Amplify.
mCLASS App Best Practices (Windows 7)
Table of Contents

1. The mCLASS App

2. Supported Windows 7 Devices

3. Setting Up Your Windows Device
   • Enable High Performance Power Plan
   • Adjust Visual Effects for Best Performance
   • Disable Windows Aero Functionality
   • Use Netbook Mode to Boost Performance
   • Create the mCLASS App Shortcut
   • Optimize the Touch Screen
Table of Contents

4. Best Practices
   • Optimizing Mobile Device Performance
   • Syncing the mCLASS App
   • Sharing Devices
   • Browser Zoom Level
The mCLASS® App

Amplify assessments are conducted using the mCLASS® app on a supported mobile device.

• The mCLASS app is installed by creating a shortcut from the Google Chrome™ browser on your device’s desktop.

• Once you install the mCLASS app, use it to assess students and sync student data. You don’t need to use Chrome again.

• You log in to the mCLASS app with your Amplify user name and password.

• The first time you log in, you need to be connected to the Internet. After you log in, you don’t need an Internet connection to assess, though you must provide your password if your device is idle for more than 60 minutes.

• You do need an Internet connection to log out or to sync assessment data.
Supported Windows 7 Devices

• Information about supported Windows 7 devices is shown on the Device Compatibility page of the Amplify website.

• If you have a Windows 8 device, please refer to the mCLASS App Best Practices guide for Windows 8.
Setting Up Your Windows Device

- Enable the high performance power plan.
- Adjust visual effects for best performance.
- Disable Windows Aero functionality.
- Assess in tablet mode unless you experience performance issues.
- Set Chrome as your default browser.
- Add the mCLASS app shortcut to your desktop.
- Disable 2D hardware acceleration in Chrome.
Enable High Performance Power Plan

1. From the Start menu, tap **Control Panel**.
2. Tap **Power Options**.
3. Tap the **High performance** setting.
Adjust Visual Effects for Best Performance
(1 of 2)

If Windows 7 runs slowly, you can improve performance by disabling some of its visual effects.

1. Tap **Start**, then tap **Control Panel**.
2. Tap **Performance Information and Tools**.
3. Tap **Adjust visual effects**. You may need to enter an administrator password or confirm the change to continue.

4. Tap the **Visual Effects** tab, tap **Adjust for best performance**, and then tap **OK**.
Disable Windows Aero Functionality

1. Set your screen to **netbook mode** and right-click anywhere on the Desktop.
2. Select **Personalize** from the menu that displays.
3. Scroll to the Basic and High Contrast Themes and click the **Windows Classic** theme.
Use Netbook Mode to Boost Performance

- Many tablet computers have two modes: Netbook and Tablet.
- ASUS® T91 and T101MT, and Dell Inspiron Duo devices limit CPU speed in Tablet mode, which increases lag time during assessment. Minimize this lag by assessing in Netbook mode.
- When performance isn’t a concern, consider using Tablet mode so you can maintain eye contact with students while assessing.
Create the mCLASS App Shortcut
(1 of 4)

Add the mCLASS app shortcut to your device's desktop to start assessments without having to open Chrome. This removes the address bar, giving you more room to view assessment screens.

1. Open Chrome.
2. Go to mclasshome.com/assessment.
3. Log in with your Amplify user name and password. If prompted, select a school or classes. Wait for the Application Selection screen to load.
Create the mCLASS App Shortcut (2 of 4)

4. Tap 

5. Tap More Tools.

6. Tap Add to desktop....

7. Select Open as window.

8. Tap Add.
Create the mCLASS App Shortcut
(3 of 4)

9. Change your screen to netbook mode. Right-click the newly created mCLASS desktop icon.

10. Click Properties.

11. Click the Shortcut tab and place your cursor at the end of the Target field.
Create the mCLASS App Shortcut
(4 of 4)

12. Add the following text to the end of the Target field, including the space at the beginning:

   " --disable-accelerated-2d-canvas"

   Do not include the quotation marks.

13. Click OK.

14. Return to tablet mode.

Double-tap the mCLASS shortcut to access your assessments. After you log in, you do not need an Internet connection to assess, though you must provide your password if your device is idle for more than 60 minutes.
Optimize the Touch Screen
(1 of 4)

Note: Only adjust these settings if you use Windows 7 Home Premium Edition or above.

1. From the Start menu, tap **Control Panel**.
2. Tap **Pen and Touch**.
3. Tap the **Pen Options** tab.
4. Select **Press and hold**.
5. Tap **Settings**.
6. Select **Enable press and hold for right-clicking**.

7. In the Speed area, place the marker at the third or fourth level from the left.

8. In the Duration area, place the marker at the first level from the left (the lowest level on the scale).

9. Tap **OK**.

10. Tap the **Flicks** tab.

11. Clear the **Use flicks to perform common actions quickly and easily** box.
Optimize the Touch Screen
(3 of 4)

12. Tap the **Touch** tab.

13. Select the **Use your finger as an input device** and **Enable multi-touch gestures and inking** boxes.

14. Select **Press and hold**.

15. Tap **Settings**.

16. Select the **Enable press and hold for right-clicking** box.

17. In the Right-click mode activation area, place the marker at the third or fourth level from the left.

18. In the Press and hold duration area, place the marker at the first level from the left (the lowest level on the scale).

19. Tap **OK**.
Optimize the Touch Screen
(4 of 4)

20. Tap the **Panning** tab.

21. Clear the **Turn on Single Finger Panning** box.

22. Tap **OK** to finish.
Best Practices

- **Optimize** mobile device performance.
- **Sync** frequently.
- Set the **browser zoom level** to 100 percent.
- Log out when you finish assessing if you **share your device** with other staff members.
Optimizing Mobile Device Performance

For best performance:

• Keep your device plugged in to the power outlet.
• Close all other applications when assessing students.
• Restart your device at least once a week.
• Assess students using netbook mode.
• If your device is still sluggish after you follow the recommendations in this guide, ask your local system administrator to fine-tune it.

You only need Internet access to log in, log out, and sync assessment data. Once you’re logged in, you do not need to connect to the Internet to assess students or unlock the mCLASS app after a period of inactivity.
Syncing the mCLASS App

The mCLASS app stores completed assessments on your device until you sync. If you delete the mCLASS app Home screen icon after assessing, unsynced student assessment data is permanently lost. Sync often to help prevent accidental data loss.

Your institution may use settings that automatically clear your device’s caches when you close it. Before assessing, ask your network administrator to disable your device’s automatic cache- and cookie-clearing settings and confirm it does not automatically delete your locally saved data.

Sync your device whenever you have Internet access. You shouldn’t wait until you’ve finished assessing all your students.

1. Make sure your device is connected to the Internet.
2. Open your Assessment List or Class List.
3. Tap the Sync button in the lower-left corner of the screen to sync your device.
4. If prompted, enter your Amplify user name and password and tap Sync. Tap Cancel to return to the previous screen without syncing.
5. When sync completes, tap OK to continue. The time and date of your most recent successful sync display to the right of the Sync button.
6. Log on to the Amplify home page to verify the assessment data has synced successfully.
Browser Zoom Level

- The browser is less responsive and assessments appear distorted when the zoom level is not set to 100%.
- Restore the default zoom level by tapping and changing the Zoom to 100% or clicking in the browser window and pressing Ctrl+0 on the keyboard.

Excessive Zoom

Can you imagine seeing one thousand, or one million, or one billion bugs all in one place? It's hard for most people to describe what many bugs in one place would look like! Large numbers such as one million or one billion can be difficult to imagine. The fascinating insects in this book will help you describe numbers up to one billion!

Some bugs spend most of their time alone or in small groups. Others live together in very large groups. This giant-sized beetle likes to be alone. It lives for only a few weeks and it never eats! Since it does not need to move around to find food, it is easy for this bug to stay out of sight.

Insufficient Zoom
Sharing Devices

Ideally, your institution has one mobile device for each assessor. We realize this might not always be possible. If you do share devices, please take these extra steps to ensure your assessment data is stored safely and your colleagues can log on to the mCLASS app to assess.

1. When you finish assessing, **sync the mCLASS app**.

2. Go to the Application Selection Screen by tapping **mCLASS**.

3. Tap **Log Out**.