VMware K-12 Education Secure Online Testing Solution

Is your school district prepared to securely deliver state assessments that comply with the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

"Using VMware Horizon (with View) with the Pearson TestNav test delivery system ensures that our tests are administered in a secure environment that preserves the integrity of the results. Test environments are booted directly to our computer labs and if any attempt is made to escape out of the test, the test taker is locked out of the test."

- CHAD BRANUM,
  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY,
  COPPELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The target 2014–2015 school year for rolling out Common Core testing is here and many school districts are still not prepared for how they will administer the tests. How can a school district securely deliver hundreds if not thousands of online tests using specific browsers or browser versions without having to touch each testing station? Also, once the testing period is over, how can a testing room be quickly switched back to a general purpose computer lab?

Common Core State Standards Initiative–Compliant Solution

The two major state assessment consortiums that are developing online tests that comply with the Common Core are PARCC and Smarter Balanced who are using different online testing technologies from Pearson and American Institutes for Research (AIR) respectively. VMware® has worked closely with Pearson and AIR to ensure that online test performance and test integrity is not compromised while being delivered and managed centrally in a VMware Horizon virtual desktop environment. VMware has achieved "TestNav Qualified" status with Pearson and is currently working on official certification with AIR. In addition, the VMware Desktop as a Service offering, VMware Horizon™ DaaS®, has achieved "TestNav Qualified" status as well.

Easily Deliver Common Core Tests and Optimize Computer Lab Usage

PARCC has specific browser requirements for delivery of online tests and AIR has created its own secure browser. School districts must ensure that test stations have the appropriate browser in order to take a Common Core test. VMware Horizon enables rolling out secure browsers or a specific browser version to hundreds or even thousands of desktops simply by recomposing a master Horizon desktop. In addition, security and integrity of the test is ensured with desktop delivery to locked down zero clients with optional centralized antivirus protection. Once testing season is over, test stations can be converted to general purpose computer labs in minutes to optimize availability of computing resources for students.

vmware®

81%

81% of schools surveyed are preparing for online testing

18%

Only 18% are ready today

Securely Deliver Common Core Tests

Leveraging VMware Horizon to deliver online tests in a virtual desktop environment ensures compliance with PARCC and Smarter Balanced technical and security requirements while giving IT the flexibility to optimize use of computing resources. Security and privacy of student information is maintained while test integrity is preserved. Furthermore, if test station hardware fails, a new test station can be brought up quickly to minimize downtime for test takers. For IT, delivery of online testing with virtual desktops speeds the rollout of online testing and eases support as everything is done from a central location.

Quality Performance and Proven Success

"We've had tremendous success using VMware Horizon View for Pearson TestNav. Testing season brings a lot of stress to not only students but the staff as well. VMware Horizon View allows IT departments to facilitate these tests in a high availability environment, which is extremely comforting."

- Brooks Moore, DCS Technology Help Desk Manager,
  Aledo Independent School District

"With VMware Horizon View, we didn't experience any technical issues when we did the [Smarter Balanced] pilot. People were concerned about audio sound quality, videos, mouse movements—those things that are critical in high-stakes testing—but we saw no performance issues whatsoever in our environment. The virtual environment performed the way we expected it to, and we're very happy with the results."

- Ryan Sicard, Director of IT,
  Somerset School District

"In order to provide enough PCs for on-line testing we've had to image our computer labs for testing which meant losing them for regular instruction until the testing period was over.

Now, using a VMware Horizon View virtual desktop to access Pearson TestNav allows us to simply have our students access the appropriate testing VDI image during the test.

Now we no longer have to touch the computer labs for testing and valuable instruction time isn't lost as normal use is simply a matter of selecting the base student image at login. This is a great labor and instruction saver for our district."

- John Orbaugh, Director of Technology Services,
  Tyler Independent School District

Explore the VMware Horizon Solution for Secure Online Testing

For more information about VMware secure online testing solution, visit:
http://info.vmware.com/content/22590_education_online_testing_index

For more information about VMware K-12 education solutions, visit:
http://www.vmware.com/industry/education/k-12-education.html

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