PARCC Technology Bulletin
January 27, 2015

Purpose
The following communication was developed to help school and district technology coordinators prepare for and administer the PARCC assessments. Bi-weekly technology updates will include technology information, implementation resources, hot topics, and troubleshooting guidance.

Previous Technology Bulletins are stored at http://parcc.pearson.com/bulletins/. The next communication is tentatively scheduled for February 10, 2015.

In this edition, you will find information regarding:
- Upcoming Release Dates
- White-List URLs for TestNav8
- TestNav8 App Updates
- PearsonAccess and TestNav8 Version Updates
- Using iPads with Global Proxy
- Google to Disable NPAPI for Chrome Browser
- PARCC Support Center

Upcoming Release Dates
- Pearson is committed to verifying that the new/upgraded software components (such as browsers, operating systems, etc.) listed below function properly with TestNav8. However, due to changes made to the beta versions of these components, it is possible that the final released version may not function correctly with TestNav8. If this occurs, a Technology Communication will be issued immediately detailing next steps.
- Please note: Pearson recommends freezing the test environment to stop automatic updates once the technology has been successfully verified by administering the SystemCheck tool and secure practice tests as part of the Infrastructure Trial prior to the testing window.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Date of Release</th>
<th>Actions Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firefox 35</td>
<td>*January, 2015</td>
<td>None at this time.</td>
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| Java | January, 20 2015 | - It is recommended for Java-dependent testing devices that Technology Coordinators download and install the Java update after it is released by Oracle on January 20, 2015.  
  - If you wish to prevent Java upgrade notices, a Technical Bulletin further detailing actions required and can be found here:  
    o Java Critical Patch Update |

*Exact Date of Release has not been posted by the vendor

White-List URLs for TestNav8
- The required TestNav8 white-list URLs have been updated for the Spring 2015 Administration. This message applies to testing environments with secured networks that halt all unapproved internet traffic. The URLs listed below are mandatory for TestNav8 to function during secure testing, and must be allowed on any firewalls, proxy servers, or software used for internet content filtering:
  o *.thawte.com  
  o *.pearsoncontent.com
The following URL is recommended to assist with gathering data on device usage, but it is not required for TestNav8 to function successfully:
- *.google-analytics.com

Documentation related to the white-list URLs is being updated and will be found at the links shown below. Also note, the URL “s3.amazonaws.com” is no longer required for PARCC exams.
- PARCC Technology Guidelines
- TestNav8 Requirements

TestNav8 App Updates

- Pearson has released new TestNav App updates for ChromeOS (Chromebooks), iOS (iPads), and Android devices that are running the Lollipop Operating System, on January 17, 2015. After this date all of the impacted devices will need to have the most current version of the TestNav App to successfully launch secure tests.
  - Secure tests include tests opened from the training site as part of the Infrastructure Trial and the PBA/EOY exams for the Spring 2015 Administration.
  - The TestNav App update is not required for non-secure material since those are opened through the device web browser. Non-secure material includes Practice Tests, Tutorials, and Sample Items.

PearsonAccessnext and TestNav8 Version Updates

- In final preparation for the PARCC Spring 2015 Administration, updated versions of both PearsonAccessnext and TestNav8 are being released to the field. These updates do not change core functionality, but enhancements have been made to both systems.
  - Note: If you have already completed an Infrastructure Trial the process does not need to be repeated due to these version updates.
- A new version of PearsonAccessnext will be available on February 14th, 2015. Users will not need to take any action to accept this update.
  - PearsonAccessnext enhancements will include: Additional Order email notification to the approver, setting the test section resume so students can test out of order, and the PNP form determination for students needing accommodations.
- The new version of TestNav8 accompanied the TestNav8 App Updates on January 17, 2015, and is already available in the online Tutorials, Practice Tests, and Sample Items, and within the secure Practice Tests on the Training site. Users will not need to take any action to accept this update on Windows or MacOS devices.
  - TestNav8 enhancements include: Equation Editor pallets are always visible, new Color Contrast option for low contrast, speed controls for Text-to-Speech, and an End Section button on Review Screen.

Using iPads with Global Proxy

- The following information applies to any school or district planning to take PARCC online assessments with iPad devices using a global proxy security setting. This is not a PARCC-recommended configuration, but the link below provides instructions on how to successfully deliver online assessments for schools or districts who are using the iPads with a global proxy:
  - TestNav8 Online Support - Technical Bulletins

Google to Disable NPAPI for Chrome Browser

- The following information applies to any school or district planning to take PARCC online assessments with the Google Chrome web browser on MacOS or Windows devices.
  - This does not affect Chromebooks.
Google plans to phase out support for the Netscape Plugin Application Programming Interface (NPAPI) architecture. Beginning in January 2015, additional configuration steps will be required to use the Google Chrome web browser with PARCC online assessments.

Instructions for Windows and MacOS devices, and more information regarding the impact of this change, can be found here:

- [TestNav8 Online Support - Technical Bulletins](#)

**PARCC Support Center**

- If you have questions regarding the administration of the PARCC assessments, please contact Pearson’s PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 5:00am to 7:00pm CT) or [PARCC@support.pearson.com](mailto:PARCC@support.pearson.com).
- For state policy questions, please contact your state PARCC contact.