

3.6.1 Reading Plus® Release Notes

July 28, 2008

Performance Improvements

- Reduction and compression of program applications and resources files (70%-80% reduction in size)
Compressed versions of applications are served to PC-supported browsers that use a Java Plug-in $\geq 1.6.0_02+$. If the Java Plug-in being used is an older version or if the client is a Mac, then uncompressed versions of the applications are served and file sizes are larger.
- Greater compression of audio files to reduce file size for quicker downloads
- Elimination of “Never Doubt Your Power” movie (formerly presented to students) to reduce download size requirements and boost performance

Program Enhancements

RPA™

- Refinements to placement as it relates to reading rates
- Improved consideration of rates throughout RPA™

PAVE™

- Updated Interface
- New onscreen keyboard, including new class settings:
Auto – Default setting. Students in grades four and lower automatically have the keyboard displayed to them at the end of a “Scan” and during “Flash” activities.
No – Keyboard is never displayed.
Yes – Keyboard is always displayed.
- New Scan element counting class settings with the following assignment options:
Auto – First grade students are set to always use the spacebar to register target elements. Students in second grade and higher are set to always count target elements
Space Bar – Spacebar required to register target elements
Silent Counting – Silent counting of target elements required

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Guided Reading™

- Adjustments to rate-related logic
 - Enhanced dynamics for start-rate calibration
- Adjustments to pre-reading
 - Improved intervention trigger
 - Default-rate adjustment
 - Fine-tuned impact of higher I-Rates on G-Rate
 - G-Rate increment logic refinements
- Adjustments to rereads
 - Format adjustments: If a student clicks the Reread button prior to answering a question, he or she will be provided with a reread of the entire segment that preceded the question (promoting more attentive reading). Static text rereads, which leave the question on the screen (3.6 reread format), are triggered by incorrect answer choices.

“Auto,” a new reread option, is included in the Rereads pull down (class/student setting). Set to “Auto,” students are allowed to reread four times if there are 20 questions, two times in other instances. The “Auto” setting is the default. (Note: existing class/student settings remain unchanged.)

- Adjustments to level assignment logic
 - If a student starts on a content level that contains sublevels AND is four or more levels below his or her grade, the student is assigned to the highest sublevel within the assigned level. For example, if a sixth-grader is placed on Level A, he or she will begin within sublevel A3.
- Refinements to multiple lessons at various levels
- Other minor corrections and adjustments
 - Comprehension requirement adjustments:
 - If < grade level content → 70%
 - If >= grade level content → 80%

Level up G-rate goals are now 300wpm for Levels H through M. (Stabilization rates will remain as: Level H, 300wpm; Level I, 310wpm; Level J, 325wpm; Level K, 345wpm; Level L, 365wpm; and College Level, 400wpm)

Improvements to REPEAT reading and notification logic

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Cloze Plus™

- A delete button is now available that allows individual Cloze Plus™ lessons to be deleted from the records panel

Reading Around Words™

- A delete button is now available that allows individual Reading Around Words™ lessons to be deleted from the records panel

Reports

- New Student Usage Report
The Student Usage report displays the number of sessions a student has completed on a week-by-week basis during the course of the class schedule. Each data point on the graph is either in the red, yellow, or green zone. Data points in the “green” zone are considered to be “Effective Frequency of Use”. The percentage of sessions in this zone is displayed on the top right portion of each graph. Zones are determined based on the “Sessions per Week” setting in the class schedule.
- Content level pie charts now include six divisions
(In 3.6, only four divisions were used: at or above grade level, 1 grade level below, 2-4 grade levels below, and 5+ grade levels below).
The six divisions are:
 - Green: At or above grade level
 - Yellow: 1 Level below grade
 - Light Orange: 2 Levels below grade
 - Medium Orange: 3 Levels below grade
 - Dark Orange: 4 Levels below grade
 - Red: 5+ Levels below grade
- “Average Level Gain” now takes into account sublevels
For example, a student whose initial level was A1 and current level is A3 will have a 0.67 level gain.
- The “My Skills” and “Offline Skills” reports now display the “correct/total” skills counts in addition to the percent correct value
- The RPA student report now reports the correct highest Part I result

Session Automation

- Upon completion of a scheduled program sequence, the remaining session time is filled with vocabulary practice before a student is sent to the “My Progress” tab within the Student Dashboard.

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Miscellaneous

- Status indicators on the Class panel (as well as Class Status Reports) now display class averages (In 3.6, the average percent of students who were on schedule and/or meeting comprehension goals was determined, rather than the averages for the class.)

- Corrected site settings bugs:

Schedules will be modified only if “Schedule Class” is checked from Site Settings > Schedule tab AND both a start/end date is set. If “Schedule Class” is not checked, schedules will be cleared for all or selected classes. (In 3.6, selecting “Set Schedule for All Classes,” and having the “Schedule Class” option checked without a start or end date caused all schedules for all classes to be erased).

The “Automate Program Sequence” option only affects students in the selected classes, or the entire site if that option is set. (In 3.6, the “Automate Program Sequence” checkbox, whether checked or not, caused this option to be set for all students in the entire site regardless of whether individual classes were selected.)

The “Prevent Teachers from Altering Schedules” option within Site Settings panel can now be changed on a class/site basis without modifications to class schedule. (In 3.6, the “Prevent Teachers from Altering Schedules” option could be modified independent of schedules in Site Settings, but was only taking effect if schedules were being set. Additionally, setting this option and not setting a schedule cleared all schedules for all classes.)