

Title: Configuring Host file to remove Internet Explorer Certificate Warning.

No: IPA24-2

Date: Tuesday, 02 October, 2007

SUMMARY:

Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 constantly warns users if the web site SSL certificate doesn't correspond to the site network configuration. Internet Explorer 6.0 also warns users about SSL certificate but not in such aggressive way. Minicom IP devices have generic SSL certificate issued to *.kvm.net. When connecting to Minicom KVMIP device by using its IP address only, the SSL warning will appear indicating that the name of the security certificate doesn't match the name of the site. To remove this SSL warning customers may edit the Host file on their client machines and add *.kvm.net domain name to IP resolution of Minicom KVMIP devices.

MORE INFORMATION:

Host file is a local text file in the same format as the 4.3 Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) UNIX `\etc\hosts` file. This file maps host names to IP addresses. For TCP/IP for Windows XP and Windows Server 2003, the contents of the Hosts file are loaded into the DNS client resolver cache.

Host file located in `%SystemRoot%\system32\drivers\etc\` in Windows 2000, XP, 2003 and Windows Vista. The default location of the host file may be changed. The actual directory is determined by the Registry key

`\HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Tcpip\Parameters\DataBasePath`.

`%SystemRoot%` is the environment variable which determines the location of the Windows folder. In Windows 2000 the `%SystemRoot%` is `\Winnt` (C:\Winnt if Windows installed in the drive C:), in Windows XP, Windows 2003 and Vista the `%SystemRoot%` is `\Windows` (C:\Windows if Windows installed in the drive C:).

The Host file may be edited with any text editor, i.e. Notepad.

Before editing the Host file you should decide about the name for KVMIP device. The domain name must be `.kvm.net`. If, for example, the name of the KVMIP device is **alpha**, then the full name of the device should be **alpha.kvm.net**.

The Host file contains the mappings of IP addresses to host names. Each entry should be kept on an individual line. The IP address should be placed in the first column followed by the corresponding host name. The IP address and the host name should be separated by at least one space. Additionally, comments may be inserted on individual lines or following the machine name denoted by a '#' symbol.

If the KVMIP device has IP address 192.168.2.245 and we decided to give it a name **alpha**, then the relevant entry in the Host file should be similar to the one below:

```
192.168.2.245      alpha.kvm.net      #KVM.net Manager in the Alpha Network
```

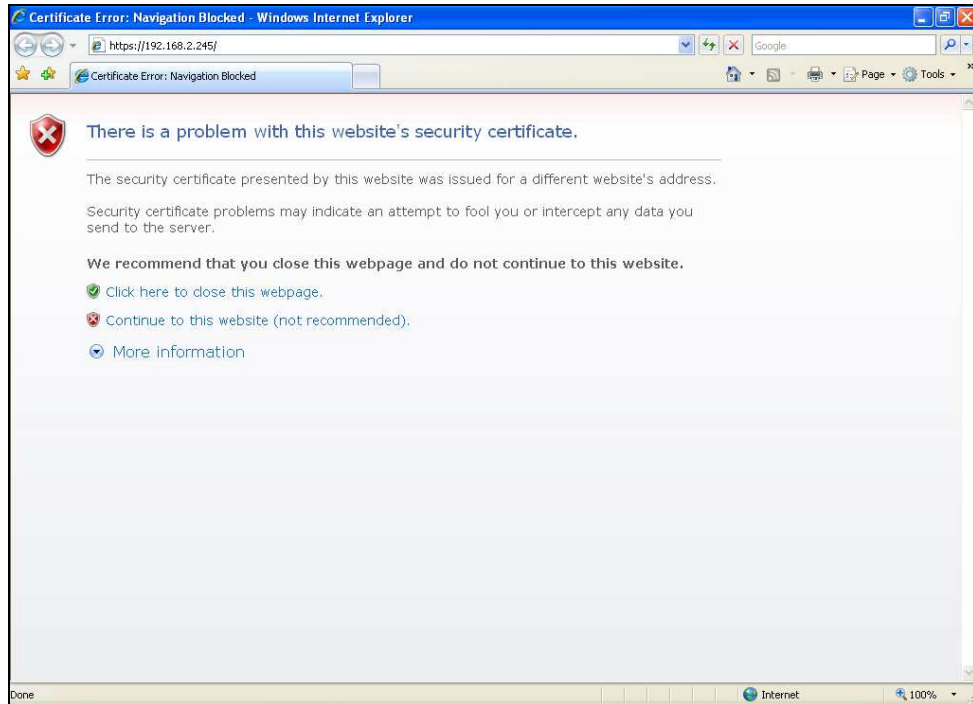
Once the Host file is configured, you should navigate to the KVMIP device by using its name.domain address only, i.e. <https://alpha.kvm.net>

The easiest way of editing the Host file is by using free HostsXpert v4.1 utility from <http://www.funkytoad.com/content/view/13/31/>

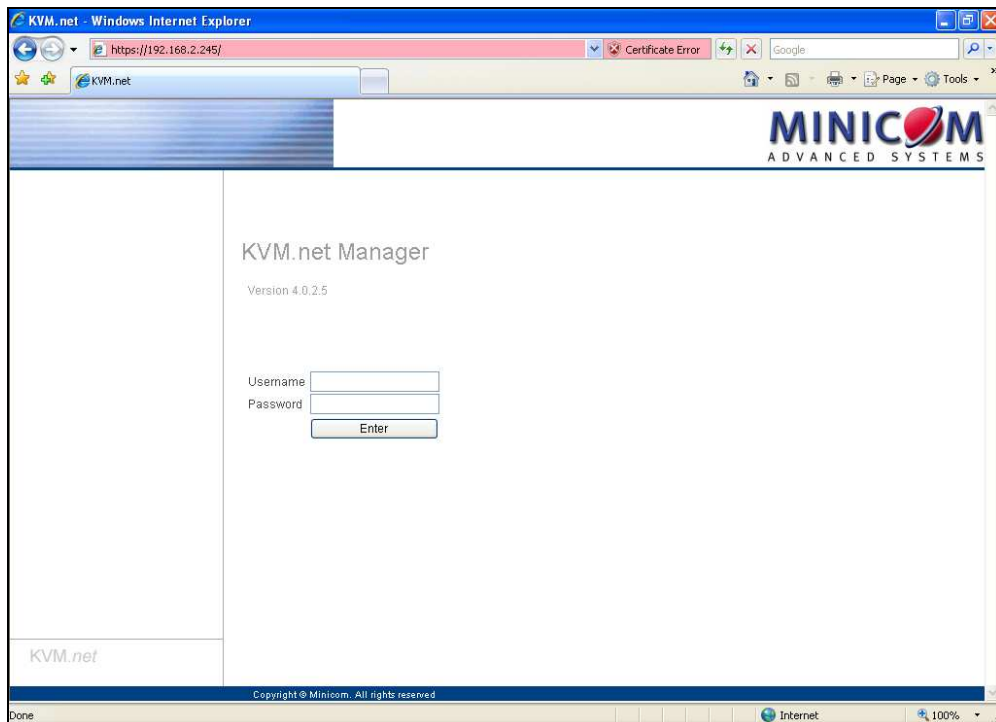
Download and install the HostsXpert v4.1 utility on the client computer.

The instructions below show the KVM.net Manager as an example, but they correct for standalone KVMIP devices as well.

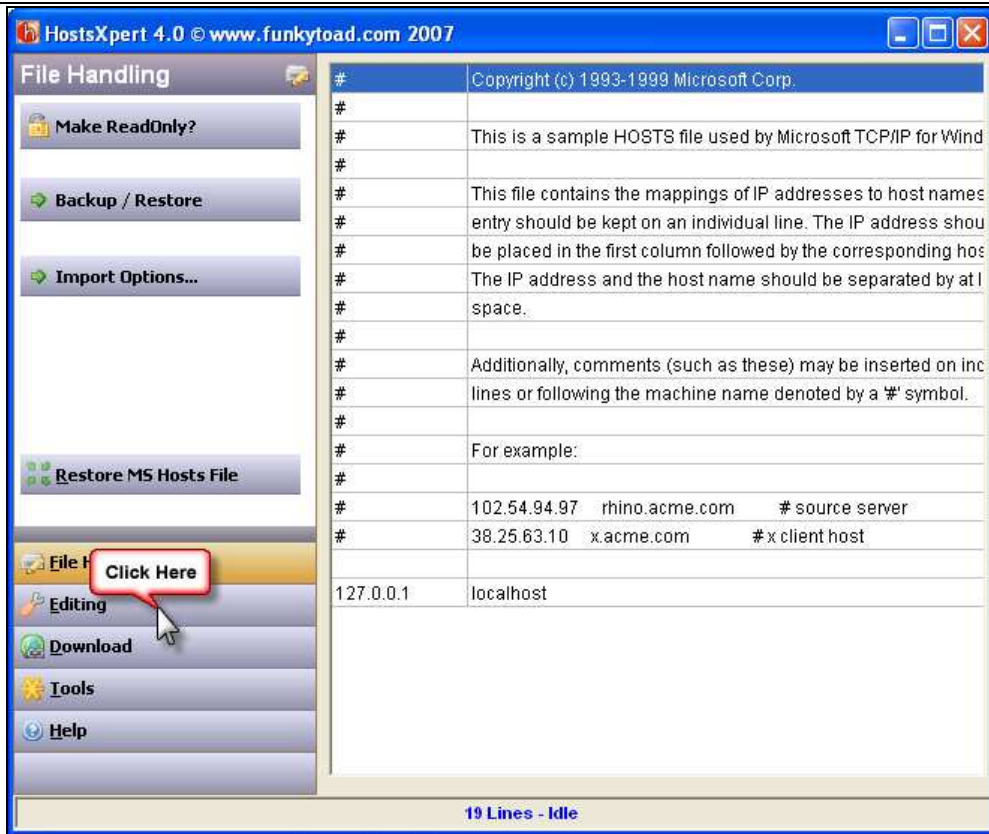
Navigate to the KVMIP device (KVM.net) using its IP address and verify that it is accessible from your client machine. SSL warning will appear:



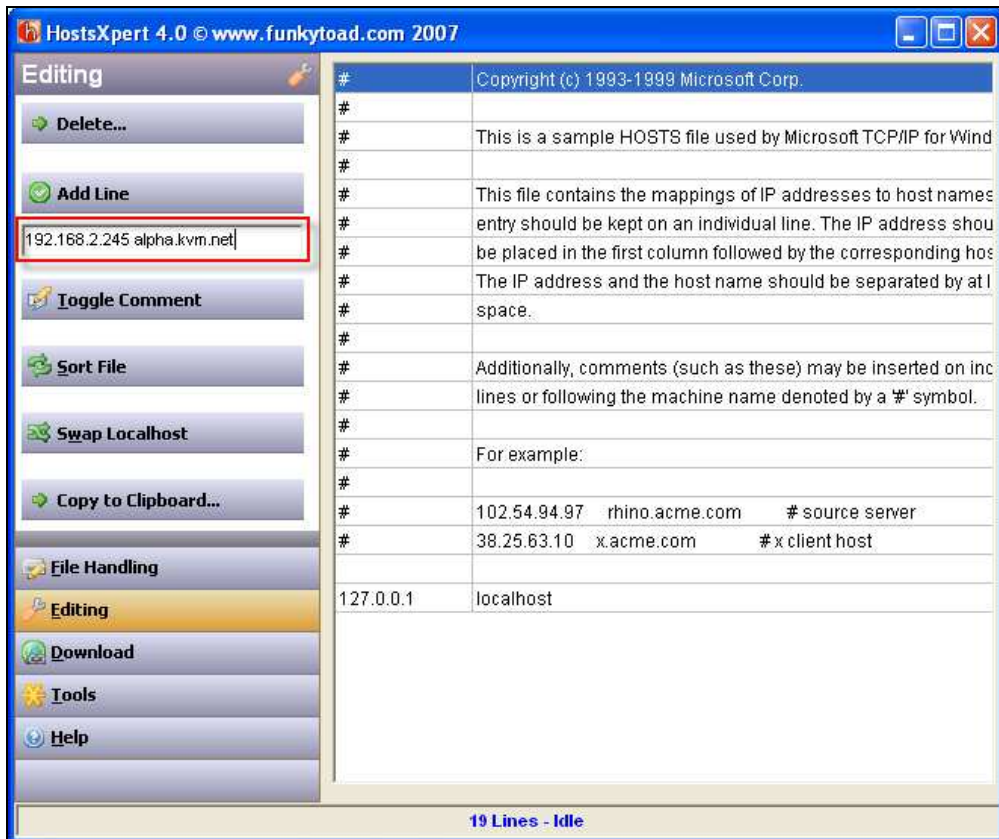
Press “Continue to this web site...” and verify that correct web page is displayed:



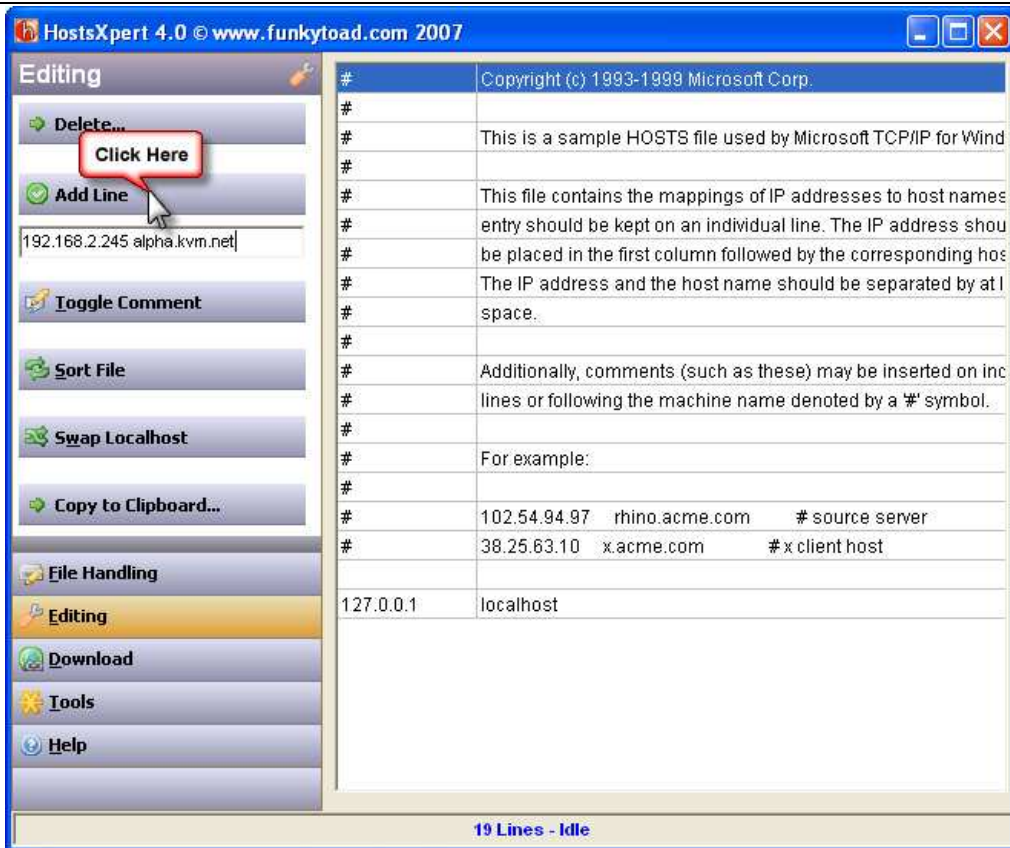
Start HostsXpert v4.1 utility and select Editing Tab on the left side of the utility:



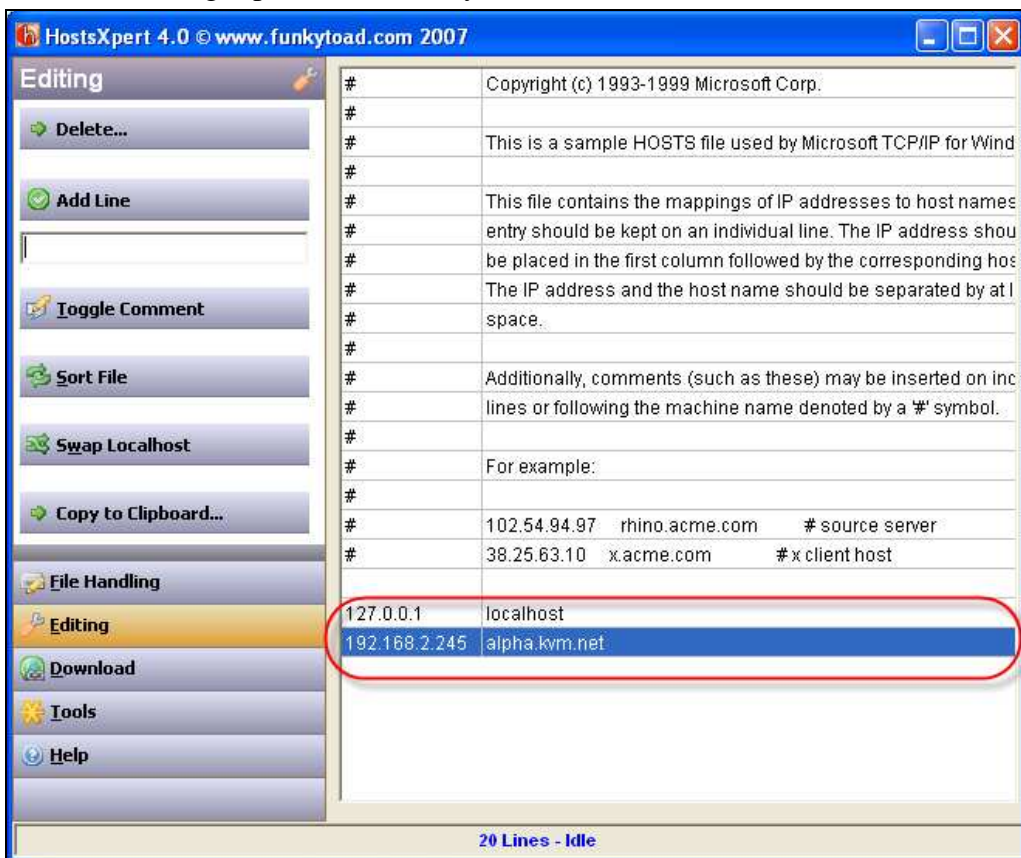
In the Add Line field type the IP address of the KVMIP device (KVM.net) followed by its name and domain name, i.e. **192.168.2.245 alpha.kvm.net**



Press Add Line button:

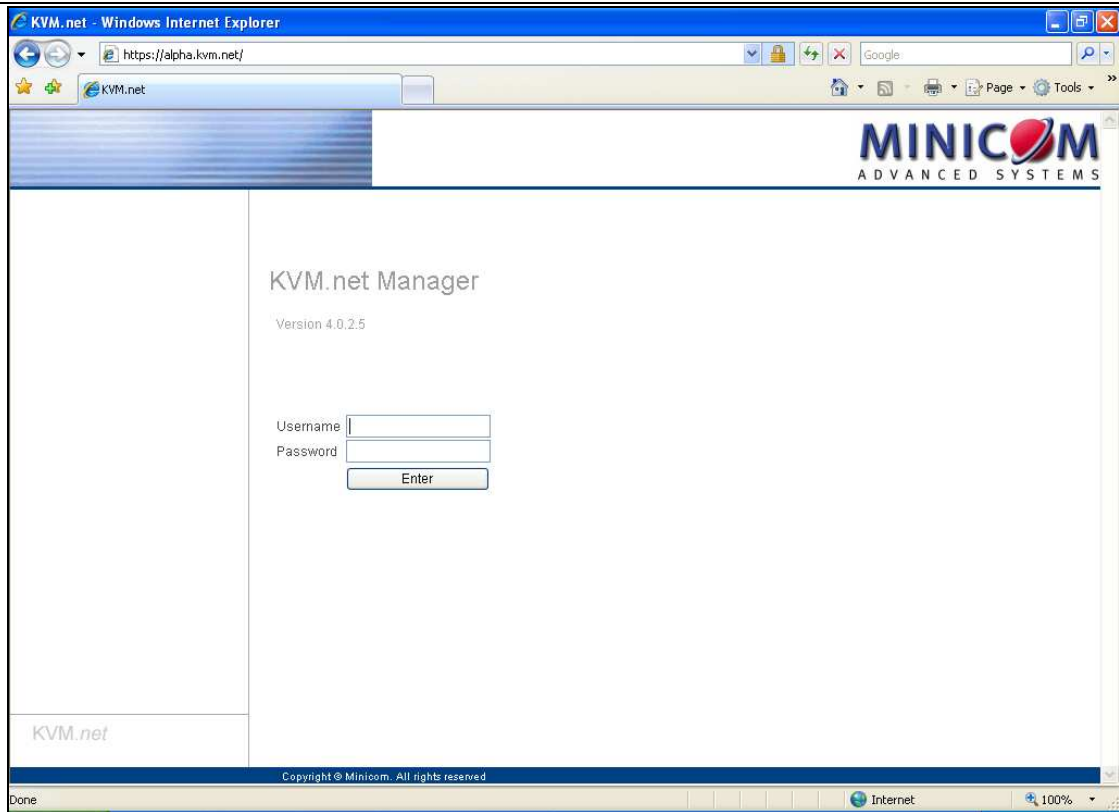


And verify that correct IP address and device name with kvm.net domain name appear in the Host file on the right pane of the utility



Close the HostsXpert v4.1 utility and navigate to the KVMIP (KVM.net) device using its name and domain name: <https://alpha.kvm.net>

The KVMIP device web page will be displayed without any SSL warnings:



Repeat this procedure for all client machines in order to suppress the unwanted SSL warning messages.

COMMENTS:

Only kvm.net domain should be used for suppressing the SSL warning in Internet Explorer. Minicom dedicates the kvm.net domain to this usage. You can use any device name except for www.kvm.net and demo.kvm.net which are reserved by Minicom.