



Recommended Technology Implementation

READ 180® Core Technology Overview

READ 180 is a suite of four software applications: 1) the READ 180 student application, 2) Scholastic Reading Inventory assessment software, 3) Scholastic Reading Counts!™ reading motivation software, and 4) Scholastic Management Suite™. Each of these four applications connects with a large database that contains student performance data.

READ 180 is designed to run on classroom computer networks with between five to eight workstations linked to a server. The READ 180 student application, Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), and Scholastic Reading Counts! (SRC) are loaded and run on the individual student workstations. Please note that the READ 180 student application includes numerous streaming media video and audio segments that run from CDs at the workstations. The Scholastic Management Suite is installed on a computer that the teacher uses in the classroom. This computer may also be acting as the server, however it is not a requirement.

The READ 180 software offers individualized instruction and practice that meets and challenges students at their unique ability levels. This is one of the key reasons for the program’s success in bringing the tremendous learning gains that it does. For the highly individualized, adaptive instruction to take place, more than 250 data points per student are tracked in real time. Tracking this level of data per student results in rigorous network and server requirements. This document outlines Scholastic’s recommendations for best technology implementation practices. For best performance, we suggest you follow the “recommended” system requirements listed below.

Server System Requirements v1.6	
	Recommended Specification
Processor Type & Speed	
Windows	Pentium III-class processor operating at 800MHz or higher
Macintosh	G4 600MHz or higher

Recommended Specification	
Memory (RAM)	
Windows	512MB or higher
Macintosh	512MB RAM or higher
Hard Disk Space	
Windows	5 GB reserved for <i>READ 180</i> and SRI/SRC
Macintosh	5 GB of HD space reserved for <i>READ 180</i> and SRI/SRC
<i>Note:</i> This is a cumulative amount, based on 60 users making final recordings for a full school year using <i>READ 180</i> . Expect an initial hard disk requirement of 200 – 300MB.	
Networking	
Windows	10/100 base-T Ethernet Card
Macintosh	10/100 base-T Ethernet Card
<i>Note:</i> Scholastic recommends that <i>READ 180</i> <u>not</u> be used on a WAN (Wide Area Network).	
We understand that <i>READ 180</i> may run successfully over a WAN if it offers a minimum of 10 Mps-connectivity speed (this means that T1 WANs are <u>not</u> sufficient for <i>READ 180</i> use), but Scholastic cannot guarantee the performance or stability of the software under such conditions.	
Operating System	
Windows	Windows 2000 Server
<i>Note:</i> Some server configurations require higher processor and memory requirements. Check with Microsoft for latest recommendations.	
In addition to Windows-based Network Operating Systems (NOS), <i>READ 180</i> supports Novell Netware 4.x or higher.	
Macintosh	Mac OS X version 10.3 Server
<i>Note:</i> A Macintosh standalone (workstation) version of Mac OS X cannot be used as a server, even if file-sharing is enabled.	

Student/Teacher Workstation (WS) System Requirements v1.6

Recommended Specification	
Processor Type & Speed	
Windows	Pentium III-class processor operating at 800MHz or higher
Macintosh	G3* 600 or G4 450 MHz or higher *All iMacs & iBooks contain G3 or G4 processors.

Memory (RAM)		
	Windows	128MB or higher
	Macintosh	128MB or higher
Hard Disk Space		
	Windows	400 MB free — Student WS 400 MB free — Teacher WS
	Macintosh	400 MB free — Student WS 400 MB free — Teacher WS
Networking		
	Windows	10/100 base-T Ethernet Card
	Macintosh	10/100 base-T Ethernet Card
		<i>Note:</i> Network Settings: unrestricted access to folders that Scholastic Software creates on both the server and workstations is required.
Operating System (OS)		
	Windows	Windows XP Home or Professional (<i>READ 180</i> installer will add the latest version of QuickTime to your OS.)
	Macintosh	Mac OS X 10.2 (A <i>READ 180</i> installer will add the latest version of QuickTime for your OS.)
Peripherals		
	Windows	8x CD-ROM drive, Headphones, Microphone, 800x600 16-Bit Color Monitor, Color Inkjet printer for the Teacher Workstation
	Macintosh	8x CD-ROM drive, Headphones, Microphone, 800x600 16-Bit Color Monitor, Color Inkjet printer for the Teacher Workstation
Additional Peripherals		One cassette player or walkman with headphones for each student for use during the Independent Reading Rotation

Recommendations for Successful Implementation

Recommended Set Up

READ 180 is designed to run on a classroom computer network with between five to eight workstations linked to a server. For optimal performance, we recommend that you follow this model.

Concurrent Users

The concurrent user limit for *READ 180* varies from school to school depending on specific configurations. Due to the intensity of data that is tracked in real time for each student, *READ 180* performs optimally when each *READ 180* classroom is linked to its own database. If you need to support multiple classrooms at your site, please create multiple databases on the same server or consider having multiple servers with individual databases. Contact our Technical Support team at 1-800-927-0189 for more information.

If *READ 180* network performance is slow, please consider the following:

- What other programs are using the network at the same time (e.g., are other students accessing the Internet over the same network segment used by the *READ 180* class?).
- What kind of server is being used. Age, type, and configuration of server make a large difference (e.g., a Pentium IV Window 2000 server with lots of memory and a large, fast disk drive can support more concurrent users than a Pentium II Windows 98 server).
- The kind of network software that is deployed (e.g., Novell vs. AppleShare vs. Windows Networking).

Incompatible Hardware

PC manufacturers often change peripheral equipment, such as sound cards. Scholastic has no control over these changes. We've found that there are incompatibilities with the following items:

- ESS 1868/1869 Sound Cards (usually found in Compaq computers)
- TBS Montego Sound Cards
- Ensoniq ES 1370 Sound Cards
- Power Macintosh 5402 (will operate as *READ 180* Student Workstations, but are not compatible as Teacher Workstations)

This list may be incomplete. If you are experiencing an incompatibility issue with any of your equipment, please call our Technical Support team at 1-800-927-0189 (toll-free).

Other Recommendations

- **Servers** — Try to implement *READ 180* on a lightly utilized or dedicated server. There is a fairly large and steady amount of communication happening between each of the 5+ workstations and the server. Hosting *READ 180* on email servers or heavily utilized file servers is not recommended.
- **User Log-ins** — All *READ 180* students must log on to *READ 180* with a unique username and password. Additionally, on many computer networks, users must also log on to the network in order to access the *READ 180* — or any other — application. If this is the case with your network, you may provide all students with the same network username and password, or each user may have a unique network username and password. Your local network administrator usually determines which option you select. Scholastic recommends that you create a shared log-in. This is the simplest way to eliminate potential permissions issues.

- **More on User Log-ins** — Each network log-in must provide read-and-write capabilities to the following *READ 180* directories:
 - SCHSUITE\SCHLASTC\SMS_DATA — *on the server*
 - \PROGRAM FILES\SCHOLASTIC — *on the workstation*
- **Windows 95** — We recommend against installing and running *READ 180* on computers running the Windows 95 operating system, because Microsoft no longer supports this release of the operating system.
- **Apple OSX 10.0 and 10.1** — We recommend that you not run *READ 180* in Apple OSX 10.0 and 10.1 because of known technical issues with these two releases (see Apple Tech Notes at www.apple.com).
- **Wireless** — Due to *READ 180*'s large amount of throughput, wireless Access Points should reside within the *READ 180* classroom. We require a minimum sustained bandwidth of 10Mps for all wireless networks.
- **WAN** — *READ 180* network operation requires a minimum of 10Mps bandwidth to the *READ 180* workstations. Few WANs can support this bandwidth requirement. For example, T1 lines have a maximum bandwidth of 1.5 Mps and are inadequate for *READ 180* operation. As a general rule, try to keep the server as close to the workstations as possible, and use a conduit that can provide the necessary throughput.
- **Security Software** — If you are using security software programs, you may have to make some adjustments in order for *READ 180* to function properly. Specifically, students must have the ability to read/write/delete files within the following two directories:
 - \SCHLASTC\SMS_DATA — on the server
 - \PROGRAM FILES\SCHOLASTIC — on the workstation
- **Maintenance** — Scholastic provides a maintenance utility to perform maintenance and data integrity checks on the database. It is recommended that you run this utility on a weekly basis.

***READ 180* Technical Support**

Technical Support Services

Scholastic offers technical support services to meet your needs. Call *READ 180* Customer Support at 1-877-234-READ (7323) from 7:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. EST for assistance.

- **Standard Support Plan** — the Standard Support Plan is an annual technical support plan that entitles access to phone, email, and 24-hour Web support, plus onsite support, when required, by a Scholastic system engineer. This plan does not include installation.
- **24-Hour Online Support** — Web-based information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.read180.com. This service is free to everyone. You will find product information, technical resources, discussions, software downloads, frequently asked questions, and much more.

On-screen Help

For on-screen help while using the *READ 180* Topic CDs, click the Help button on any screen to access the help feature. Students will hear context-specific audio help from Ty, the *READ 180* Host. To see the text on screen for the audio help instructions, activate Captioning under Settings for *READ180*.

***READ 180* Software Manual**

The *READ 180* Software Manual included with the program provides instructions for using the software effectively. Five sections in the manual include:

- **Getting started** lists the equipment you need and explains how to install and set up the program.
- **Scholastic Management Suite** shows teachers how to set up students, classes, and groups, and how to customize the student applications.
- ***READ 180*** gives a detailed description of the activities, features, and zones in the software.
- **Scholastic Reading Counts!** describes the activities and features available in the book-quiz program.
- **Scholastic Reading Inventory** shows teachers how to evaluate students' reading levels as measured by the Lexile[®] system.