Weekly PARCC Technology Updates
April 15, 2014

Purpose
The following communication was developed to help school and district technology coordinators prepare for and administer the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test. Weekly technology updates will include technology information, implementation resources, hot topics, and troubleshooting guidance.

In this edition, you will find information regarding:
- Java Critical Patch Update
- Java 8 Release
- Google Chrome 34 OS Update
- Data Security (Heartbleed Bug)
- Practice Tests and Tutorials

Java Critical Patch Update
- Oracle will release a Critical Patch Update for Java 7 on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. When Oracle releases Java Critical Patch Updates, Java automatically checks against the current version and it may notify a user that an update is available. In these cases, users must accept the Java Critical Patch Update if they are running Java 7.
- What steps should users take?
  - Check to see what version of Java your testing devices are running - You can find out what version of Java you have by running the TestNav SystemCheck Tool. It will examine your testing devices to check whether your operating systems, browsers, and java environments are TestNav ready.
  - For testing devices running Java 7 - TestNav will not run until the update is made and, depending on a district’s plan for managing Java updates during testing, the Java update notification could disrupt students currently testing. If you have an extended PBA testing window then the appropriate Java updates need to be made before testing students on or after April 15. After updating Java, it is highly recommended to use the System Check tool and Infrastructure Trial to verify that TestNav can run successfully with the updated Java version.
  - For testing devices running other versions of Java - The TestNav SystemCheck tool will indicate if your version of Java is compatible with TestNav. If your Java version is out of date, visit the TestNav 8.0.4 Hardware and Software Requirements to find out which version of Java is appropriate for you testing device and then go to https://www.java.com/en/download/ to download Java.
  - For additional details please see the Effect of Java Critical Patch Updates on TestNav 8.

Java 8 Release
- Oracle also released a new Java version, the Java 8 platform on March 18, 2014. This is not a required update and at this time we recommend that if schools and districts decide to upgrade, they schedule any upgrade to Java 8 after the PARCC Field Test windows.
- You can find out what version of Java you have by running the TestNav SystemCheck Tool.
- If you have already updated to Java 8, you may be able to uninstall it and download a supported version of Java. Windows OS users may click here for instructions for uninstalling Java. Mac OS users may contact the PARCC Support Center at 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm CT) or PARCC@support.pearson.com.
- For additional details please see TestNav - Java Releases and TestNav 8.
Google Chrome 34 OS Update

- Google released the Chrome 34 OS update for Chromebooks on April 8, 2014. While this release has no affect on the functionality of the TestNav 8 app, some schools have reported devices that running the 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.

Data Security (Heartbleed Bug)

- There has been news this week about the so-called “Heartbleed bug”. This bug can affect online systems that use the OpenSSL cryptographic software library by allowing sensitive and confidential data to be exposed.
- Pearson would like to inform and reassure you that they have performed a careful and thorough examination of TestNav and PearsonAccess (and all systems and technologies that are a part of those products). There is no exposure to the “Heartbleed bug”.
- More information about this can be found at the following links:
  - www.heartbleed.com

Practice Tests and Tutorials

- **Reminder**: Practice Tests for the PARCC Field Test are an important resource for Test Administrators and students to become familiar with the tools, item types and TestNav 8 platform. Visit http://practice.parcc.testnav.com to see PARCC items in action. What’s available now:
  - Grades 3-11 Performance-Based Assessment tests for ELA
  - Grades 3-8, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry End-of-Year tests for mathematics
- A Text-to-Speech Tutorial is now available to help familiarize students with how to use the TestNav8 compute-based Text-to-Speech accommodation at http://practice.parcc.testnav.com.

Technology Forums and Q&A Webinars

- Weekly **Technology Forum/Technical Q&A webinar** were held during the PBA testing window to answer questions from district technology staff regarding setup, best practices, or other district concerns. A recording of each weekly session can be found on the secure support page of PearsonAccess. PearsonAccess.com > Support > Training.
- To register for upcoming weekly webinars, please use the following links:
  - April 17th, 11AM CT/12PM ET
  - April 24th, 11AM CT/12PM ET
  - May 1st, 11AM CT/12PM ET
PARCC Help Desk

- For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at 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, please contact your state field test contact.