ICT Educator Webinar Series

Using Virtual Labs for Business and Advanced Manufacturing Applications

Webinar Chat Q&A – May 8, 2020

Is NetLab free for students?
- If your college already has a NETLAB system it is free for students yes
- Yes, NETLAB+ is free for students in those regions who offer it

Can they save their work locally?
- They have the ability to save to the cloud; I believe they are using OneDrive
- Students can save to any of their cloud drive resources through NETLAB

Can you discuss the reset cycle further? What is that?
- The NETLAB+ environment automatically resets 10 minutes BEFORE the scheduled reservation time so you have to warn students about this so they don't unexpectedly run out of time
- Instructors can set the reservation window. I typically use 2-3 hours for a reservation.
- Instructors can adjust the reservation time.

How often does the system reset - at the end of 2-3 hours reservation or at the end of every hour?
- The system resets the Virtual Machine at the end of every reservation
  - at the end of the 3 hours?
  - if that is how long the reservation is for then yes. But if the reservation is ended earlier or if the reservation is for less (or more time) it will do it then
- There may be a 30-40 minute limit between reservations if set by your system admin, but the VM is reset at the end of the reservation (part of the 10 minute cleanup process)

Did students use it during video class time?
- While you can use the NETLAB system during video class time, NETLAB was designed around individual labs scheduled on demand as opposed to the video class time. There is also an "Instructor led lab" option if you want to have all your students watch you walk through a lab on the same machine.
- There is an option for instructor led reservation, I have not use it. For my students. I chose an asynchronous delivery method but was available in real time via zoom for students during preCOVID-19 class times and additional student hours to allow for questions, tutoring, and review.

What is Fusion is for?
- CAD Software, AutoCAD

How much warning do students get prior to the 10 minute reset?
- There is a timer in the top right during the session, it goes red when it gets close to ending.

Is there a comprehensive list somewhere of all the software programs that can be used with NetLab+?
- There is not a comprehensive list of software that is compatible, its essentially any software that can be run on a VM

When a student is in the reservation can they download form websites, upload to them? access files on their system? save to their system?
- I do URL filtering to block some sites, and block malicious activity
- Students can download files from the internet and upload work in progress or completed work. They can access their eTextbooks and the LMS
- Students cannot save directly from the Netlabs to their personal computers. They have to use Cloud storage as an intermediary. For my students, they have been using their files in Canvas.
- They can also submit their files to their eBook from the Pod for autograding.

Since it sounds like they need to work fully "in the pod" when using the lab, can they sign in to the Office application so as to sync programs such as Word to their files in OneDrive for easy opening/saving rather than manual uploads/downloads?
- It is doable, but they would have to resign in and sync every time the use the pod; not sure if Microsoft has a limit to how many computers you can have sync either

Can we find a demonstration on how to run instructor-led lab? Is it similar to video conferencing like Zoom here?
- If you want to view a basic introduction video to how the North/Far North Regional NetLab works, you can view it at https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jvqDAFeT_nWGKL4oacXG2gR2KpFP5a2V. Start the video at 25:54 if you just want the view the NetLab details.

Are there any security and privacy issues that have been bridged by NetLab for state wide adoption. Do they over a cloud VPN?
- Not sure specifically what security issues you're addressing, but the site uses an HTTPS prefix