

Pharos SignUp



The Best Way to Resolve Problems Is to Avoid Them

With so much course work assigned and completed on-screen and online, Public Access Computers (PACs) are valuable commodities in colleges and universities. Students who do not own personal computers—and even many who do—use school resources frequently, making it difficult to guarantee everyone fair access to PACs. The challenge is compounded for professors looking to obtain blocks of PACs for their classes.

With so many students and professors vying for access to limited computers, higher education libraries and computer labs must often contend with arguments, frustrated students, and lost time. These challenges are magnified during midterms and finals “crunch times.”

Pharos Systems Has the Answer

SignUp from Pharos Systems is an automated computer reservation and management software solution that circumvents typical reservation challenges by providing fair, equitable access to PACs for everyone, including professors. With SignUp, students and/or professors reserve a PAC (or a block of PACs) in advance, so only the students with reservations may log on.

Pharos SignUp — Easy and Powerful

The solution begins at conveniently located SignUp stations, where students swipe their campus cards or enter their ID numbers at the keyboard to initiate the fast, intuitive, three-step reservation process. Professors have access to a web-based Nerve Center, which enables block reservations.

When the reserved time begins, students swipe their cards/enter their ID numbers at the PAC to ensure that only they are able to access the computer. When the reserved time is about to expire, SignUp first notifies, and then gracefully logs the student off. So without any arguments or claims of unfair treatment, the PAC is available for the next reservation. If students need more time, they can configure SignUp to extend their time if no one else is waiting for the PAC.

Automated access to blocks of public access computers ensures that professors can manage the resources their students need to complete their classwork, without making other students feel that they were treated unfairly. Professors no longer have to “police” the PACs they’ve reserved and can focus on what’s most important: educating students.



Pharos Systems



Features and Benefits

- **Control centrally, customize locally** – SignUp lets you set up controls that are applied to the entire library/lab system. At the same time, you can allow individual labs to customize system settings to meet unique needs. If desired, you can even customize settings for each individual computer.
- **Maintain simple operational control** – the SignUp “Nerve Center” gives you a central point of complete day-to-day operational control. You are able to make and modify reservations at any time, enforce compliance with library/lab rules, extend time limits, view queues, and disable PCs if necessary.
- **Versatility is key** – three SignUp reservation modes - immediate, scheduled, and queued, which can be used together - enable each individual lab to configure the system to best meet its needs.
- **Standby reservations** – allows users who are flexible about the amount of time they have on a computer the possibility of getting a PAC quicker.
- **Block reservations** – allows staff members to reserve a cluster of computers for group activity, and to make this a recurring reservation.
- **Strict enforcement** – users are first notified, then automatically logged off PACs at the end of their reservation. Administrators can end user sessions at any time.
- **Setting flexibility** – allows administrators to customize settings such as hours of operation, public holidays, reservation duration, reservation extension rules, and usage limitations.
- **Integration gateways** – easily connect to your student database and other external data sources such as authentication services, library automation systems, and other back-office systems.
- **Auto-extension usage time** – permits students indefinite time after their reserved time expires until someone else needs the equipment.
- **End user controls** – enables users to retain desktop settings across PACs.
- **Resource optimization** – improves utilization measurement, which helps you deploy your computer resources more effectively.
- **Reservation interface** – a graphical interface allows users to see when machines are available so they may choose to wait in line for the earliest PC or make a reservation for later.

About Pharos Systems International (www.pharos.com)

Making every print an intelligent decision™ is the mission of Pharos Systems International. Pharos provides powerful print management and optimization solutions to corporations, educational institutions, and libraries across the globe. Pharos software and services save customers money, reduce waste, and make it easy to secure devices and documents. The company was founded in 1992 in Auckland, New Zealand, where it maintains an R&D facility. Corporate headquarters are in Rochester, NY.



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