



**WASHINGTON**  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Washington Online Testing

*Orientation*

*November 13 and 16, 2009*



COMPUTERIZED  
ASSESSMENTS  
& LEARNING



- All participants' microphones are automatically muted to eliminate background noise.
- All participants may submit questions during the presentation by using the Questions Box on the GotoWebinar toolbar.
- All questions will be answered throughout the presentation.
- This presentation will be available on the Washington Online Testing website, [www.WAtesting.com/online](http://www.WAtesting.com/online), under the Documentation link.



- Introductions
- Why Test Online?
- System Components
- System Requirements
- Preparing for Online Testing
- Student Enrollment Data
- Demonstration of Online Features
- Paper or Online: When to Decide?
- Keys to Success
- Contact Information
- Questions



- Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
  - Vendor for the Measurements of Students Progress (MSP) and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)
  - Program Management Team
- Computerized Assessments and Learning (CAL)
  - DRC online testing subcontractor for Washington program
  - Project Management Team
  - CAL Background
    - University-based Research and Development
    - Initial online implementation in Kansas in 2003
    - 8 million tests delivered in Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Carolina
    - Supported by education and psychology researchers and experts, assessment specialists and psychometricians, computer scientists, and web designers

- Students like it!
  - More motivated to test online
  - Standardized tools
  
- Flexibility
  - Allows for real-time updates
  - Easier to test the newly enrolled students

- Accuracy
  - Easier coding and data exchange
  - Computer based testing minimizes this source of error in the measurement process
- Potential future enhancements paper/pencil can't deliver
  - Multimedia testing and new item types
  - Meeting the needs of special populations with standardized process, e.g., access to audio, magnification, high contrast, etc.
  - All enhancements will be discussed with WA focus groups and other stakeholders



- Efficiency
  - Fewer materials to distribute
  - Traditional activities such as receiving, unpacking, securing, counting, sorting, and distributing test booklets are eliminated
  - Improved security
- Teachers and administrators have provided positive feedback of the process

## Administrative Tools

- Browser-based interface
- Add new students
- Print session tickets
- Monitor student testing
- Users: District and School Coordinators and test administrators

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## Student Demos

- Flash-based application
- Teaches students and teachers how the CAL test delivery engine works

## Testing Software

- Java based desktop application
- Software used by students to take tutorials and tests
- To be installed on every computer that will be used to administer tests

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## Local Caching Software (LCS)

- Java based application
- Optional component used to alleviate bandwidth limitations at the school level
- To be installed on one or more computers at school or district level



- Administrative Tools and Demos (Browser requirements):
  - Most popular browsers: Safari, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Opera, Netscape
  - Accept cookies for session tracking
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player (version 7r63, 9r16 recommended)
  - Sound card (or onboard sound) and headphones or speakers needed for audio demos
  - Display size of 800x600 or greater

- Operating System:
  - Windows 98/NT/ME/2000/XP/2003/Vista/7
  - Mac OS 10.3 (with Java 1.4) /10.4 or above
  - \*Linux Ubuntu 9.0.4/Gnome (pilot only in 2010)
- Processor: 200 MHz
- Memory: 64 MB, 128 MB recommended
- Display: Monitors with a resolution of at least 800x600
- Connectivity: Able to connect to the Internet
- Easy to Install
  - Testing engine and the LCS install in minutes
  - Several remote installation and shared environment solutions
  - Minimal system requirements
  - Automatic updates

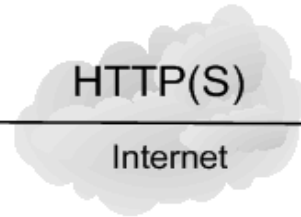
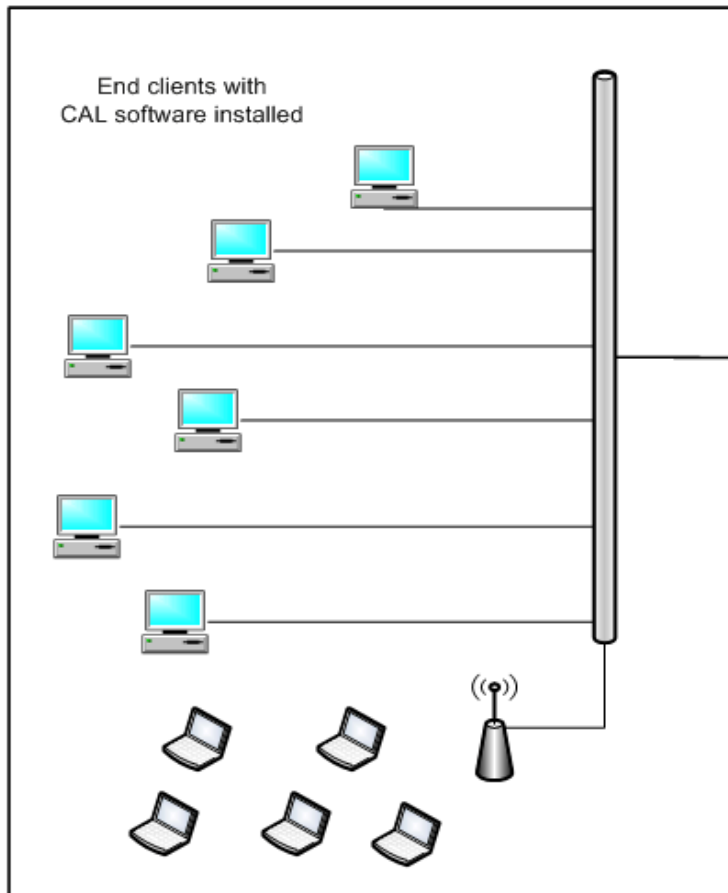


- Operating System:
  - Windows 2000/XP/2003/Vista/7
  - Mac OSX 10.4 and above
  - Linux (any distribution)
- Processor : 1.2 GHz
- Memory: 512 MB, 1 GB recommended
- Connectivity: Able to connect to the Internet
- A dedicated server is NOT required

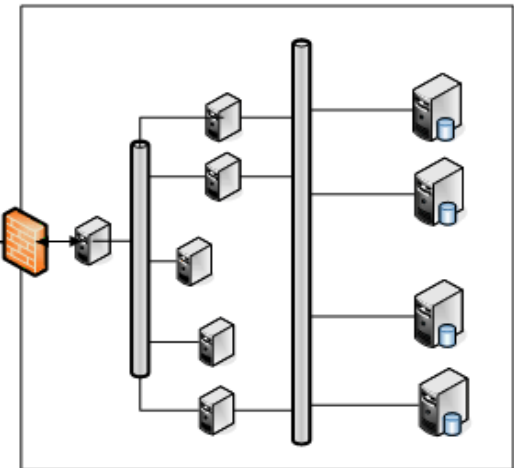


## Online Testing

### WA School Network

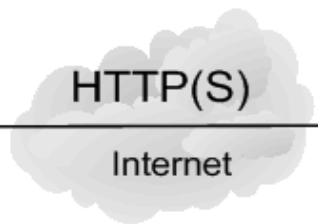
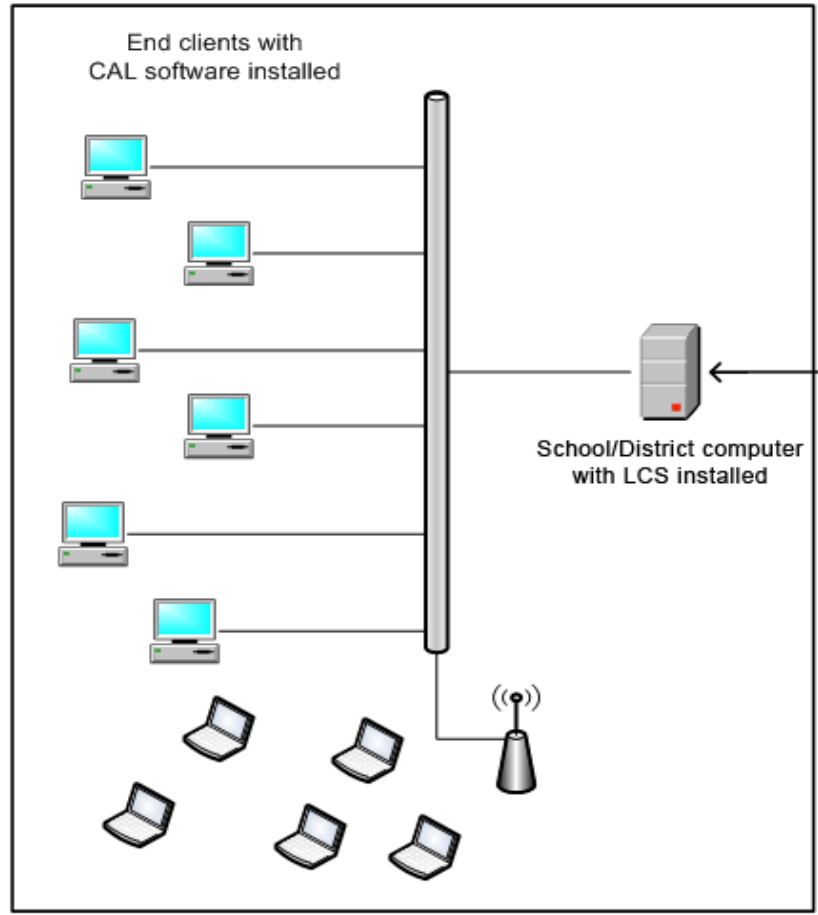


### CAL Data Center

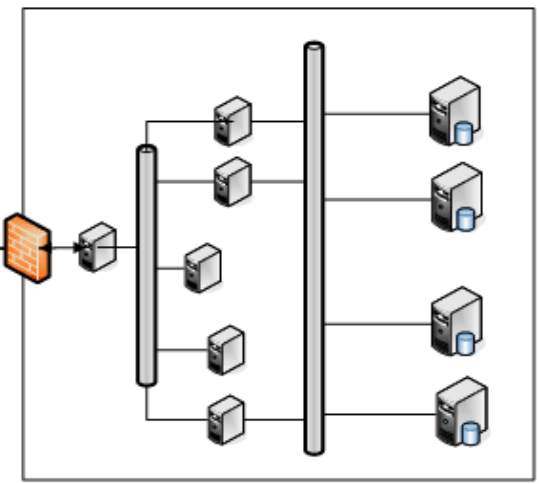


## Online Testing with Local Caching Software (LCS)

### WA School Network



### CAL Data Center





- Key elements:
  - Reliability of Internet connectivity
  - Bandwidth available
  - Number of simultaneous testers
- With a reliable T1 connection a non-LCS setup can support up to 100 simultaneous testers.
- But if you expect to test more than 100 simultaneous users with at T1 connection or if you have an unreliable Internet connection, the LCS is strongly recommended.
- When in doubt, verify installation and infrastructure during administration of the tutorials.

- Determine technology infrastructure available
  - Computers available for testing
  - Network, connectivity, bandwidth specs available
  - Possible implementations include:
    - 1-to-1 laptop initiatives
    - “Computers on Wheels”
    - portable labs with Internet access
    - traditional computer labs
    - other quiet spaces with a “critical mass” of computers with Internet access

- Districts determine local capacity



- See tool on the Washington Online Testing website, [www.WAtesting.com/online](http://www.WAtesting.com/online)

- Student enrollment data will be loaded from the March CEDARS file
- Some student data can be edited
- New students can be added at any time
- Tickets with student login information are generated automatically



- Overview of the Online Testing System
  - Test Engine
    - How students navigate taking the test
  - Management Tools
    - User level accounts, distribution of passwords
    - How district staff enroll new students, print session tickets, monitor testing, reactivate the test, etc.
  - Details to be presented in Webinar Trainings scheduled for Spring 2010

- Districts need to register schools that will be testing online by December 11, 2009.
- In this first year, online testing will be for the entire grade level in one or more subjects (i.e., each middle school's entire grade level will either be taking the reading test online or with paper/pencil, and (independently of that) will be taking the math test online or with paper/pencil).
- Even with the whole grade level testing online, there may be a few students using a test booklet if required by their IEP.



- Involve technology staff to determine local capacity
  - System Requirement Check Tool will be provided
    - <http://wa-pilot.caltesting.org>
    - Districts can download CAL software for Mac and Windows and LCS software for Mac, Windows, and Linux.
    - A Social Studies Tutorial will be displayed in the test engine (no misunderstanding on it being “real”).
    - Districts will need to uninstall this software before downloading the “real” software in January.
    - Release date: By November 20<sup>th</sup>



- Communication
  - If your district/school decides to participate in the online testing, share that decision with the teachers, students, and parents.
  - Ask questions! Ask early! Encourage others to think of issues that could affect your success of the implementation of online testing.



- Mathematics and Reading Demos
  - Currently available on the Washington Online Testing website, [www.WAtesting.com/online](http://www.WAtesting.com/online)
  - Release of updated Demos – November 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Includes additional mathematics tools, reading paired passages, etc.



- Mathematics and Reading Tutorials
  - Release of Reading Tutorial – January 2010
  - Release of Mathematics Tutorial – late March 2010
  - Schedule time for all administrators, teachers and students to review demos and tutorials

For all support issues

OSPI Assessment Hotline Mailbox

[online.assessment@k12.wa.us](mailto:online.assessment@k12.wa.us)



- Please type in your question in the on-screen Questions Box.
- We will answer your questions as received.
- Washington Online Testing website
  - [www.WAtesting.com/online](http://www.WAtesting.com/online)
  - This presentation and a summary of the FAQ's from each of the four sessions will be posted in the Documentation link on the website after the last session on Monday.