

# A Teacher's Guide to Web-based A+LS™

## for V3.5 A+nyWhere Learning System® Servers

### An Overview of Web-based A+LS

*Web-based A+LS* for A+LS® allows you to deliver all A+nyWhere Learning System playback modes to your students through a web-based menu. It offers numerous benefits, including:

- The Java™-based V3.5 and browser-based V4 interfaces are both available. This enables you to choose your preferred management system, while still selecting the optimal student interface for your class. For example, you could set up your students to use *Learning Letter Sounds™* in the elementary interface (available in Adobe® Flash® Playback and Webstart Playback modes), while you use the browser-based management system (available in Adobe Flash and Browser Playback).
- You'll no longer have to manually install clients on each workstation. *Web-based A+LS* will do that automatically from within the browser the first time a student selects the Webstart client. It will even setup a shortcut for you. Each successive time the Webstart client is loaded, it will be updated automatically. By default, it uses port 80 (customizable during installation).
- Students and other users can access from home, libraries, community centers, etc., through the same port as standard browsers, with no special configuration or security issues, except for the typical firewall settings allowing outside access to internal servers.



The *Web-based A+LS* main menu.

### Workstation Requirements

Most workstations running Windows with Internet Explorer and OS X with Safari support at least some *Web-based A+LS* delivery modes. But there are specific version requirements for both operating systems and their browsers.

For the most current hardware and software specifications, please check:

[www.amered.com/awl\\_requirements\\_wba.php](http://www.amered.com/awl_requirements_wba.php)

Adobe Flash is required for the Flash-based playback mode and is recommended for all playback modes (Flash-based activities are included in many A+LS lessons), as is Adobe® Acrobat®. Both can be downloaded from the *Web-based A+LS* main menu. Java 1.6 is required for Webstart playback, which has not been released for OS X 10.4. Java may also be required for various applets used throughout the curriculum regardless of playback mode, such as those applets in use with NLVM (National Library of Virtual Manipulatives) activities.

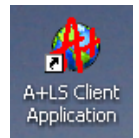
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Aspire.  
Act.  
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## Launching the Web-based A+LS Main Menu

The student workstation must have a port (default port 80) open to the *A+LS* server to function properly. All three *Web-based A+LS* playback modes (Adobe Flash, Browser, and the Java-based Webstart) require the same port.

1. Open one of the *Web-based A+LS* authorized browsers on the workstation.
2. In the address box, input the IP address or resolvable name of your *A+LS* server (your technical support group should provide this), then press **[Enter]**.
  - If you are unable to access your *A+LS* server, it may be a firewall issue. Please contact your technical support group.
  - After a few moments, the *Web-based A+LS* main menu opens (as shown on page 1).
3. If your students will be using a browser-based playback mode, we recommend creating a bookmark and placing it in a convenient location for your students, since they will need the *A+LS* server address/name every time they want to access their *A+LS* lessons.
4. If your students will be using the Java-based Webstart interface, an “*A+LS* Client Application” shortcut can be placed on their desktop.
  - Windows automatically places the Webstart link on the desktop (see figure at right).
  - OS X users will be prompted to create the link. Accepting the default will place the alias on the desktop (select *Yes*, then *Save*).
  - Each time Webstart is launched, you may be asked twice to accept the *support@amered.com* Java certificate. To accept the certificate permanently and allow files to always be copied to the workstation (Windows and OS X):
    1. Select the **Show Certificate** button.
    2. Enable the “*Always trust support@amered.com*” checkbox (placing a checkmark in it).
    3. Click the **Trust** button.
    4. You’ll have to repeat steps 1 through 3 once again to allow the Webstart program to be launched.



You’ll no longer be prompted for AEC Java certificates on that workstation.

With the *Web-based A+LS* main menu open, proceed to *The Web-based A+LS Main Menu*.

## The Web-based A+LS Main Menu

The *Web-based A+LS* main menu provides access to the three *A+LS* playback modes, as well as access to downloadable plug-ins and software required by the various user interfaces. Additionally, users can check their browser settings, get version information, and browse help.

A screenshot of the A+LS Main Menu interface. At the top, it says "Welcome to the A+nyWhere Learning System®!". Below this is a large blue banner with the "A+nyWhere Learning System" logo in red and white. Underneath the banner are three buttons: "Adobe Flash Playback", "Browser Playback", and "A+LS™ Client (Webstart)". Below these buttons are several links: "Download Adobe® Flash®", "Download Java™", "Download Adobe® Acrobat®", "Check Browser Settings", "Version Information", and "Help". At the bottom, there is a grey bar with the website address "www.amered.com" and a copyright notice: "Copyright © 2008. A+, A+nyWhere Learning System, A+LS, and either trademarks or registered trademarks of The American Education Corporation. All rights reserved." In the bottom right corner, it says "Powered by A+" with a red "A+" logo.

## The Three Web-based A+LS Playback Modes

Adobe Flash Playback – Based on the V3.5 student and V4 management interfaces, with all screens formatted and delivered to your browser via Adobe Flash. Note that this playback mode requires more resources from the workstation than does Browser Playback (to process the Adobe Flash data stream).

Browser Playback – The V4 user interfaces, delivered in their original HTML format. This playback mode includes full support for all embedded *A+LS* media, including Adobe Flash, Adobe Acrobat, and Java-based curriculum activities.

*A+LS* Client (Webstart) – The familiar V3.5 Java-based student and teacher interfaces, but using an Internet delivery model. The client software will automatically install the first time its button is selected and will automatically update thereafter. It also places a shortcut on Windows desktops (see figure at right) and prompts for one under OS X. This playback mode offers full management capabilities, including rights management and global configuration options.



Webstart Playback under OS X 10.5 requires your default Java be set to Java 1.6 (see *Configuring Java for OS X Workstations*, page 5). Due to Apple's lack of support for Java 1.6 (aka "Java SE 6") under OS X 10.4 and for all PowerPC equipped computers, Webstart is not available for those platforms.

## Downloadable Plug-ins and Software

To ensure that you are always getting the latest versions of Java and the browser plug-ins required by the various *Web-based A+LS* playback modes, the main menu links you directly to the master download sites for each.

Download Adobe Flash – Links you to Adobe's download page for Flash, at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

Download Java – A link to Sun's download page for Java, at [www.java.com](http://www.java.com).

Download Adobe Acrobat – Links to Adobe's download page for Acrobat, at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

## Browser and Version Information and Help

Check Browser Settings – This command is used to check that your web browser has all of the parts and settings needed to run the *A+LS* user interface and student activities. It checks that cookies are enabled and that caching is disabled. After the tests, you are also offered the opportunity to *Remove Server Side Cookie* and *Remove Invalid Session*. These are useful if a student abruptly loses his/her connection mid lesson and has a problem relogging into the *A+LS* server.

Version Information – Selecting this option opens a dialog box with the *Web-based A+LS* version number. It is essential information if you plan to call AEC customer support.

Help - Explains the primary and secondary options available on the *Web-based A+LS* main menu.

## Troubleshooting

### Configuring Internet Explorer 8 and 9 for Browser and Flash Playback

In order for the *Web-based A+LS* Browser and Flash Playback modes to run properly on your computer, your Internet browser must be configured appropriately.

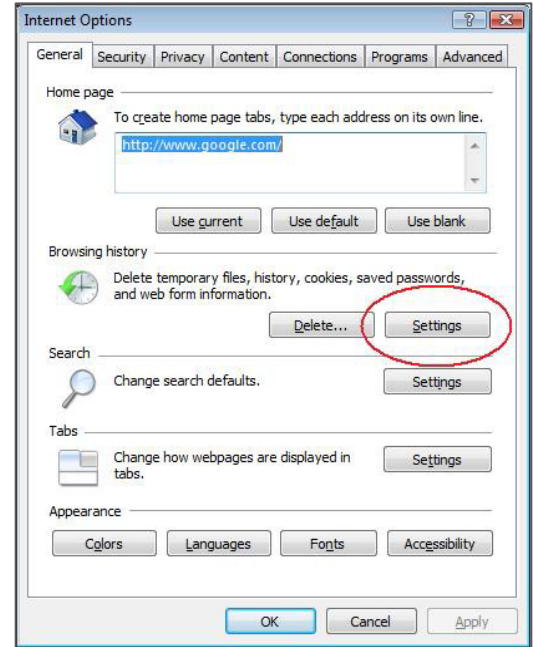
Many schools limit the network rights of students and teachers, so changing Internet browser settings is not possible, or they use software that prevents changes from being made permanently. We highly recommend that a school's network administrator or IT staff make the following adjustments permanent so that these settings will always be in effect whenever a teacher, student, or administrator logs on to the workstation.

The following instructions are for Internet Explorer 8 and 9, but you can make similar changes to the other supported browsers.

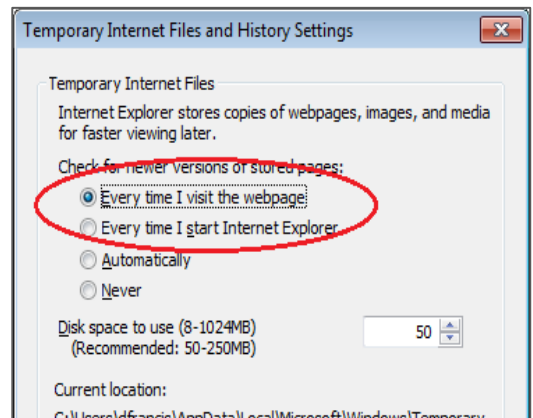
## Caching and Security Settings

Internet Explorer must be set not to cache (save) *A+LS* web pages on the workstation. Also, the Internet Explorer privacy setting must be set to medium privacy, and the security settings must allow Javascript.

1. Launch Internet Explorer.
2. From the menu bar, select **Tools**, then **Internet Options**.
  - If the menu bar doesn't appear, press the [Alt] key and the menu should appear.
3. In the *Internet Options* window, select the **General** tab.
4. Under the *General* tab, under *Browsing history*, click the **Settings** button (see figure at right).



5. In the *Temporary Internet File* dialog that appears, make sure that *Check for newer versions of stored pages* is set to **Every time I visit the webpage** (see the figure at right).
6. Click **OK** to save your settings.
  - The default security settings in Internet Explorer (set to *Medium-High* by default) should allow *A+LS* to operate error-free, with no changes required.
7. In the *Internet Options* window, select the **Privacy** tab, then in the *Settings* area, see if the slider is set to **Medium-High**.

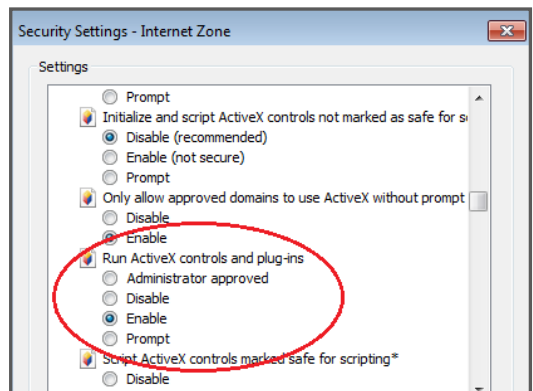


If it is set to *Medium-High*, you are done. But if you require higher security settings than the default, proceed to the next section.

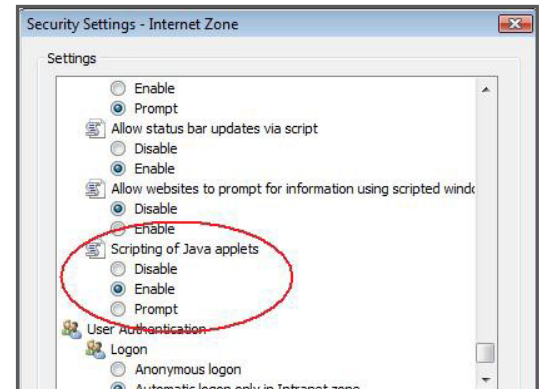
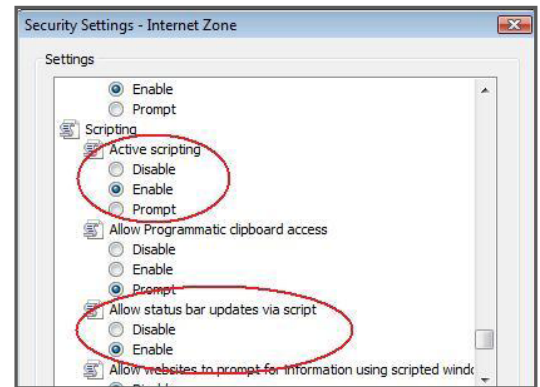
## Enabling Active X

Windows Media Player® Active X controls need to be enabled in Internet Explorer, otherwise a Javascript error may appear whenever the *A+LS* software attempts to play back a sound file during a lesson. These instructions are for Internet Explorer 8 and 9, but are similar for IE version 7.

1. Click on the **Security** tab, then click the button labeled **Custom Level**.
2. Scroll down until you see the section heading titled *Active X Controls and Plug-ins*.
3. Scroll down a bit further until you find the setting labeled *Run ActiveX Controls and plug-ins* and make sure it is set to **Enable** (see figure at right).



4. Scroll down until you find the section heading labeled *Scripting* (it's almost all the way at the bottom).
5. Find the setting labeled *Active scripting* and set it to **Enable** (see figure at right).
6. Below that, find the setting labeled *Allow status bar updates via script* and set it to **Enable** (see figure at right).
  - Don't click *OK* quite yet, there is one more setting to change.
7. Scroll down slightly until you see the setting labeled *Scripting of Java applets* and set it to **Enable** (see figure at right).
8. Click **OK** when finished.



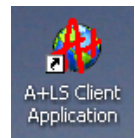
### The Adobe Flash Plug-in

Some lessons in *A+LS* use the Flash plug-in to deliver instructional content to the user. Adobe Flash 10.2 or greater is required in order to view this content. To see if the Flash plug-in is currently installed on the computer's web browser, and install it if needed, go to:

<http://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player.html>

### Configuring Java for OS X Workstations

If you are unable to launch the *A+LS Client Application* (see figure at right), then you may need to change your Java settings, making Java 1.6 your default Java. If your lessons seem to have odd fonts, you may also have a Java issue. Using older versions of Java can prevent the correct AEC fonts from loading (especially notable in some Math lessons).



Please note that Apple® has not released Java 1.6 for OS X 10.4 or for PowerPC equipped computers, preventing Webstart from working properly. The following instructions only pertain to OS X 10.5 with Intel processors.

1. Open **System Preferences**, click on **Software Update**, then **Check Now**, and confirm you have downloaded all Java updates.
2. Using *Finder*, navigate to **Applications**, then **Utilities**, and double click on **Java Preferences**.
  - *Java Preferences* opens, with the *General* tab selected. At the bottom of the dialog box, you'll find *Java Application* settings. In that section, you'll find a list of Java versions. Java 1.6 (aka "Java SE 6 (64-bit)") must be listed first for the Webstart playback to function properly.
3. If *Java SE 6 (64-bit)* is listed, but isn't at the top of the list, click on and drag it to the top of the list (making it the default Java version for launching applications). Confirm it is enabled (with checkmark).
4. Quit *Java Preferences*.

If the *A+LS Client Application* gets deleted, ceases functioning, or you need to create a new one that points to a different server, you can easily replace it.

1. Delete the *A+LS Client Application* (see figure at above) from your desktop, if it still resides there.
2. Using *Finder*, navigate to **Applications**, then **Utilities**, and double click on **Java Preferences**.
3. With *Java Preferences* open, click on the **Advanced** tab, and change *Shortcut Creation* to **Prompt user**.
4. Leaving *Java Preferences* open, launch *Safari*, load the *Web-based A+LS* main menu, select **A+LS Client (Webstart)**, then proceed through the normal prompts allowing it to create a new desktop shortcut.
5. If the *A+LS Client Application* appears on your desktop, skip to step 9.

6. If the *A+LS Client Application* doesn't appear, return to *Java Preferences*, click on the **Network** tab, and then on the **View Cached Files** button (lower right corner).
7. **Right click** on *A+LS Client Application*, from the pop-up menu, select **Install Shortcuts** (which creates the desktop shortcut).
8. Click the **Close** button, and finally select the **Advanced** tab.
9. With a new *A+LS Client Application* appearing on your desktop, return to *Java Preferences* and change *Shortcut Creation* back to **Prompt user if hinted**.
10. Quit *Java Preferences*.

### Clearing Your Browser Caches to Clear Problems

Neither the Adobe Flash nor Browser Playback modes install any "client" files. Your browser simply caches the files it anticipates you might need again, just as it does for any web site. If a corrupted file gets cached, it can prevent *A+LS* from running. So if you clear the cache, you'll force your browser to get a new copy of the file from the *Web-based A+LS* server.

Follow your browser's normal procedure for clearing temporary files:

Internet Explorer: **Tools** on menu bar / **Internet Options** / **General** tab / Browsing History: **Delete** button / **Delete** button / **OK**

Safari: **Safari** on menu bar / **Empty Cache** / **Empty** button

It is highly recommended that you also clear your Java cache at this time (see the next two sections).

### Clearing Your Java Cache in Windows

Various Java client scripts are cached on the workstation to improve performance. If a corrupted script gets cached, it can prevent *A+LS* from running. So if you clear the cache, you'll force Java to get a new copy from the *Web-based A+LS* server. To purge those files under Windows 2000 thru Vista (32 bit):

1. Make sure that the Webstart client is NOT running, then open the *Windows Control Panel*.
2. Double click on **Java** to open the *Java Control Panel*.
3. Under *Temporary Internet Files*, select **View**.
4. **Right click** on *A+LS Client Application*, then select **Delete**. Repeat until there are no more *A+LS Client Applications* listed.
5. Select **Close**, then **OK**, and you can also close the *Control Panel*.

### Clearing Your Java Cache in OS X

Various Java client scripts are cached on the workstation to improve performance. If a corrupted script gets cached, it can prevent *A+LS* from running. So if you clear the cache, you'll force Java to get a new copy from the *Web-based A+LS* server.

1. Make sure that the Webstart client is NOT running, then open *Finder*.
2. Navigate to **Applications** / **Utilities** / **Java Preferences**, then select the **Network** tab.
3. Click on the **View Cached Files** button (lower right corner).
  - The *A+LS Client Application* should be listed with "The American Educa..." as the vendor.
4. **Right click** on *A+LS Client Application*, then from the pop-up menu, select **Delete**. Repeat until there are no more *A+LS Client Applications* listed.
5. Click on **Close**, then quit *Java Preferences*.

## Customer Support

- Extended hours:  
8 A.M. to midnight, Eastern Time, 7 days a week
- Our knowledge base is available at:  
[support.onlineschoolsolutions.com](http://support.onlineschoolsolutions.com)  
Please select the “AEC (A+)” option in the left panel.
- Phone support:  
855-K12-TIPS (855-512-8477)

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