



IHS AccuMap and Microsoft .NET v1.1 Frequently Asked Questions

For IHS Applications

IHS AccuMap® | IHS Enerdeq® Desktop

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.NET v1.1 IHS AccuMap FAQ IHS Inc.

1. How much does the .NET framework cost?

This is a free download from Microsoft.

2. How much assistance can we request from IHS and what will this cost?

We are ready to help where needed as always if you are having difficulties. We are not charging anything additional.

3. What version of the .NET framework does AccuMap need?

Version 1.1.

4. Version 2.0 of the .NET framework is now available why didn't you use that?

This version just became commercial in November and some of the tools and third party components we've been using were not ready.

5. If I have version 2.0 already installed, will that work?

No. You will need version 1.1 installed.

6. Can I have version 2.0 and version 1.1 installed on my PC?

Yes. These are separate installs and can co-exist.

7. Is AccuMap going to move to .NET 2.0, and if so when?

Yes. IHS Energy is committed to the .NET platform and will be upgrading to this version in time. Enerdeq will be upgrading to version 2.0 in 2006. AccuMap will also want to upgrade to version 2.0, but we haven't selected a timeframe yet.

8. What versions of Windows OS are supported by .NET?

The .NET runtime supports Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, Windows 2000, NT4 SP6a and Windows ME/98. Windows 95 is not supported.

9. Do I have to run workstation setup?

No. Preparing each desktop can be done separately. We have a detailed document on this process on our Support Documentation page:

<http://energy.ihs.com/Support/Documentation-CA/index.htm>



10. I have a lot of PCs to administer; can I easily update them all in a batch process?

There are ways we've suggested to do this in the document mentioned above on our website.

11. Is there any way to check each workstation's compliance (without having to visit each PC)?

Yes. We are providing a small verification utility which can be either run in batch mode or launched from Windows explorer manually. The utility can be run from a login script logging the results to a specified directory noting the userID, machineID and status. See the IHS support document for more details.

12. Will this new version of AccuMap be fully backwards compatible?

Yes. All things created and saved from AccuMap are still fully functional. .NET will not change the ability to open maps, well lists, annotations, open layers, etc.

13. What new files are going to be placed on the server?

This list of files can be found in our detailed document on our support website.
<http://www.ihsenergy.ca/support/accumap/index.jsp>

14. Will there be any speed performance costs in AccuMap?

No. AccuMap map drawing and query speeds will not be affected.

15. Will there be additional memory requirements?

Although the .NET framework uses additional RAM (approx. 20Mb) you will not need to upgrade your RAM from our current hardware requirements.

16. Will AccuLogs be affected?

No. AccuMap will continue to work with AccuLogs as always. AccuLogs is also looking to use .NET technology, but not at this time.

17. How will AccuMap with .NET function in a Citrix environment?

We are still waiting to test this in the field. We expect no difficulties.



18. What's all this about "Security Settings"?

AccuMap and Enerdeq will require FullTrust security permissions to run properly. Fileshare installs of either product will require a code group to be installed into the .NET security settings that will grant the product rights based on the location of the file share. Many questions are coming out of the field relating to this. We have been instructing users to use the following to install the code group:

```
%WINDIR%\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322\caspol -quiet -machine -  
addgroup All_Code -url  
file://T:/IHSEnergy/* FullTrust -n "IHS Energy"
```

There are some other solutions that are highlighted in our support document, found at:

<http://energy.ihs.com/Support/Documentation-CA/index.htm>

19. Where is the location of the .NET security settings?

```
%WINDIR%\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322\CONFIG\security.config
```

20. How will the security settings for 2.0 of the framework effect AccuMap/Enerdeq?

The security settings for .NET 1.1 and 2.0 are independent. 2.0 settings will be ignored for AccuMap/Enerdeq for as long as these products are using v1.1 of the framework.

21. I have heard that .NET is insecure, is there any substance to this claim?

There is much debate around this issue which always generates valid concern. Here are some comments from IHS senior software developers:

- When compared to COM software or regular C/C++ software, the .NET runtime environment is much more secure and provides far fewer compromises. There are still some situations (unmanaged code, COM Interop and the odd and very rare bug in the .NET runtime) that can put a hole in the envelope of security, but if someone is running Outlook and Internet Explorer, the number of exploits on those pieces of software each far outnumber and outweigh the proven and published exploits in the .NET runtime and libraries. .NET is an improvement in security in Windows, and arguable a big improvement. If someone has *proof*, not conjecture or opinion, but PROOF to the contrary, I'm all ears to hearing it and discussing it. Academic potential vulnerabilities are not proof in my books if we're going to split hairs.
- When talking about security people often assume, or misunderstand for, web application security. ".NET" can be, and is often used to write ASP.NET, or web, applications. In that environment, security is critical.



- Desktop applications, on the other hand, usually run in "full trust" mode, which means access to the file system, registry, etc. The only restriction is usually that the user, not the application, is not allowed read/write access to some areas of the registry or file system (the dreaded "user account" vs. "admin account"). AccuMap and Enerdeq fully comply, or better said "are forced to comply by the virtue of operating system", with those restrictions. In addition, .NET provides code access security model. To describe that model would take pages, so the only thing I can do is to provide link that explains that much better that I would ever be able:
<http://www.gotdotnet.com/team/clr/SecurityPolicyBestPractices.htm>
- The administrator defined security policy in .NET is similar to the traditional user centric security model, with permissions being applied to code rather than to a user. The .NET framework adds another layer of security, it does not circumvent any of the user centric security of the Operating System. The Operating System has the final say on whether access is granted to a protected resource; the user still needs permissions to access the resource.

22. Why does AccuMap need extra security settings?

The default security settings for .NET applications running from a network share do not allow x86 code to execute. AccuMap has always been composed entirely of x86 code and there will still be plenty of it in the February release. The security settings need to be adjusted to allow AccuMap to execute its code.

23. Will the security settings have to be reset if the location of the server changes?

Yes. The security settings are based on a file path to the server. If that path changes, then you will need to reset the security settings. If the path changes by moving the installation into subfolders, then the security settings will still hold.

24. Can you have multiple Code Groups that represent more than one AccuMap installation?

Yes.

25. Do the Code Groups have to have unique names?

Code groups must have unique names when using the "Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1 Configuration" tool, which is found in the control panel under administrative tools. Code groups do not need to have unique names when running the Microsoft command line tool caspol.exe.



26. What registry keys are created and used by the .NET framework?

Microsoft is moving away from using the registry in favor of local xml configuration files. Details can be found on the Microsoft support site:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;820892>

A copy of this information can be found here:

http://www.kbalertz.com/kb_820892.aspx

27. What additional registry keys will AccuMap be using now that it is using the .NET framework?

No additional keys will be used by AccuMap. Verification of the .NET framework being installed on the PC is done by checking for the existence of the following registry key:

*HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\.NETFramework\policy\v1.1,
name=4322, data=3706-4322*

28. Are Administrator privileges required to install .NET?

Yes.

29. Do you need Administrator rights to use caspol?

Yes.

30. Where do I copy the 3 verify utility files to?

To the directory where your *accu32.exe* file resides.

31. Are these installs and procedures to be done per user on each machine or just per machine?

Only once per machine.

32. Will home PC' using remote access (using remote desktop) need .NET and the security settings?

No.

33. How many other IHS applications will be .NET?

Over time eventually all IHS applications will require .NET. Currently AccuMap and Enerdeq require .NET.

34. What is the preparation required for the server?

None. If for some reason you run/test AccuMap directly on the server PC then you'd need the .NET framework, but this is highly unlikely.



35. What are the user permissions/rights required?

You do not have to change your user permissions/restrictions from their current settings outside of the procedures mentioned here.

36. Can you add a Code group more than once using caspol?

There is no harm if this happens, other than the additional unnecessary entries.

37. Each time caspol runs it adds another code group with the same name. Is there any way to prevent duplicates?

Yes. One method could be to reset a machine to its default state, and then reapply all expected security settings for all your .NET applications. This could be done in a login script. If you reset the policy and add the code group, then this will prevent duplicates. Note however, that this will reset security policy for ALL applications including non-IHS applications. The following will reset the policy to the defaults:

```
%WINDIR%\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322\Caspol.exe -quiet -machine -reset
```

38. Can you run AddCodeGroup (the IHS supplied utility) in quiet mode?

No.

39. Can I get the IHS utilities from the web?

Yes. Look here: <http://energy.ihs.com/Support/Documentation-CA/index.htm>

40. Is a workstation setup required after I add the Code Group?

No.

41. Will you provide the security setting steps as part of Workstation Setup when installing on new PCs?

Yes, we are looking into making this as easy as possible. Workstation setup will now assume and require that the .NET framework is already installed on the PC before Workstation Setup is run.

42. Is this .NET install dependent on SP1 (of .NET)?

No. However, we recommend you always upgrade to the latest service packs available.

43. What do I need to install/configure for a standalone machine that will be used out in the field?

Just the .NET framework.



44. Will there be a Beta copy of AccuMap version 16.02 available for testing?

No, this is not planned for general availability. Call us if you really need this.

45. Where can I learn more about the new functionality I'll get with .NET?

As always, keep an eye on our developer updates released on our website:

<http://energy.ihs.com/Support/Documentation-CA/index.htm>

46. Will there be better ESRI shape file support? When?

Yes, we will be supporting ESRI shape files. This is an upcoming enhancement that will require the .NET framework. This should be available in Q2 2006.

More information can be found at these sites:

<http://energy.ihs.com/Support/Documentation-CA/index.htm>

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/netframework/gettingstarted/default.aspx>

<http://www.andymcm.com/dotnetfaq.htm#1.1>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.NET_Framework