



**PLATO<sup>®</sup> Pathways Courseware Updater  
Release Notes**  
November 1, 2007

Inspired solutions for teaching and learning.<sup>TM</sup>

**Corporate Headquarters**

PLATO Learning, Inc.  
10801 Nesbitt Avenue S.  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
800.869.2000  
952.832.1200 (FAX)

**PLATO® Support Services**

Website: <http://support.plato.com>  
E-mail: <http://support.plato.com/email>  
Voice: 800.869.2200

**World Wide Website**

<http://www.plato.com>



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## General Information

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**Purpose** This document includes a summary of updates to PLATO® courseware organized by courseware title and release date.

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**Searching this document** You can search this entire document for a specific piece of functionality, system enhancement or courseware update by using the Adobe® Acrobat® search feature. To do so, follow the steps below.

Step	Action
1	Select the  button on the Acrobat toolbar.
2	Enter the feature or enhancement you want to search for in the Find window.
3	Select <b>Find</b> .  <b>Results</b> Acrobat will highlight the first occurrence of the word you entered.
4	Select <b>Find Again</b> to sequentially view all occurrences of the word you entered in the document.

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**For more information** For complete instructions on how to use PLATO courseware, refer to the Teacher Materials Library, under Resources, on the PLATO Support Services web site, <http://support.plato.com>.

*Note*  
You must have your PLATO ID to log in to the Teacher Materials Library.

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## Version 1.1 Patch, Released 11/01/07

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**Description** The PLATO® Pathways Courseware Updater version 1.1 patch was designed to correct defect # 74317, which prevented some users from launching Advanced Reading Strategies Activities.

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- Features of the 1.1 patch**
- The 1.1 patch can be run multiple times
  - Updates files and the database only for courseware installed on the system
  - Does not require shutting down or locking the PLATO® Pathways system
  - Updates the database warehouse on network systems
  - Does not update courseware run from CD-ROM
  - Creates/updates a log file in the PWAY\INSTLOG directory with the name ResRev\_yyyymmdd.Log, where yyyy is the year, mm the month and dd the date.

## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07

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### About courseware maintenance

The courseware maintenance project encompasses solutions developed to address bugs found in courseware related to PLATO<sup>®</sup> Pathways. Key solutions focused on accurate “answer judging,” the means by which answers are determined to be correct or incorrect, and preventing ways for learners to modify incorrect answers once answers have been submitted. These changes effectively promote the most accurate reporting results. The modifications listed in this document are arranged by courseware title.

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### Advanced Reading Strategies

- The “Refresh” button has been deactivated in tests, preventing learners from entering multiple answers when they have answered incorrectly.
  - Incorrect spelling in Reading Science, Practice Level 14, page 2 of the passage “Infrared Spectroscopy,” corrected. Changed “looses” to “loses.”
  - Corrected spelling of “vis-à-vis” in Reading Literature, Practice Level 9, page 2 of the reading passage.
  - In “A Strategy for Reading History: Test,” several timelines contained years incorrectly labeled B.C. that have been correctly changed to A.D.
  - Addressed Mac issue in which the Congratulations screen did not come up after passages are answered.
  - Fixed intermittent issue where activity cannot complete or give score after the page tells the learner it will calculate the score.
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### Algebra

- Algebra 2 Part 2, Scientific Notation Mastery Test has been corrected to accommodate the list of answers to choose from. Question 2 from the sixth pool of questions was changed from 0.00000062705 to 0.000062705 so that the answer  $6.2705 \times 10^{-5}$  is correct.
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## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07 Continued

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### Algebra, continued

- In Algebra 2 Part 1, Review Linear Systems, Mastery Test, answers have been evaluated for accuracy and changed where necessary.
- Removed the “Reset” button for learners taking the Algebra 1, Part 1, Additive Inverse Mastery Test, to prevent learners retaking each question until reaching the correct answer.
- In the Algebra 2, Part 1, Evaluating Rational Expressions Tutorial, the chart displaying Number (Input) and Ratio (Output) with decimals in the first column and fractions in the second now displays the correct ratio for .3, 3/10.
- In Algebra 1, Part 2, Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring, Part 3 Tutorial, the “Answer” button now displays the correct quadratic equation,  $x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$ .
- In Algebra 1, Part 1, Linear Equations in 1 Variable: Isolating the Variable, Tutorial, the answer explanation now correctly aligns the equations.
- In Algebra 1, Part 2, Linear Inequalities in 1 Variable, Part II, Tutorial Summary, Rule #2 now displays the correct answer, +3, with the corresponding graph reflecting +3 as well.
- In Algebra 1, Part 1, Graphing Basics, Solving Problems with Systems of Linear Equations, Application, question 3 has been altered to accommodate the correct answer.
- Flash Player no longer hangs when loading questions in Algebra 2, Part 1, Graphs of Linear Equations, Perpendicular Lines and Their Slopes Tutorial.
- In Algebra 2, Part 1, Linear Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Solving Problems with Linear Systems, Application, the question “A vending machine sells chips at \$0.40 and candy at \$0.50. Last month, the vending machine yielded \$152.80 with the sale of 328 items. Let  $x$  be the number of chips sold and  $y$  the number of candies. How many packages of chips were purchased last month?” now has the correct answer  $x=112$ .
- In Algebra 2, Part 1, Graphs and Linear Equations, Review: Graphs, Tutorial, the answer to the question, “The statement for  $y - x > 4$  is true for which points in the plane?” has been corrected, and is now “All the points above.”
- Adjusted spacing of equations in Algebra 2, Part 1, Solving Systems of Linear Equations, Mastery Test.

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## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07 Continued

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### Algebra, continued

- In the Algebra 1, Part 1, Basic Number Ideas, Multiplying and Dividing Mixed Numbers Tutorial, answer feedback was edited for greater accuracy for incorrect answers or answers not in simplest terms.
- Algebra 1, Part 2, Basic Sets and Numbers, Basic Set Concepts: Roster and Set-builder Forms, Tutorial, now includes zero as a whole number in roster notation among the lists of available choices, to correct those choices that did not previously contain zeros.
- Adjusted spacing in equations in the Algebra 2, Part 1, Solving Linear Systems of Inequalities: Graphs, Mastery Test, to ensure better readability.
- In Algebra 1, Part 1, Introduction to Functions, Functions, Tutorial, width values for the graph for Indrani's fence-building problem, have been corrected. When Width (W) 1 is clicked,  $W=1$ . *BZ 54057*
- Browser shortcut keys no longer enable learners to retake a test until it is passed, or to open new windows to take simultaneous tests: browser "Back" button, browser "Refresh" button, F5, CTRL + F5, CTRL + R, CTRL + N. Users can also no longer use the browser history and cache to re-launch tests.
- The Algebra 2, Part 1 Answer Key was amended; the key for Chance Experiments and Probability was added, and the duplicate key for Multiplication Principle of Counting was removed.
- The Algebra 1 Part 1 Answer Key was amended, for Course 1 Basic Number Ideas, Adding and Subtracting Fractions. Numbers 2, 9, 12, and 32 now reflect the correct answers.
- Fixed question on Mastery test which was judging answers incorrectly. *BZ 884*
- Fixed incorrect answer in Rational Expressions where answer was  $2x+8/x+7$

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### Beginning Reading for the Real World

- Learners are no longer allowed to change an incorrect answer by opening and closing the Help window.
- In Beginning Reading D - Help Out!, Around Town, Block Party, the questions asking learners to identify all words with silent consonants now correctly recognize "know" as having a silent consonant.

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## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07 Continued

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### Essential Reading Skills

- In the Essential Reading Skills 2, Working with Order Test, the answer to the question beginning with “A winter storm blasted the East Coast Sunday night” (third reading passage) has been corrected, and is now “Authorities shut down Highway 92.”
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### Foundational Mathematics

- Answers in the Renaming Improper Fractions as Whole or Mixed Numbers Practice set are now accurately accepted as correct or incorrect.
  - Equations in Performing Operations with Decimals, Multiplying Decimals, Practice, now display correctly.
  - Addressed issue where Mac OS 10.4.2 and Safari 2.0.1 Understanding Whole Numbers 1 Pretest failed to exit on completion.
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### Fundamental Reading Strategies

- Browser shortcut keys no longer enable learners to retake a test until it is passed, or to open new windows to take simultaneous tests: browser “Back” button, browser “Refresh” button, F5, CTRL + F5, CTRL + R, CTRL + N. Users can also no longer use the browser history and cache to re-launch tests.
  - Learners’ scores now report accurately.
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### Intermediate Reading Strategies

- Correct answer in the passage “The Country of the Pointed Firs,” of Visualizing When You Read Literature, Test, is now accepted by the system.
  - Learners’ scores now report accurately.
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### Intermediate Writing Process and Practice

- Correct answers are now accepted, and correct answers now appear in the “Show Answer” field of Grammar & Mechanics, Level JJ, Adding Commas to Indicate Non-Essential Information, Mastery Test.
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## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07 Continued

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### Life Science

- Fixed issue in which locked Mastery Tests were not unlocking after launching the completed Tutorial, as designed.
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### Math Expeditions

- In Math Expeditions D – Puffin Island, Numeration Order D, Order Numbers to 9999, Practice, the terms “Greatest” and “Least” now accurately reflect these extremes.
  - Updated calculator files to prevent browser crash caused by closing the calculator application in Math Expeditions A – Pacific Coast Tide Pools, Numeration Position A, Locate Objects: inside outside. Bug affected Macintosh<sup>®</sup> OS customers using the Safari<sup>™</sup> browser.
  - In Math Expeditions D, Puffin Island, Number Operation Division D, Divide by 1-9, learners brought to the Help screen after answering three questions incorrectly are now able to return to the Practice section.
  - Corrected behavior of the protractor tool in Math Expeditions F, Geometry F, Measure angles.
  - Exiting a Fastrack assessment on an unanswered question no longer results in that question being judged as answered incorrectly.
  - Learners are no longer able to change answers after submitting them by opening and closing the Help menu.
  - In Math Expeditions H, Arkansas Wildlife Refuge, Ratio/Proportion/% H, Solve Percents, and in Math Expeditions G, Everglades, Ratio/Proportion G, Solve percents, answers with values reflected as .xx, 0.xx, and xx.x0 are now accepted as valid expressions of those answers.
  - In Math Expeditions H and I, Probability/Stats, Find probability and outcomes, questions related to probability of clothing choices, color outcome on the spinner, and coin tosses have been amended for clarity.
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## Version 1.0, Released 10/09/07 Continued

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### **Math Expeditions,** continued

- In Math Expeditions E, F, G, H, and I, all affected scenes were checked and amended if necessary to identify squares as rectangles and squares, rectangles, and parallelograms as quadrilaterals.
  - In Math Expeditions F, Numeration Round F, Round Numbers to Millions, rounded numbers are correctly judged.
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### **Physical Science**

- Updated graphics and answer options to concur with test questions in Physical Science with Assessments, Properties and Structures of Matter, The Periodic Table, Practice Test 5. Question 2 replaced Calcium reference with Potassium; question 3 replaced reference to Bromine with Chlorine.
  - Fixed issue in which locked Mastery Tests were not unlocking after launching the completed Tutorial, as designed.
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### **Reading Explorations**

- In Reading Explorations Level E – United States, spacing was adjusted at the end of text passages to allow all text to appear.
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### **Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension**

- Removed irrelevant HTML tag from text in Vocabulary and Reading Information, 5B Practice.
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