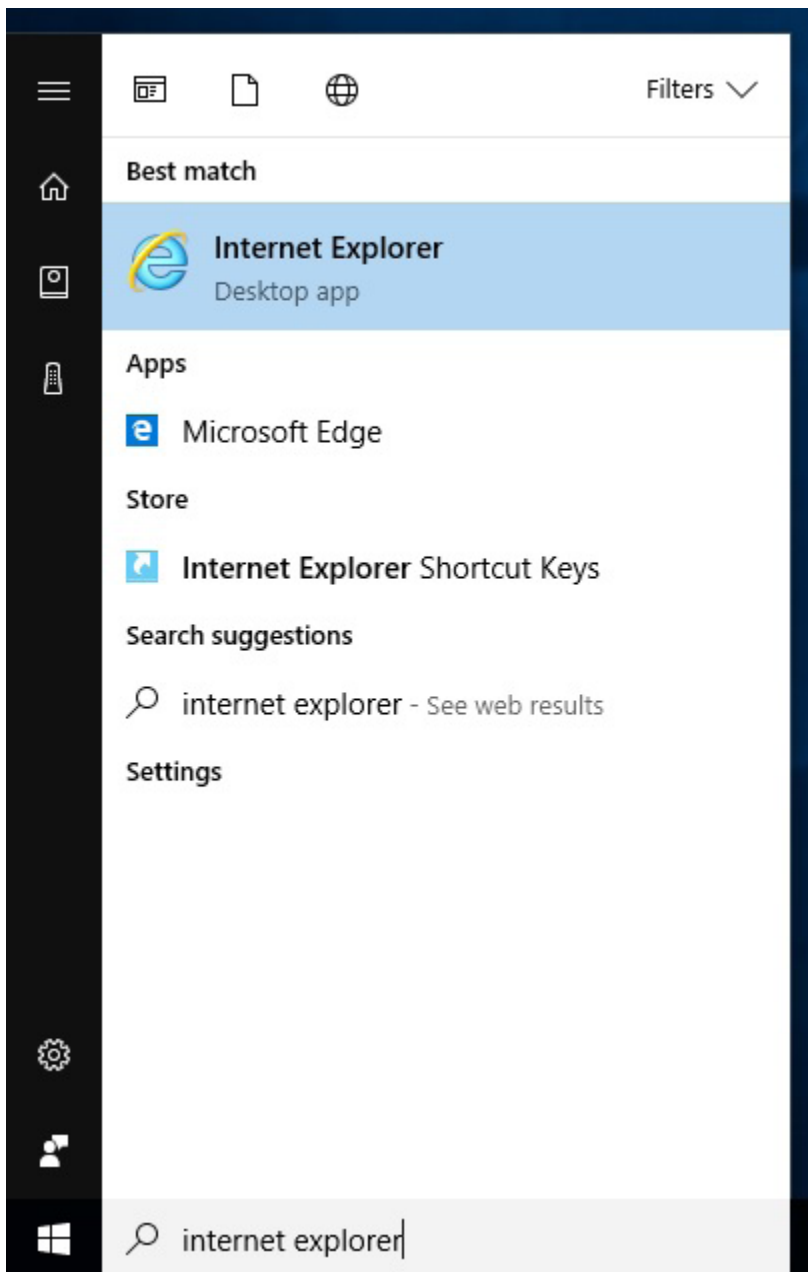
This document will provide you with a step-by-step guide to circumvent this issue, and get you and your department back into a steady battle rhythm.
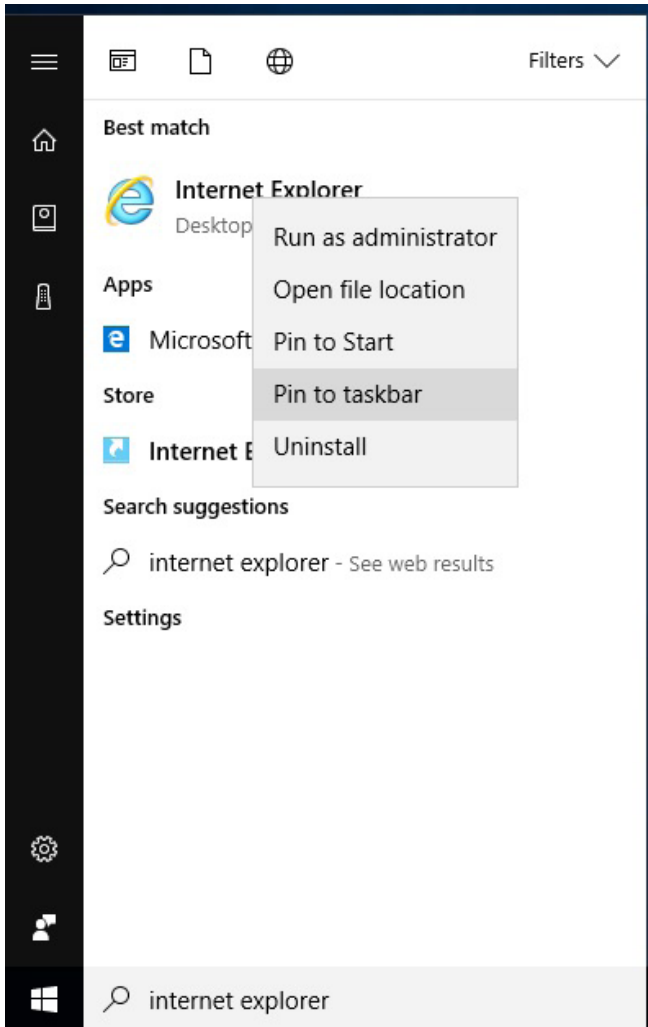
Solution

Step 1 - Click the Windows "Start" button ( ) in the bottom left corner (or press the Windows key).

Step 2 - Type, "Internet Explorer" without the quotation marks. You should see Internet Explorer (IE) listed.

Solution Cont.

Step 3 - Right-click on Internet Explorer in the list, and choose "Pin to taskbar" from the drop menu.

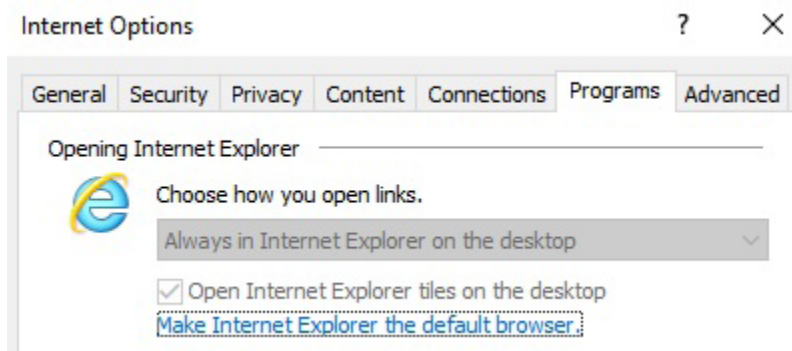**Step 4** - Internet Explorer should now be in your taskbar. Click on its icon to open it.
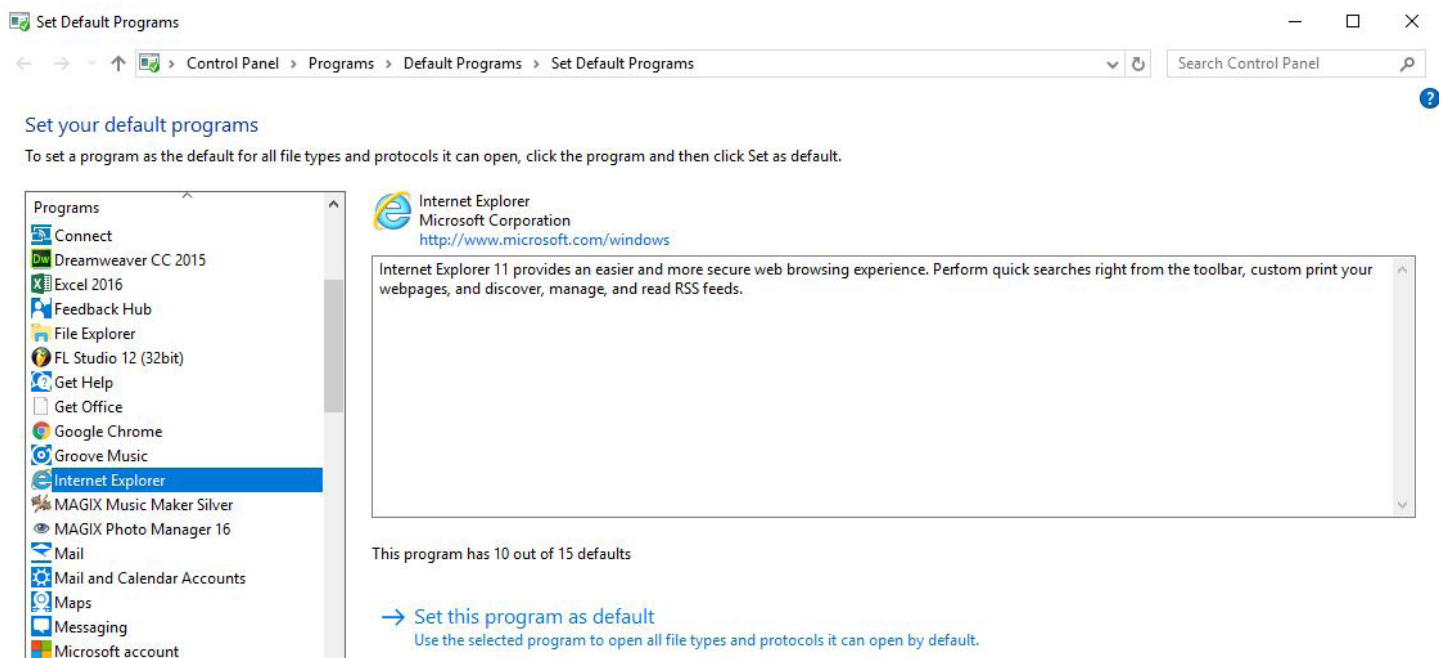
Solution Cont.

Step 5 - Once IE opens, click the Tools button (⚙) in the top-right and choose "Internet Options."

Step 6 - An Internet Options window will open. Navigate to the "Programs" tab near the top-right.

Step 7 - Click the blue link, "Make Internet Explorer the default browser."

Step 8 - A "Set Default Programs" window will appear. Find and click Internet Explorer on the list to the left.

Final Step - Click "Set this program as default." Internet Explorer is now your default internet browser.

Special Notes

It is highly recommended that you use Internet Explorer for all military websites to avoid unexpected incompatibilities and maximize your user experience.

Ensure that you have either Adobe Acrobat XI or Adobe Reader DC installed and up to date on your computer.

In the event that Internet Explorer is still not displaying your PDF links correctly, please visit:
https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/display-pdf-in-browser.html
and follow the 5 steps under "Internet Explorer 8 and later."