



Lab Preparation Guide

PEARSON

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Introduction

The Pearson Learning Platform is a web-based learning management system for its proven NovaNET Courseware. This platform is unlike anything else on the market combining NovaNET's rigorous, complete, and engaging multimedia courses with robust testing. The Pearson Learning Platform is completely hosted by Pearson, so there's nothing to install locally, and Pearson manages the data, service, and support.

This document provides detailed browser requirements, browser tune-up information, and Internet connection recommendations for the optimal user experience within the Pearson Learning Platform.

NOTE: The system requirements and recommendations contained in this document are subject to change at any time due to hardware and software changes. Changes may include, but are not limited to, operating systems and hardware technologies.

For additional information about NovaNET requirements, contact Pearson Product Support at 888-977-7100 or go online at Support.PearsonSchool.com.

Internet Connection Requirements

The Pearson Learning Platform product architecture consists of a multi-server environment that houses the web pages. Users can log on to the Pearson Learning Platform system through a browser and the browser uses different plug-ins to run the applications within the Pearson courseware.

The recommended minimum Internet bandwidth connection is **128Kb** per user. However, for distance learners, a DSL or cable broadband connection is required.

A caching server can improve the performance and bandwidth needs, so discussing the options available with your Sales Engineer is recommended.

System Requirements

Table 1-1 lists the system configurations that are tested and supported for the Pearson Learning Platform:

Table 1-1. Components Provided by the Customer and by Pearson

Operating Systems	Recommended Hardware	Browsers	Screen Resolution
Windows® XP Requires Service Pack 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 512 MB Memory (RAM) or more	Internet Explorer® 7.0 Internet Explorer 8.0	1024 x 768
Windows Vista® Home Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 GHz Processor or faster• Sound card or headset		
Windows Vista Home Premium / Business / Ultimate Requires Service Pack 1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 GB Memory (RAM) or more• 2.33 GHz Processor or faster• Sound card or headset	Internet Explorer 7.0 Internet Explorer 8.0	1024 x 768

Operating Systems	Recommended Hardware	Browsers	Screen Resolution
Macintosh OS® X Requires 10.5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPC or Intel® • 512 MB Memory (RAM) or more • 1.83 GHz Processor or faster 	Safari® 4.0	1280 x 960

Internet Explorer 6 (IE 6) and Safari 3.2.1 Users

For the best possible online experience, upgrading your browser software to the most current version is strongly recommended. For more information, visit the customer support website and a complete set of upgrade instructions for IE 6 users and Safari 3.2.1 users. If upgrading is not possible, you can continue access your Pearson Learning Platform, but you may encounter some issues.

Internet Explorer 8.0 (IE 8)

If you experience problems, you may need to set the compatibility view option to allow IE 8 to imitate the browsing functionality of Internet Explorer 7.0 (IE 7). See [IE 8.0 Compatibility View](#) for instructions.

Mozilla® Firefox® Users

Firefox browsers are not supported. You cannot log into the Pearson Learning Platform using Firefox browsers.

AOL® and AT&T Yahoo™ Users

AOL and AT&T Yahoo! browsers are not supported. You cannot view Pearson Learning Platform using the AOL or AT&T Yahoo! browsers; however, you can use AOL or AT&T Yahoo! as your Internet Service Provider to access the Internet, and then open the Internet Explorer browser within AOL or AT&T Yahoo! to access the course.

Intel Mac OS X

There are known Intel Mac compatibility issues operating Adobe® Authorware lessons, so these are not supported on this platform. If you have this platform, contact your Sales Engineer or Product Support for more information.

Display resolution

Although a variety of screen settings can display much of the content on the Pearson Learning Platform, some content may not load properly unless the resolution is set to the resolution recommended in Table 1-1 and the DPI (dots per inch) is set to 96. The default setting for the browser text size is also recommended.

Network Recommendations

Firewalls, Content Filters, and Security Software Recommendations

Pearson recommends adding our URLs to any existing security devices. If your firewall, content filter, or security program has the equivalent of a trusted sites list, you may be able to leave your security on if you [add the sites in Table 1-2 to that list](#).

If you have a proxy server, see [Proxy Server](#) for configuration recommendations.

Table 1-2 provides the recommended settings within security devices for all URLs used by NovaNET Courseware.

Table 1-2. NovaNET Courseware URLs

Variable to Define	Value	Port(s)	Protocol
URL	*pearsoned.com	80, 443	HTTP, HTTPS, FTP
URL	*pearsoncmg.com	80, 443	HTTP, HTTPS, FTP
URL	*tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com	80	TCP, SOCKS (If using a proxy server, see Proxy Server for configuration recommendations.)
URL	*pearsonschool.com	80, 443	HTTP, HTTPS, FTP
URL	*web.novanet.com	80, 443	HTTP, HTTPS, FTP
URL	Download macromedia.com This URL is used by the Authorware Web Player and, if not defined, lesson launch failure can occur within some security environments (e.g., Group Policy).	80	HTTP

If you need assistance, contact the technical support department or ISP provider for your security program, or temporarily disable your computer's security while using the site.

Proxy Server

Additional configuration settings are required for successful lesson operation within the NovaNET Courseware platform. Within the proxy server, SOCKS should be enabled for one URL ([*tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com](#)).

If your proxy is not SOCKS compatible or you do not have a SOCKS license, you can create a pinhole in your firewall for this specific URL over TCP on port 80. This server does not use the HTTP transport layer so it cannot be defined with other HTTP traffic within your proxy. If you have setup questions, contact your Sales Engineer or Product Support for assistance.

Session time limits can also be set within the proxy server. Consult with the NovaNET Courseware Administrator within your district to determine the appropriate time limits to ensure that the NovaNET Courseware URLs can be sustained for a period of time or student sessions can be interrupted during operation.

Defining Proxy Server within Internet Explorer

To manually configure the proxy configuration in Internet Explorer:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. From the Internet Explorer menu bar, click **Tools**.
3. Select **Internet Options**.
4. Click the **Connections** tab.
5. Click the **LAN Settings** button.
6. Within the **Proxy server** area, select **Use a proxy server for your LAN**.
7. Click the **Advanced** button.
8. Within the **HTTP**, **Secure**, **FTP** and **SOCKS (if used)** locations, enter the address and port of the proxy server being used by the customer.
9. Clear the **Use the same proxy server for all protocols** check box.
10. Click **OK** at the next three dialog boxes to close the Internet Options.

Browser and User Recommendations

Workstation Image Considerations

If there is any type of “sweep” or “deep freeze” software on your computer, complete the following:

- Ensure that the workstation is in a “thawed” state before making any tune-ups.
- After the tune-up tasks are complete, “freeze” the workstation or use this new image as your master for the network.

To review guidelines for retaining user data in a lab environment using Deep Freeze, [review their documentation at their website](#).

Temp Directory Considerations

Temporary Internet Files, cookies, and other application temporary files, such as those used by [Authorware Web Player](#), will be generated during operation, so ensure that each user has the standard full control permissions to their [entire](#) home directory.

Table 1-3. Directory Permissions

Directory	Minimum Permissions
Default Home Directory for XP: X:\Documents and Settings\“User_Name”\	Full Control
Default Windows Temp Directory for Vista: X: > Users > “User_Name”	Full Control
Default Mac Temp Directory for Vista: Hard Drive > Users > “User_Name”	Full Control

Tuning-Up the Browser

The Pearson Learning Platform is more robust than simple text and graphic standard HTML web pages, so the browser requires some tune-up for the optimal operation and user experience.

IMPORTANT: Before starting the browser tune-up test, ensure you are an administrator and that you have turned off any Vista UAC controls so that all plug-ins are discovered and installed, as needed.

Installing Plug-Ins and Players

To use all of the lessons within the Pearson Learning Platform, the plug-ins listed in Table 1-4 are required.

Table 1-4. Plug-Ins and Players

Plug-In	Versions
Active X	Enable in the browser or add course URL to the list of trusted sites.
Macromedia® Flash™	8 or higher
Adobe Authorware Web Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2004 (Windows)• Web Player 7 (Mac PowerPC only; not Intel)
QuickTime®	6 or higher
Java™ (JRE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Version 1.4.2 [Java 4.0 update 2+]• Version 1.5 [Java 5.0 update 11+]• Version 1.6 [Java 6.0]. JavaScript must be enabled.

Identify and Install the Plug-Ins

1. Go to <http://web.novanet.com/>.
2. Click on **Browser Tune-Up** button. The Browser Check window appears with the browser information and plug-ins required for NovaNET Courseware.
3. To test the **Flash Player** plug-in, click **Test**.
 - If Flash Player is installed, a video will play as confirmation.
 - If Flash Player is not installed, the video will not play. Click **Get** to be redirected to an Adobe Flash Player web page where you can download and install Flash Player.
4. To test the **Authorware Player** plug-in, click **Test**. You are redirected to a Test Authorware Web Player web page.
 - If Authorware Player is installed, a video will play as confirmation.
 - If Authorware Player is not installed, the video will not play and a prompt to install Authorware Web Player 7 (Full) add-on will appear at the top of the page. Click on the message prompt, click **Yes / Install**, and then follow the prompts.
 - To install Authorware Player from the Browser Check window, click **Get** to be redirected to an Adobe Flash Player web page. Click on **Authorware Web Player 2004** under Internet Explorer, click **Install Now**, and then follow the prompts.

5. To test QuickTime Player, click **Test**.
 - If QuickTime Player is installed, a video will play as confirmation.
 - If QuickTime Player is not installed, the video will not play. Ignore the prompt to install a partial QuickTime Player add-on that appears at the top of the page. Click **Get** on the Browser Check window, to be redirected to the Apple – QuickTime – Download web page. Click on **Free Download Now**, and then follow the prompts to install.
6. To test Adobe Acrobat Reader, click **Test**.
 - If Adobe Acrobat Reader is installed, a PDF document appears.
 - If Adobe Acrobat Reader is not installed, the PDF document does not appear. Click **Get** on the Browser Check window and follow the prompts to install.
7. To test Java, click **Test** to be redirected to a Java Verification web page.
 - If Java is installed, determine if your version is compatible using [Table 1-4 Plug-Ins and Players](#). If your version is compatible, no further action is required. If your version is not compatible, confirm other applications do not require the Java version currently installed before clicking the **Download Java Now** and following the prompts to install.

Managing Pop-Up Blockers

Pop-up blockers will interfere with usability within the Pearson Learning Platform. Use the following procedures to either allow pop-ups from the Pearson specific site or disable browser pop-up blockers for all web sites.

Allowing Pop-Ups from the Pearson Learning Platform in IE 7 and IE 8

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Pop-Up Blocker > Pop-up Blocker Settings**.
2. Type the following addresses (including the “ * “ symbol), in the **Address of website to allow** field of the Pop-Up Blocker Settings window, and then click **Add** after each entry:

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com

3. Click **Close**.

Disabling Pop-Ups Blockers within IE 7 and IE 8 Browsers

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Pop-Up Blocker > Turn off Pop-up Blocker**.
2. To confirm the change, click **Tools > Pop-up Blocker**. **Turn on Pop-up Blocker** displays as the active option.

Allowing Pop-Ups in Safari 4.0

1. Open Safari and click **Safari > Preferences**.
2. In the window that opens, click **Security**.

- Under **Web Content** in the Security window, confirm the **Block pop-up windows** check box is clear (not checked).
- Close the Security window.

Adding Trusted Sites and Protected Mode in IE 7 and IE 8

- In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Security** tab.
- On the Security tab, click **Trusted Sites**.
- If you are using Windows Vista, clear the **Enable Protected Mode** check box.
- Click the **Sites** button and clear the **Require server verification** check box.
- Type the following addresses (including the “ * “ symbol), in the **Add this website to the zone** field, and then click **Add** after each entry:

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com
download.macromedia.com
This URL is used by the Authorware Web Player and, if not defined, lesson launch failure can occur within some security environments (e.g., Group Policy).

- Click **Close** and then click **OK**.

NOTE: When navigating to a site in your **Trusted sites** zone, click **Yes** in the security warning to continue loading the page.

IE 8 Compatibility View

If you are using IE 8, enable compatibility view, and then add the NovaNET Courseware URLs.

To set up compatibility view:

- Click **Tools > Compatibility View Settings**. The Compatibility View Settings window appears.
- Enter the following addresses (including the “ * “ symbol) and then click **Add** for each entry:

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com

- Select the **Display all websites in Compatibility View** option, and then click **Close**.

Additional Areas to Review

Generally, completing the Browser Tune-Up is enough for distance learners to begin using the NovaNET Courseware. Within school districts, other security and control measures for Internet traffic and user policies should be defined for the NovaNET Courseware product.

Enabling ActiveX

All of the plug-ins require an ActiveX control to be available for installation. Additionally, if the district delimits access by defining a set of approved MAC addresses, this setting is required.

Enabling ActiveX in IE 7 and IE 8

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Security** tab.
2. Select **Trusted sites** in the Web content zone previously configured.
3. Click the **Custom Level**.
4. Select **Enable for each ActiveX controls and plug-ins** in the list, and then click **OK** to close.
5. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK**.
6. To verify that ActiveX is enabled as an add-on, click **Tools > Manage Add-ons > Enable or Disable Add-ons**.
7. In the Manage Add-ons window, verify that all ActiveX add-ons are shown as **Enabled**.
8. If an ActiveX add-on is disabled, select it in the list, and then click **Enable** under **Settings**. Repeat this step for each disabled add-on, and then click **OK**.

Enabling Java Script

Enabling Java Script in IE 7 and IE 8

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Security** tab.
2. Select **Trusted sites** in the Web content zone previously configured, and then click **Custom Level**.
3. Scroll the **Settings** list to the **Scripting** section to verify that **Enable** is set for **Scripting of Java applets**, and then click **OK** to close.
4. Click **Apply**, and then click **OK**.
5. To verify that Java is enabled as an add-on, click **Tools > Manage Add-ons > Enable or Disable Add-ons**.
6. In the Manage Add-ons window, verify that all Java add-ons are shown as **Enabled**.
7. If a Java add-on is disabled, select it in the list, and then click **Enable** under **Settings**. Repeat this step for each disabled add-on, and then click **OK**.

Allowing Plug-ins and Java in Safari 4.0

1. Open Safari and click **Safari > Preferences**.
2. Click **Security**.

3. Under **Web Content** in the Security window, select the **Enable plug-ins** and **Enable Java** check box.
4. Close the Security window.

Checking Other Security Applications

If you experience any problems, verify that other security or firewall settings do not interfere with ActiveX or JavaScript.

Managing Content Advisor in IE 7 and IE 8

If the Content Advisor displays a **Disable** button, you may experience errors when using the Pearson Learning Platform. You can either disable the Content Advisor or follow the instructions below to allow the sites used by the Pearson Learning Platform to bypass the Content Advisor.

If the Content Advisor is password protected, contact the individual who set up the password protection. If you forgot the password, go to <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/155609> for assistance.

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Content** tab.
2. Ensure the Content Advisor is disabled as follows:
 - If the **Enable** button is displayed under **Content Advisor**, no change is necessary.
 - If the **Disable** button is displayed under **Content Advisor**, click on the **Settings** button and then click the **Approved Sites** tab.
3. Type the following addresses (including the “ * “ symbol), in the **Add this website to the zone** field, and then click **Add** after each entry:

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com
download.macromedia.com
This URL is used by the Authorware Web Player and, if not defined, lesson launch failure can occur within some security environments (e.g., Group Policy).

4. Click **Close** and then click **OK**.

Handling Cookies

IE 7 and IE 8

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Privacy** tab.
2. Click the **Advanced** button.
3. In the Advanced Privacy Settings window, select the **Override automatic cookie handling** check box.
4. Select the **Always allow session cookies** check box.

5. Set **First-party Cookies** to **Accept** (no change to Third-party cookies is needed).
6. Click **OK**, and then **OK** again.

Safari 4.0

1. Open Safari and click **Safari > Preferences**.
2. Click **Security**.
3. To block third parties and advertisers, select **Only from sites I visit** under **Accept Cookies**, and then close the Security window.

Checking for Newer Web Pages Automatically

Set your browser to check for newer versions of stored pages automatically.

IE 7 and IE 8

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options**.
2. On the **General** tab, under **Browsing history**, click **Settings**.
3. Under **Temporary Internet Files**, select **Automatically**, and then click **OK**.

Safari 4.0

Clear your cache to see any updated pages.

Clearing Cache and Cookies

Pearson recommends periodically clearing the browser and java cache.

IE 7

1. Close all Internet Explorer windows.
2. Open a new Internet Explorer session and click **Tools > Browsing History > Delete**.
3. In the Delete Browsing History window, click the **Delete all...** button
4. In the Delete Browsing History confirmation pop-up, click **Yes**, and then click **Done** after the files are deleted.
5. Click **Delete cookies...**, and then click **Yes**.
6. Click **OK**.

IE 8

1. Close all Internet Explorer windows.
2. Open a new Internet Explorer session and click **Safety > Delete Browsing History**.
3. In the Delete Browsing History window, select each check box *except* "Preserve Favorites website data", and then click **Delete**.
4. Once the files are deleted, click **Done**.
5. Click **Delete cookies...**, and then click **Yes**.
6. Click **OK**.

Safari

1. Close all Safari windows
2. Open a new Safari session and click **Safari > Empty Cache**.
3. Click **Empty** and wait for the files to delete before clicking **Done**.
4. Click **Safari > Preferences**.
5. Click **Security**.
6. Click **Show Cookies**.
7. Click **Remove All**, and then click **Done**.

Clearing Java Cache - Windows

1. Go to **Start > Control Panel** (or **Start > Settings > Control Panel**)
2. Double-click the **Java** icon. If necessary, click **Switch to Classic View** to see this icon.
3. On the General tab, click the **Settings...** button under Temporary Internet Files.
4. Click the **Delete Files...** button.
5. Confirm the **Applications and Applets** and **Trace and Log Files** check boxes are selected, and then click **OK**.
6. Once the files are deleted, click **OK**, and then click **OK** again.

Clearing Java Cache - Mac

1. Go to **Computer > HD > Applications > Utilities > Java**.
2. Open **Java Preferences**.
3. Click **Security**.
4. Click **Delete Files** under Temporary Internet Files.

Managing Add-Ons in Internet Explorer

When you visit a web site, Internet Explorer add-ons may be downloaded automatically or you may be prompted to download an add-on. If add-ons disrupt the normal operation of the NovaNET Courseware, you can update, enable, or disable add-ons using the Manage Add-ons feature in Internet Explorer.

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Manage Add-ons > Enable or Disable Add-ons....**
2. In the Manage Add-ons window, click the name of the add-on and modify or update the add-on as follows:
 - To enable an add-on, click **Enable** under **Settings**, and then click **OK**.
 - To disable an add-on, click **Disable** under **Settings**, and then click **OK**.
 - To replace the add-on with the current version, click **Update ActiveX**. This option is not available for all add-ons.

NOTE: You may need to restart Internet Explorer for the changes to take effect after you enable or disable an add-on.

Allowing Students Access to Custom Content within Courses in Internet Explorer

Teachers and administrators can add files (e.g., Word, Excel, video, etc.) to classes for additional study materials within the NovaNET Courseware platform. To allow students access to these files, use the following procedure to change the Internet Explorer security settings.

1. In Internet Explorer, click **Tools > Internet Options > Security** tab.
2. Click **Trusted sites** in the web content zone (previously configured).
3. Click **Custom Level**.
4. In **Settings** under **Downloads**, click **Enable** under **Automatic prompting for file downloads**.

Managing Third Party Pop-Up Blockers

You should disable third-party pop-up blockers and other security features installed in your browser, such as those included with Google, AOL, Yahoo!, MSN, EarthLink, etc.

Most pop-up blockers enable you to allow pop-ups from specific locations. This setting is generally found in the Settings, Preferences, or Options portion of the pop-up blocker. For specific instructions, see the online help for the specific pop-up blocker.

Tips for managing pop-up blockers

- Most pop-up blockers produce an audio alert when a pop-up is blocked. If you have speakers installed, raise your volume so you can hear whether a pop-up blocker is being used.
- Many pop-up blockers let you use the **Ctrl** key on the keyboard to allow a specific pop-up window. If you are unsure how to configure your pop-up blocker, hold down the **Ctrl** key when clicking the **Install** or **Detect** buttons on the Installation Wizard.
- Most computers have multiple pop-up blockers installed. For example, you may have Internet Explorer, the Google Toolbar, and Norton Internet Security and you must configure each pop-up blocker separately.
- Be aware that the installation of any third-party application on your computer may include the default installation of new toolbars. Either clear the option to install the new toolbar during the installation or disable the pop-up blocker after the installation.

Disabling Third-Party Toolbar Pop-Up Blockers in Internet Explorer

To permanently disable third-party toolbar pop-up blockers in IE 7 and IE 8:

1. In Internet Explorer, click **View > Toolbars**.
2. If any toolbars listed between the **Links** and the **Lock the Toolbars** are selected, clear the check mark. Repeat this step for each selected toolbar to disable the pop-up blocker for that toolbar.

NOTE: To temporarily disable many third-party pop-up blockers, click the program's icon in the Windows System Tray or in the browser.

Modifying Parental Controls of Managed Accounts

If you are using managed accounts, you must add the Pearson sites to the allowed sites.

Modifying Managed Accounts - Windows

1. In Windows, click **Start > Control Panel**.
2. Select **User Account**, and then select **Manage Another Account**.
3. Select **Set up Parental Controls**.
4. Select the user with the Parental Controls enabled.
5. Select **Windows Vista Web Filter**.
6. Select **Allow access only to these websites** and add the following addresses as allowed sites.

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com
download.macromedia.com
This URL is used by the Authorware Web Player and, if not defined, lesson launch failure can occur within some security environments (e.g., Group Policy).

Modifying Managed Accounts - Mac

1. In the Apple menu, click **System Preferences**.
2. Click **Accounts**, and then click **Parental Controls**.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to unlock the settings. You are prompted to enter your Admin password.
4. Select the managed account and click **Content**.
5. Select **Allow access only to these websites** and add the following addresses as allowed sites.

*.pearsoned.com
*.pearsoncmg.com
tutor.pegasus.pearsoncmg.com
*.pearsonschool.com
*.web.novanet.com
download.macromedia.com
This URL is used by the Authorware Web Player and, if not defined, lesson launch failure can occur within some security environments (e.g., Group Policy).

6. Close the window.