



# Technology Requirements and Recommendations

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Please review this document to ensure that your district and school networks are properly prepared to utilize the technology tools employed by New Tech Network schools. Any questions should be directed to [support@echo.newtechnetwork.org](mailto:support@echo.newtechnetwork.org).

## Requirements for the District Network

Please note that to successfully implement Echo and other technology tools utilized by New Tech schools, the assistance of technology staff from your school and/or district will be necessary. This assistance will include the following:

- The opening of firewall ports to various online tools used by NTN schools (all ports are outbound-only)
- The creation of MX, TXT and SRV records in internal and public DNS

As a general guideline, please make whoever manages DNS, firewalls, etc. for your district readily available for NTN IT staff to consult with and ensure the proper configurations. Contact NTN's IT department for specific information regarding DNS records, firewall ports, etc.

## General Technology Requirements

- Review your bandwidth usage to ensure that you have sufficient bandwidth to support all of your current applications in addition to the NTN Echo platform. NTN recommends that your bandwidth usage not exceed 75% of capacity during peak hours, prior to and after implementation of Echo. A general guideline is 3Mb per 100 users.
- Establish a mail domain for your staff and students that meets the following criteria:
  - The mail domain should be unique to the school (not shared with the district or another school in the district – a subdomain of the district primary domain is OK)
  - The mail domain must be the same for staff and students.
- Determine whether your school will use Google Apps mail for staff and students. If you decide not to use Google Apps mail and use district-provided mail, ensure that these mail accounts use the same unique domain as described above.

Echo's core prerequisite is Internet-enabled computers (Windows, Mac, Linux) running one of the following browsers:

- ➔ Firefox 4.x (or above)
- ➔ Internet Explorer 8.x (or above – PC only)\*
- ➔ Google Chrome 10.x (or above)
- ➔ Safari 5.x (or above)

At least one of the above browsers should be installed on machines configured with a 2GHz+ CPU and 1GB+ of RAM. PC Machines can be running either Windows (XP SP3, Vista SP2, or Windows 7) or any of several variants of Linux. Apple machines can be running OSX 10.5 (Snow Leopard) or above. Teacher computers must be equipped with a webcam and a microphone.

In addition to the requirements listed above, it will be necessary to prepare your school's machine images for maximum compatibility with Echo and other technology tools used by NTN schools. This includes network policy configurations (e.g. placing tool URLs in a 'Trusted Sites' zone and/or enabling popups and cookies) and software installations (e.g. Adobe Flash). Please contact NTN's IT department for a complete list of these configurations.

If you have any questions or concerns about the requirements detailed in this document, please contact New Tech Network's IT department via email at [support@echo.newtechnetwork.org](mailto:support@echo.newtechnetwork.org).