

# Getting Started with Web-based A+LS™ Browser Playback Mode

for the A+nywhere Learning System® V3.5

## What You Need to Start

### Your Web Browser

To access the A+nyWhere Learning System through Web-based A+LS, you must be running one of the following browsers:

- Windows® computers - Internet Explorer® (see specs)  
Available as a free download at:  
[www.microsoft.com/windows/ie](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie)  
On the third page, you'll find instructions for configuring Internet Explorer.
- Macintosh computers - Safari, fully updated.

For current workstation specifications, please visit our website:

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

## Connecting to the A+LS System

### Loading the Web Browser

Different schools make the A+LS software available in different ways. Here we'll describe a common way of getting to the program. If the way shown below doesn't work, talk with your teacher.

1. If you are at school, be sure you are logged into your network.  
OR  
If you are a remote user (telephone modem, cable modem, DSL, etc.), please connect to the Internet.
  - The software won't load properly unless it can connect to the server that houses its databases (digital filing cabinets) and that requires a good Internet connection.
2. Start your web browser.
  - The browser must be one listed under *What You Need to Start*.
3. In the **Address** box under your browser's toolbar, type the address provided by your school:

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*Hint:* If you bookmark the address, you won't have to type it next time.

4. Press the **[Enter]** key to connect to the A+LS web server.

After a few moments, the *Welcome* screen should appear.

## Choosing the Playback Mode

The *Welcome* screen offers you ways to get to your lessons, as well as links to download the web browser add-ons that may be required. Click on *Help* for a full explanation of the options.



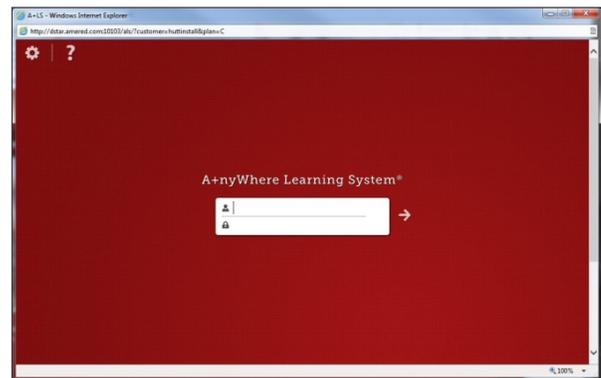
1. Select **Browser Playback**.

Please note *A+LS Client (Webstart)* uses different instructions.

## Logging On

Since your lessons are coming from a network, it is important that the computer knows who you are. The logon name and password help keep your *Progress Report* accurate and private. It is very important that you do not write down or share your password with anyone.

The first screen you'll see after the program loads is the logon screen. See the figure below.



1. Logging on is simple; just type your assigned log-on name into the top half of the white text box.
  - Your school provides logon name and password.
  - If the text doesn't appear as you type, use your mouse to click on the top half of the text box and the text cursor (little black bar) will appear, allowing you to start typing.
2. Press the **[Tab]** key to move the text cursor to the bottom half of the text box (next to the picture of the *lock*).
3. Type your password.

- Don't worry. Instead of text, the computer only shows ●●●●● to keep your password a secret. You will see one ● for each letter in your password.

4. Either: Press the **[Enter]** key.  
OR

Click on the **arrow** to the right of the white text box.

- If there is a problem, carefully type your logon name and password again.

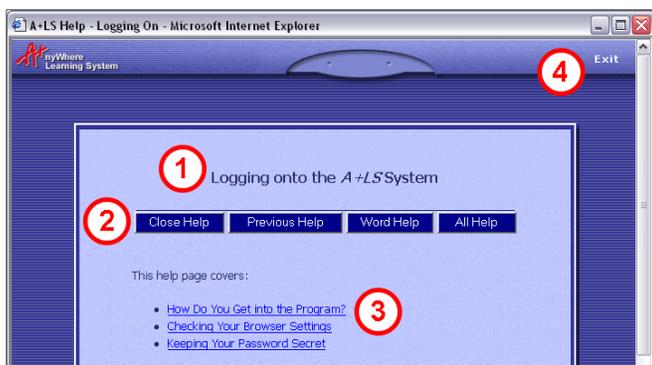
It should only take a moment or two to enter the program. Which screen appears next depends on your teachers, your assignments, and how you last exited the A+LS software:

- If you have multiple classes, you're likely going to start by the choosing the class you want to work with.
- If you have only one class that uses the A+LS system, then you may go straight to the *Lessons / Progress* screen.
- If your last A+LS session was cut off (you didn't exit normally), you will see the message, "Resuming your previous session" and it will automatically return to your previous lesson (see *stateless session* in the glossary).

## Using the Online Help

The online *Help* is like a travel guide, explaining in detail what you'll see and do at each page. There are explanations, hints, and detailed step-by-step information available through the *Help* command on the toolbar. There is also a glossary covering all of the computer and A+LS words used in the program.

There are four things you will find on every help page (see the numbered items in the following figure).



1. **Help page title** - The title normally matches the title of the program's page where you clicked help. Each help page covers what is on that one program page.
2. **Help button bar** - There are four command buttons:  
**Close Help** - Closes the help window and returns you to the program. The program screen should be just as you left it.

**Previous Help** - If you have been browsing through help, this command will take you back to the last help page you were looking at.

**Word Help** - Built into help is a glossary or list of computer and A+LS words with their meanings. Often there are pictures too. When a computer word is used for the first time on a help page, it is often underlined. If you click on an underlined word, it will take you straight to the glossary. Then it will show you the meaning of the word. Click on the [*Previous Page*] command to close the glossary and return to the previous help page.

**All Help** - Clicking on this button takes you to the Index. The Index lists all of the online help pages. This lets you look through all of the help pages, not just the one for the program page you are looking at.

3. **This help page covers** - Each help page begins with a list of all of the topics covered on the page. These include overviews, step-by-step instructions, toolbar commands, and much more. Just click on the section that interests you, and you will jump straight to it.
4. **Exit** - You can also close the help page and return to the program using the **Exit** button.

## If You Are Having Trouble

### Test Your Internet Connection

Load your web browser and see if you can view websites that are virtually always available, such as [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) or [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com). A final test is necessary because if you are at school, your network may be running web caching software which could mimic a live Internet connection. Go to [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) and verify that you are reading today's news.

- If the Internet sites are unavailable, you need to contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or school network support team if you are on campus.
- If you can see two or more websites without difficulty and CNN was current but A+LS still doesn't work, then talk to your teacher.

### Dial-up Access through a Phone Modem

Any ISP that provides the user with a valid TCP/IP connection to the Internet should be usable. But please note that video clips and some audio clips may be unusable when connecting via a modem, due to a lack of bandwidth (connection speed). Generally, if the user can browse the Internet using one of the web browsers listed in *What You Need to Start*, then he or she should be able to connect to the A+LS server. All of the normal dial-up issues exist: slow connection, modem configuration, dial-up phone number busy, etc. None of these can be resolved by the A+LS customer support team.

## Configuring Internet Explorer for Playback

In order for the Web-Based A+LS Browser Playback mode 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. If you are connecting from home, you'll also need to make these changes to your browser.

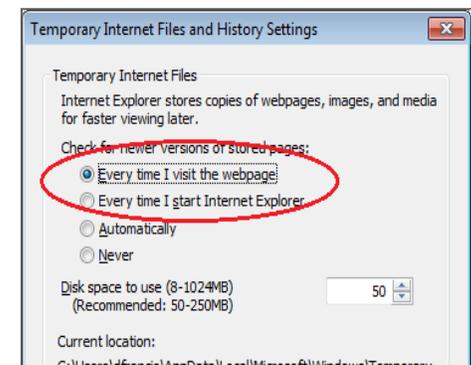
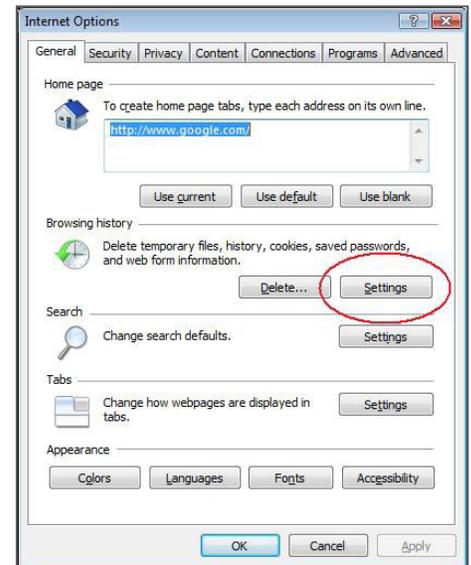
The following instructions are for Internet Explorer 8 and 9, but you can make similar changes to the other supported browsers.

### 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**.

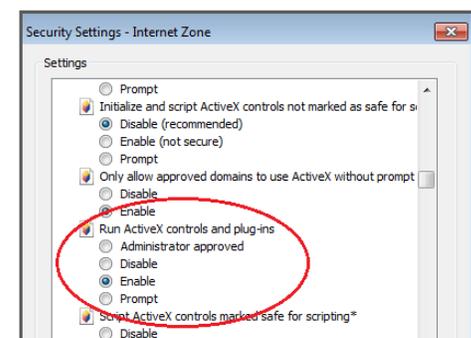
If it is set to *Medium-High*, you are done. But if you require higher security settings than the default, proceed to the next section.



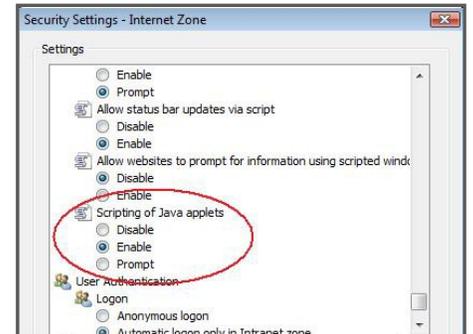
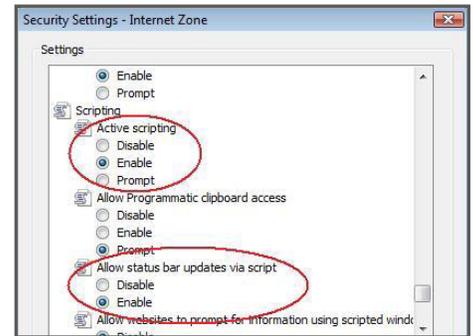
### Enabling Active X

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, top circle).
6. Below that, find the setting labeled *Allow status bar updates via script* and set it to **Enable** (see figure at right, bottom circle).
  - 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.



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### 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>

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