April 15, 2014

The purpose of this communication is to announce the Java 7 Critical Patch Update and to provide information on closing out PBA test sessions.

This letter is being sent to all LEA/District Test Coordinators participating in the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test. LEAs/districts should share the information contained in this letter with schools participating in the Field Test.

Java Critical Patch Updates on TestNav 8

What is the issue?
Oracle will release a Critical Patch Update for Java 7 on April 15, 2014. If you are using Java 7, when Oracle releases Java Critical Patch Updates, Java will automatically check against your version and may notify you that an update is available.

If you are running Java 7, you must accept the Java Critical Patch Update because TestNav (and any other product that uses a java applet) will not run until the update is made. Please keep in mind this update notification could disrupt students who are actively testing.

Who is affected?

- Computer browsers running Java 7 that still have their expiration check enabled will be affected by Java Critical Patch Updates. (If the expiration check is disabled, the browsers will not be affected.)
- Computer browsers running Java 5 (1.5x) and Java 6 (1.6x) will not be affected by Java Critical Patch Updates.

What do I need to do when Java releases a Critical Patch Update?

There is no single answer to this question as it depends on which version(s) of Java currently are running in the browsers of your testing computers. This is important because the answer may have implications for your online testing infrastructure and the overall success of your online testing program.

For guidelines, please refer to the Effect of Java Critical Patch Updates on TestNav 8 document. Schools should also refer to the April 2, 2014 Pearson Technical Bulletin which is posted to the secure PearsonAccess support page.

Google Chrome 34 OS Update

Google released the Chrome 34 OS update for Chromebooks on April 8, 2014. While this release has no effect on the functionality of the TestNav 8 app, it has been reported that devices running the Google Chrome 34 OS update are unable to open applications (ie. TestNav) in Kiosk mode on Chromebooks. In response, Google will release another Chrome OS update the week of April 14th, 2014 to resolve this issue.
A workaround to resolve this issue is to select "Show user names and photos on the sign-in screen" instead of "Never show user names and photos" when setting up devices for Kiosk mode.

For more information and other possible workarounds please visit the following Google Support site: Google Chrome OS Issue 346881

**Instructions for Closing-out Test Session**

*Please note that tasks mentioned below must be performed by a user with the role of LEA/District Test Coordinator or School/Institution Test Coordinator.*

Schools must stop test sessions after all students have completed their tests. Schools that had their testing window close on Friday, April 11 must complete this task by **6:00pm CT on Friday, April 18**. All other schools with an extended testing window must complete this task by 6:00pm CT on the last day of their testing window. The following steps must be completed to close test sessions:

1. **Remove students in Ready Status from Test Sessions** – Students in a Ready Status have not attempted to take the test and should be removed from the session prior to stopping it. To do this, follow these steps:
   a. Go to Test Management > Manage Test Sessions.
   b. Click the session name.
   c. Select the check box for each student whom you want to remove
   d. Click **Remove**.
   e. Click **Yes-Remove Students**.

2. **Mark all other Students complete** – Students in a Resumed, Resumed-Upload, Active*, or Exited status will need to be marked complete before stopping the test session. Students may appear in one of these statuses if they exited TestNav and did not submit their answers or if they were not able to complete the test. To mark students complete, follow these steps:
   a. Go to Test Management > Manage Test Sessions.
   b. Click the session name.
   c. Select the check box next to the student(s)’ name. You can select multiple students.
   d. Click **Mark Test Complete**.
      i. The system will validate that the test status received does not conflict with any existing edits. If a conflict exists, an alert appears so you can correct an invalid testing status.
   e. Select the **Use the same reason for all students** option button or the **Use different reasons for each student** option button.
   f. Click **Save**.
      i. Enter the reason the student was unable to finish (e.g., student was ill and unable to make-up testing, etc.).
   g. Student(s)’ test status will be **Marked Complete**.
i. The reason for marking the test complete can be viewed by clicking the **Marked Complete** icon on the **Session Details** screen.

*Students’ status may display **Active** due to students exiting the test abnormally or connection with the testing server was interrupted during testing. These situations should have been addressed during the testing window. However, if you still have students appearing with an **Active** status, you should mark them complete.*

3. **Stop Sessions** - After all students have completed the test and submitted their responses, you must manually stop the test session. To stop a session, follow these steps:
   a. Go to Test Management > Manage Test Sessions.
   b. Click the session name.
   c. Click **Stop** to stop the test session.
   i. Please note you cannot stop a test session until all students in the session are in **Completed** or **Marked Complete** status.

Helpful Tip - If you have a large number of sessions to close, you may find the **Test Session Summary** report useful. To access this report, go to Administrative Management > Test Session Summary located under the **System Status** Section. This report can be downloaded into a CSV file and you can then identify test sessions by name, school, and session status. You can also identify which sessions have students in Ready (Not Started Students), Active (Started Students), Exiting, Resumed, and Resumed-Upload.

**PARCC Support**
For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at [http://www.parcconline.org/field-test](http://www.parcconline.org/field-test). If you have questions regarding the administration of the PARCC Field Test, please contact Pearson’s PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm CT) or PARCC@support.pearson.com. For state policy questions or if you believe you have received this letter in error, please contact your state field test contact.

We appreciate your participation in this exciting opportunity!

Sincerely,

Pearson PARCC Program Team