

Compatibility Issues with Windows Vista

MTC has conducted an initial assessment on the compatibility of StreetSaver® v.8 with Windows Vista. The prognosis is not encouraging, and we recommend that users delay upgrading to Windows Vista until the impacts to StreetSaver® v.8 are fully understood. The desktop edition will be compromised, with the worst impacts on people using StreetSaver® in a stand-alone configuration (with client and server programs installed on a single machine). Network-configured users, with SQL Server 2000 running on a network server, will be impacted to a lesser degree. Online users, on the other hand, will continue to enjoy the full functionality of the program without any disruption of service.

Workstations running Windows Vista cannot be used as a stand-alone machine for StreetSaver® v.8

The StreetSaver® v.8 database cannot be installed from the StreetSaver® v.8 installation CD because the Microsoft Desktop Engine 2000 (MSDE), which ships with the StreetSaver® v.8 CD, is not supported by Windows Vista. Any existing Windows XP desktop users who house the StreetSaver® SQL Server database on their workstation will find that, if they upgrade to Vista, StreetSaver® no longer functions.

Consultants cannot change databases from a Windows Vista client machine

The IRIS.ini file found in the Windows directory, and used to determine the server and database accessed by the StreetSaver® client program, cannot be changed in Windows Vista. Due to alterations in the security model, even administrators cannot alter this file after it is placed on the target machine by the installation CD. This also renders the “Open Database” feature unusable.

Difficulties with utilities

Several of the database utilities — such as *backup* and *restore* — will not function on Windows Vista, as they utilize SQL DMO database objects that are not supported by Vista. *Backup* and *restore* utilities cannot be run from a Windows Vista client machine even when the StreetSaver® v.8 SQL Server database is housed on a separate machine.

Export Sections utility does not function

Users needing to do field inspection collection will find that they cannot export sections to use for their field inspection collection programs.

Store Section History utility does not function

This utility — used to generate data for several StreetSaver® v.8 reports — is inoperable under Windows Vista. Any report utilizing *Section History* will always return a message stating “No data is available for this report” or some variation of that message.

Color Schemes

Due to changes in color schemes, most fields, buttons and grids in StreetSaver® v.8 will appear disabled. The color changes in Windows Vista create many visual anomalies within StreetSaver® v.8.

MTC Recommends...

Due to compatibility issues between Windows Vista and StreetSaver® v.8, we recommend that users wishing to upgrade to Vista also upgrade to the StreetSaver® v.8 Online Edition. Alternatively, it also would be possible to delay upgrading to Vista and continue working in the StreetSaver® v.8 Desktop Edition. The development of the new .NET version of StreetSaver®, which will be fully compatible with Vista, is well underway and details on its development will be included in our next issue.