PARCC Mac Configuration Step-by-Step - 2-3-15

Log as a local administrator

- Go to “System Preferences,” by clicking the Apple menu item on the top left, or the gears on the right hand side of the dock.
- If Java is installed, it should appear at the bottom of the System Preferences window. If it isn’t, install Java.
- Verify the version of Java installed is 8u31 by clicking the Java icon within System Preferences, and then clicking “about.” If the system is running OSX 10.6, the Java version must be 6u45.
- There is a bug in either Java or OSX meaning you cannot disable Java updates. If you could, you’d go to the update tab and disable them. But the settings change won’t take. Hopefully they’ll fix that soon.
- Disable Flash Updates. Go to Flash Player within System Preferences, click the Advanced tab, and disable downloading/installing updates.
- Disable App Store updates. Go to the App Store option within System Preferences, and uncheck “Automatically check for updates.”
- Turn off sleep and screen off by going to “Energy Saver” in System Preferences, and drag the slider to the right hand side. Also uncheck the “Put hard disks to sleep” option (or similar).
- Everything else should work from within the parccuser account, so log off.

Log onto PARCCuser

- This is the standard user that all students should be using. It’s a domain account that should be set to not expire, not allow password changes, not lock out when people get the password wrong again and again and again. Remember Firefox settings are user specific, if you don’t log in as parccuser, any settings changes you make won’t affect the test.
  - Username: parccuser
  - Password: parccuser
- Firefox is installed on the recent systems deployed, but is not in the dock. Use the “spotlight” function (the magnifying glass on the top right) to search for “Firefox,” and select it from there.
- Ensure Firefox version 35 is installed.
- After you run Firefox, if you would like to pin it to the dock, long click the icon, select “options” and click “Keep in Dock.”
- Tweak Firefox.
  - Hamburger menu (three stacked lines on the top right side)>Options (or Preferences)
  - Go to the “Advanced” tab, and the “update” secondary tab. Turn off updates, including any checkboxes referring to background or search engine updates. Those checkboxes are only present in some versions of Firefox.
  - Go to the “Security” tab, and uncheck “Remember passwords for sites.”
  - Go to the “Privacy” tab, click “History,” select the “Custom” settings, and disable the “Remember Search and Form History” checkbox.
  - Go to the “Content” tab, click “Exceptions”, and add the following sites:
    - .testnav.com (no asterisk)
    - .parcconline.org (no asterisks)
    - .pearsonaccessnext.com (no asterisks)
  - Disable the popup blocker completely from the same page.
○ Copy the DeploymentRuleSet.jar file to /Library/Application Support/Oracle/Java/Deployment (it will be necessary to create this folder).
○ Verify the Deployment Rule Set has been installed correctly by opening Java Preferences, clicking the “Security” tab, and verifying under “exception site list” that there is a “view the active deployment ruleset” link. If it does not appear, the jar file has not been properly installed. In this case, verify the file path is correct.
○ In Firefox, go to about:config in the URL bar, and agree to modify (“I'll be careful”).
○ Search for “blocklist”
○ Find “extensions.blocklist.enabled” double click, and verify the value has changed to “false.”
○ Open the Hamburger menu, go to “Add-Ons,” select “Plugins,” and set the entry for Java to “Always Activate,” or “Always Enable.”

● Create a student session, then run the sample test at parcc.testnav.com)
  ○ In some cases, the browser will not finish loading the test. If this is the case, close the browser completely by clicking the Firefox menu item at the top of the screen and selecting “Quit Firefox.” Note that closing the window will not close Firefox completely, and it will continue running in the background.
  ○ In some cases, it is also necessary to restart the browser this way to resolve an 8038 error (red error dialog on the top right).
  ○ Log back in again if necessary.
  ○ When the test goes to fullscreen, tick the box saying to “remember” or “always allow,” and allow the web page to go fullscreen.
  ○ Run through the test. Once you’re done, click the “forward” arrow on the top left, save your answers and exit. You should be done here.

● The testing site will be nm.testnav.com, and the proctor site will be nm.pearsonaccessnext.com

Configure OS
● Disable Adobe Reader Updates. Open Reader (if it isn’t listed, use Spotlight), go to Adobe Reader>Preferences (in the top menu bar), select the “Updater” option on the bottom left, and turn off updating.
● Disable the screensaver by opening the System Preferences, and clicking “Desktop & Screen Saver,” then the “Screen Saver” tab, and select “Never” for the timeout on the bottom left.
● OSX allows notifications to be turned off completely between certain hours. To do this, click the notification center icon at the top right, then click the gear on the bottom right of the panel that opens up. Enable the check mark, and enable “Do not Disturb” during school hours.
● Turn off anything else you can think of that might create notifications. Many schools have installed software used by only one or two schools. Some of this software can produce notifications. As we do not know exactly what has been installed on each computer, we rely on individual schools to either notify us of software that will produce notifications, or disable those notifications themselves.

Miscellaneous Troubleshooting
● In a small number of cases, we have seen repeated, red “Error 3031” messages, where Java fails to run. If restarting Firefox once or twice does not fix this issue:
  ○ Open the Hamburger menu (3 bars on the top right), and click the Question Mark icon at the bottom.
- Click “Restart with Add-ons Disabled,” then click “Restart”
- Click “Reset Firefox” in the dialog that appears. Confirm that you wish to reset.
- Go back to the page that was failing to load.
- Note that settings preventing popups, disabling updates, etc. may be enabled after resetting Firefox. Please check these options and verify they remain correctly configured after resetting.
- In the case of many systems using both WiFi and wired connections, OSX is utilizing wifi even if there is a wired connection. We recommend switching off the wifi adapter completely in the case of iMacs which will be permanently wired, and on MacBooks for the duration of PARCC testing.
  - Click the network connection indicator on the top right.
  - Select the option to turn WiFi off.

**The Mac is now configured**

Please be aware that we are discovering new issues and fixes as we work through this process. If you see any issues not noted here, or believe any of these notes to be incorrect, please contact either:

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