



**PLATO® Pathways Learning Management
System**

System and Configuration Requirements
for networks

September 17, 2008

- Network File Servers
- Network Workstations

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Document Change Log

The following table lists the most recent changes to PLATO Pathways requirements:

Date	Updates
09/17/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed support for Novell Netware®
06/26/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added requirements for Windows Vista™ Home Premium and Windows Vista™ Business operating systems.
03/29/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed the minimum required version of Adobe® Reader® from version 6.0.1 to version 7.0.
09/19/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinuing support for Windows® 98 and Windows® ME workstations. Discontinuing support for Novell Netware® 5.X.
08/03/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated opportunistic locking requirements (page 2). Combined Pathways System and Configuration Requirements for Networks documents.
07/08/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added checklist to end of document.
09/01/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed configuration information for Microsoft Windows NT® Server 4.0; Windows NT Server 4.0 no longer meets the system requirements for PLATO Pathways
03/17/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Adobe® Reader® 6.0.1 requirement (pages 4, 5) Removed reference to Novell NetWare 4.0 under Configuration Requirements for Novell Networks > File Server Requirements (page 4) Removed reference to Novell NetWare 6.0 under Configuration Requirements for Novell Networks > File Server Requirements (page 4) Added reference to Novell NetWare 6.5 under Configuration Requirements for Novell Networks > File Server Requirements (page 6)

About this document

The specifications contained in this document provide guidance to PLATO customers about the environmental specifications for PLATO Pathways.

Many factors can affect your network performance, including the following:

- General network architecture
- Protocols
- Typology
- Bandwidth available for use by PLATO software
- Number of users
- Wide Area Network (WAN) configurations
- Bandwidth between links, routers, switches, hubs, and LAN adapters.

All of these factors interact with each other and can impact network operation. Some combinations of these may affect the performance of PLATO Pathways on your network.

Wireless networking is in great demand. The most widely used specification for wireless networks today is the **802.11b** standard developed by the IEEE Standards Association. Although 802.11b wireless networks are capable of 11 Mbps of bandwidth, almost all stations will connect at much less bandwidth than that, typically 6 Mbps or less. This is because wireless networks use Radio Frequency (RF) to communicate.

Many factors affect the quality of RF between access points and stations, including the material used to construct portions of buildings, electronic devices, and the distance from an access point. Poor RF can result in slow performance, which in turn may cause frequent database corruption and slow access times, resulting in student frustration.

In most cases, PLATO customers are not satisfied with the performance of 802.11b. As a result, 802.11b wireless networking *is not recommended* for use with PLATO Pathways systems.

If you need help to make sure your network properly configured and ready to run PLATO software, PLATO Learning offers on site, fee-based technical consulting to help you meet your needs. PLATO Learning will also work with your technical department to troubleshoot and remedy problems if they are encountered after the initial installation. To find out more about PLATO Learning's technical consulting services, contact a PLATO representative at **1.800.44.PLATO** or info@plato.com.

System and Configuration Requirements For Windows 2000/2003 Server Networks

Following are configuration requirements to run PLATO Pathways® on workstations that are networked with Windows® Server 2003 or Windows® 2000 Server

Configuration Requirements are updated occasionally. If you're viewing a printed copy of this document, please check the PLATO Support web site for the latest requirements

<http://support.plato.com/requirements.asp>.

File Server Requirements	Windows® Server 2003 Windows® 2000 Server
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunistic file locking must be disabled in network environments using one or more workstations with Windows 2000 Professional with SP1 or SP2 to reduce the potential for database corruption. <p>Note If your network environment only uses Windows Vista, Windows XP or Windows 2000 Professional with SP3 or later, you are not required to disable opportunistic file locking.</p> <p>For more details, see Support Tip 22396 - <i>Opportunistic Locking, Slow Performance, Frequent Lock-Ups in Network</i> at http://support.plato.com/22396.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCP/IP is the recommended network protocol. • NetBEUI must not be used as the primary network protocol • PLATO Pathways system files, PLATO® Courseware, and all learner records should be installed on an NTFS partition • Current service packs must be installed and kept up to date. Current service packs from Microsoft can be downloaded from http://www.microsoft.com

File Servers

Windows® Server 2003 Windows® 2000 Server with Service Pack 4	
Processor speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 Mhz processor or faster– REQUIRED
Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 512 MB or more – REQUIRED
Hard Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If installing courses on hard disk, please reference the <i>Courseware File Sizes</i> matrix at http://support.plato.com/accountability/pathways.asp There should be enough disk space for student records after all courseware is installed.*
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD-ROM drive (8X or faster) • 100 mbps file server PCI network card • Monitor • Keyboard, mouse, 3 1/2 floppy drive

**To calculate the amount of available hard disk space required, allow 200 MB for the PLATO Pathways system files and 10 MB per learner record to allow for learner data, bookmarks, and other files created while using the courseware. PLATO Courseware file sizes are published on the PLATO Support web site (<http://support.plato.com/accountability/pathways.asp>)*

Workstation Requirements	Windows® 2000/XP Professional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least 800 X 600 resolution, High Color (16 bit), and Small Fonts. Do not use "16 colors", Large Fonts, or Custom Fonts. • NetBEUI must not be used as the primary network protocol • Install the latest video and sound drivers recommended by the hardware manufacturers of the video and sound cards on your workstations • Audio is not supported in Reading 1 courseware on Windows 2000/XP • Adobe® Reader® – Online documentation for PLATO products requires Adobe Reader 7.0 or later. You can download the updated version of Adobe Reader from http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads.

Workstation Requirements, continued	Windows Vista™ Home Premium Windows Vista™ Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use at least 800 X 600 resolution, High Color (16 bit), and Small Fonts. Do not use "16 colors", Large Fonts, or Custom Fonts. • NetBEUI must not be used as the primary network protocol • Install the latest video and sound drivers recommended by the hardware manufacturers of the video and sound cards on your workstations • Audio is not supported in Reading 1 courseware.* • Adobe® Reader® – Online documentation for PLATO products requires Adobe Reader 7.0 or later. You can download the updated version of Adobe Reader from http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads.

*Windows Vista Users: See the Courseware section on page 10 of this document for a list of unsupported courseware.

**WINDOWS[®]
Workstations
for students**

The following requirements to run PLATO Pathways on networked Windows workstations are listed for student workstations and for administrator workstations.

Student Workstations	
Operating system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows[®] XP Professional (<i>Windows XP Home Edition is not supported</i>) Windows[®] 2000 Professional SP4 Windows Vista™ Home Premium Windows Vista™ Business
Processor speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 2000/XP: <u>450MHz</u> processor or faster – REQUIREMENT Windows Vista: 800 MHz or faster - REQUIREMENT
Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 2000/XP Pro: 256 MB or more – REQUIREMENT Windows Vista: 512 MB or more - REQUIREMENT
Sound card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft[®] compatible sound card and headset (required only for PLATO Pathways audio courseware) <p>NOTE: <i>Audio is not supported in Reading 1 courseware.</i> *</p>
Monitor, video card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVGA monitor and video adapter set to at least 800 x 600 pixels and High Color (16-bit) DirectX 9 capability, Windows Vista workstations only
Network adapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 mbps network interface card (NIC) running at full duplex – REQUIREMENT
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mouse, keyboard, and 3 1/2-inch floppy drive CD-ROM drive (8X or faster) on at least one workstation

*Windows Vista Users: See the Courseware section on page 10 of this document for a list of unsupported courseware.

WINDOWS®
Workstations
for administrators

Administrator workstations	
Operating system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows® XP Professional (<i>Windows XP Home Edition is not supported</i>) Windows® 2000 Professional SP4 Windows Vista™ Home Premium Windows Vista™ Business
Processor speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 2000/XP: 450 MHz processor or faster –REQUIREMENT Windows Vista: 800 MHz or faster - REQUIREMENT
Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 2000/XP/Vista: 512 MB or more – REQUIREMENT
Sound card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft® compatible sound card and headset (required only for PLATO Pathways audio courseware) <p>NOTE: <i>Audio is not supported in Reading 1 courseware. *</i></p>
Monitor, video card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVGA monitor and video adapter set to at least 800 x 600 pixels and High Color (16-bit) DirectX 9 capability, Windows Vista workstations only
Network adapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 mbps network interface card (NIC) running at full duplex – REQUIREMENT
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mouse, keyboard, and 3 1/2-inch floppy drive CD-ROM drive (8X or faster) on at least one workstation

*Windows Vista Users: See the Courseware section on page 10 of this document for a list of unsupported courseware.

Courseware

Notice for Windows Vista™ Users

<p>Important</p>	<p>The following list contains courseware titles that are currently unsupported on Windows Vista systems. If you must use any of the following titles, we recommend running the courseware from a Windows® 2000 or Windows® XP workstation.</p>
<p>Unsupported Courseware on Windows Vista Workstations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 1 • Reading 2 • Advanced Multimedia Science Simulations • Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing • Hydraulics • International Math Fundamentals • Problem-Solving Skills • Troubleshooting Skills • Blue Print Reading • MindPlay Writing Series • Substance Abuse Series • Discovery Channel Series (Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Elementary and Math Adventures) • Rediscover Math 6-9 • Rediscover Math 9-12 • Biology Series (CyberEd) • Chemistry Series (CyberEd) • All WorldView courseware