

IT Administrator Security Brief: SENict Assistive Technology Software

To: Network Managers / IT Support Teams

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Subject: Deployment and Whitelisting of Free SENict Assistive Technology Apps

1. Software Context & Safety Record

The accessible activities available for download from ianbean.co.uk are custom standalone software packages developed using ActionScript 3 (Adobe/Harman AIR framework). They are explicitly designed to support children with severe, profound, and complex learning difficulties who utilize assistive technologies (such as switches, touch screens, and eye-gaze systems) to access the curriculum.

- **Distribution Model:** Provided completely free of charge as a resource for special education.
- **Provenance:** These resources are the direct continuation of the widely trusted software repository originally hosted by **Priory Woods School (Middlesbrough)**.
- **Safety Record:** Over a **20-year distribution history**, this software has maintained a spotless record with zero instances of malicious payloads or infected files.

2. Why Windows Security Flags These Files

Because these niche apps are compiled locally for the special education sector and are distributed for free, they are **uniditally signed (unsigned executables)**.

- Microsoft SmartScreen heavily relies on automated global reputation metrics.
- Because these files have a low global download volume compared to mass-market software, Windows SmartScreen will flag them as "**unrecognized**" or generate a proactive heuristic alert. This is an expected behavior for unsigned standalone tools and does not indicate a true positive threat.

3. Recommended IT Deployment & Whitelisting Method

To allow classroom teachers and support staff to utilize these critical access tools without disruption, please implement one of the following standard deployment practices:

- **Method A: Direct File Unblocking (Local Devices)**
When downloading the .zip archive from the [SENict Members Resource Portal](#), Windows assigns a "Zone.Identifier" (Mark of the Web) tag to the file. To clear this for all contained executables:

1. Right-click the downloaded .zip file and select **Properties**.

2. On the **General** tab, look for the **Security** section at the bottom.
3. Check the **Unblock** box and click **Apply**.
4. Extract the folder. The apps will now run seamlessly without SmartScreen intervention.

- **Method B: Centralized Directory Exclusion (Recommended for Managed Networks)**

To allow seamless additions of new or updated SENict activities without recurring support tickets:

1. Provision a dedicated local or network directory for teaching staff (e.g., C:\SENict-Apps\).
2. Add this specific directory path to your centralized **Windows Defender / Endpoint Protection Exclusion List**.
3. Staff can extract downloaded SENict .zip folders directly into this excluded directory, bypassing real-time SmartScreen and automated heuristic scanning.

If you require explicit confirmation regarding compilation methods, file hashes, or deployment structures, please feel free to reach out directly via the contact channel at ianbean.co.uk. Thank you for your continued support in keeping these essential assistive learning tools accessible to our students.