

## Registers Update - IT Requirements for ARTL

REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND  
Executive Agency  
Information about Scotland's land & property



This Registers Update is based on an article that appeared in the January 2006 edition of The Journal of The Law Society of Scotland.

UPDATE: 16.1

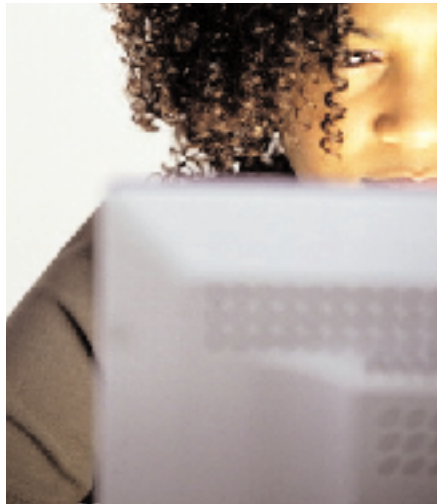
Automated Registration of Title to Land (ARTL) is planned to be introduced on a pilot basis in the autumn of 2006 before being rolled out across the country from spring 2007. Registers Update 16 provided a general introduction to ARTL, while this update describes the technical specification for operating the system.

Further updates will follow as we move nearer to the implementation of the live system. You can also keep up to date with the most recent developments by visiting our website [www.ros.gov.uk/artl](http://www.ros.gov.uk/artl) or by contacting our Key Stakeholder Representatives: Tom Drysdale at [tom.drysdale@ros.gov.uk](mailto:tom.drysdale@ros.gov.uk) and David Preston at [david.preston@ros.gov.uk](mailto:david.preston@ros.gov.uk).

The technology needed to support automated registration of title is straightforward provided intending users have an up to date computer operating system.

Users' IT systems will need to meet certain minimum requirements in order for them to use ARTL. These are in respect of:

- hardware
- operating system
- browser software
- software required for digital signatures
- card management and
- connection to the internet



### Hardware

ARTL will not itself have significant requirements for local disk space on the user's computer and any computer which has the capacity to run the software referred to below should be suitable for use with ARTL.

### Operating System

It is recommended that, for users who have a Windows platform, Windows XP Professional or Home Edition is chosen as the operating system. As Windows 98 and Windows NT will no longer be supported by Microsoft after 30 June 2006, their use for connection to ARTL is not recommended.

An alternative to Windows is a Unix based open source operating system such as Linux. It is our intention to support the use of such systems for ARTL, and intending ARTL users who have them should contact us at the address stated at the end of this update as soon as possible to discuss their requirements in more detail.

It is also likely that a number of potential ARTL users have Apple Mac computers and we will support their use for ARTL. The Mac OS Version X operating system is roughly equivalent to Windows XP and it is anticipated that this will support all the requirements of ARTL.

For all operating systems, it is recommended that the patch level installed is kept up to date as per vendor recommendations in order to ensure that an appropriate level of security is maintained.

### Browser Software

The ARTL system is internet based and is made available to users within an internet browser. This will require users to have a compatible browser installed on their computer.





For those operating on a Windows platform this is likely to be Internet Explorer and for Apple Mac users it is likely to be Safari. Alternative browsers such as Firefox, Netscape or Mozilla are available and it is intended that ARTL will support their usage. These may require special support arrangements and any potential ARTL users who have them, or their IT consultants, should contact us as soon as possible to discuss requirements. As Adobe Acrobat Reader version 7 or later is required for viewing and signing digital deeds it will be necessary for ARTL users to have a browser compatible with that product, which can be checked on the Adobe website.

### Software Required for Digital Signature

Regardless of the user's choice of hardware and operating system, the digital signature facility selected for ARTL will require the use of Adobe Acrobat Reader software, as stated above. This can be downloaded from Adobe free of charge over the internet. Version 7 or above will be required, since earlier versions do not support the relevant digital signature technology.

### Card Management

The use of digital signatures under ARTL will involve the use of a smartcard and this in turn means that computer terminals used by those with digital signatures will need to have a card reading facility. This can be built into a computer terminal or keyboard. It is unlikely that users will have such facilities already and for existing installations a separate card reader can be attached, using a spare USB or serial port.

The cost of the card reader and of connecting it to the computer, and the cost of the associated software, is expected to be minimal. We will provide further details to intending ARTL users in good time before ARTL is introduced.

The card management software will not place heavy demands on the user's IT system and no special requirements are recommended for it.

### Connection to the Internet

ARTL users will need to have a connection to the internet. While a basic dial-up facility will be sufficient for light or occasional use, its slow speed may cause frustration. It is therefore anticipated that for most users a broadband connection will be preferred as it will improve access speeds.

### Further enquiries

Technical enquiries about IT requirements for the use of ARTL should be addressed to Kevin Ramsay, ARTL Technical Manager, Registers of Scotland, Meadowbank House, 153 London Road, Edinburgh EH8 7AU (LP54 Edinburgh 5; DX 555400 Edinburgh 15; t 0131 200 3935; e [kevin.ramsay@ros.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.ramsay@ros.gov.uk)).

*This is the latest in a series of updates to keep you informed on the various aspects of Registers of Scotland's services, policies and procedures. More details can be found at [www.ros.gov.uk/updates](http://www.ros.gov.uk/updates), or by contacting Customer Relations on 0131 200 3944.*

