

Date: 03/30/2015

Subject: *DTC* - Technology Update 03/30/2015

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Dear District Technology Coordinator:

This technology update contains information related to the following topics:

- TestNav 8.2 and Firefox ESR 31.5 Magnifier Functionality Issue
- Mac OS X 10.9.4 & Safari 7 Science Simulation Video Playback
- Adding TestNav Configurations to PearsonAccess Classic Reminder
- Testing your Assessment Environments in the PearsonAccess Classic Training Center
- Loading All Available Science and Social Studies Assessment Forms to Proctor Caching Servers in PearsonAccess Classic

TestNav 8.2 and Firefox ESR 31.5 Magnifier Functionality Issue

Through system testing, Pearson detected an issue with TestNav 8.2 and Firefox ESR 31.5 in which some item elements were not visible when the magnifier functionality (Ctrl + & Ctrl -) was used to zoom in and zoom out while navigating. When using Firefox ESR 31.5, some text-to-speech or exhibit items may not appear or the scrollbar may not appear on large items. If this issue appears while using the Firefox ESR 31.5 browser, zoom back to 100% magnification and navigate to these items. Districts using the Firefox ESR 31.5 browser may also consider switching to a different approved browser.

Mac OS X 10.9.4 & Safari 7 Science Simulation Video Playback

While testing the science simulations for the Spring 2015 CMAS assessments, Pearson determined that some video files did not play reliably on devices running the Macintosh OS X 10.9.4 operating system with the Safari 7 browser. **If your district plans to use devices that will run the Mac OS X 10.9.4 operating system with the Safari 7 browser for the science assessments, please read this information below.**

In some instances of testing with this operating system and browser combination, a black box randomly appeared for simulations when a video should have played. The simulation returned to its normal state after the video run time ended. The underlying cause of this issue is unknown; however, it is isolated to the specific identified operating system and browser combination.

The number of schools impacted by this issue should be very limited because it only affects devices with this specific set-up. However, if your district uses this particular operating system and browser combination, please follow the steps below to ensure that interactions with science simulations are optimized for your students this spring:

1. If your district has devices that are set up to run this specific operating system and browser combination, where possible, consider switching to Firefox or Chrome browsers for administration of the science assessments.
2. If you are unable to use the Firefox or Chrome browsers for impacted devices and a student encounters an issue with a simulation, instruct the student to navigate forward or backward, and to then go back to the item. This may resolve the issue and allow the video to play.

Reminder: Add TestNav Configurations to PearsonAccess Classic

As a reminder, PearsonAccess Classic will be used for the science and social studies assessments. Please remember to enter the TestNav configurations that you used in PearsonAccess^{next} for the PARCC PBA into PearsonAccess Classic. A video demo for TestNav configuration in PearsonAccess classic is available through the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8qSTZollZkcdkpzc2JDTWU1XzA/view?usp=sharing>

Testing your Assessment Environments in the PearsonAccess Classic Training Center

A Quick Start Guide that will help DTCs test their assessment technology environments for science and social studies is available through the following link: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/cmastrial>

When using the PearsonAccess training center to administer sample items to students, we recommend using the ePats that are available in the training center. If your technology coordinators are planning to test device functionality, we recommend using the Site Readiness Form which contains 95 questions and includes every item type available in the science and social studies assessments.

Loading All Available Science and Social Studies Assessment Forms to Proctor Caching Servers in PearsonAccess Classic

Some districts used the “Cache by Test” feature in PearsonAccess^{next} to load all forms of the English language arts and mathematics assessments to Proctor Caching Servers. This feature is not available in PearsonAccess Classic; however, you may load your Proctor Caching Servers with all of the available science and social studies assessment forms (regular and accommodated) rather than only loading the forms assigned to students in test sessions by following the steps below:

1. Enter TestNav configuration in PearsonAccess classic.
2. Create a test session with zero students in the session.
3. Select the Proctor Caching button for the session with zero students.
4. All forms, both regular and accommodated, will be downloaded to your proctor caching server.

As a reminder, Pearson recommends that districts refrain from making changes or updates to technology environments before and during the administration window once environments have been successfully tested through the SystemCheck tool and the Site Readiness Form whenever possible. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Collin