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## Release Notes

### *English Discoveries Online* Java-free version

November 2013





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## Introduction

*English Discoveries Online* has been upgraded and is now **Java-free**.

This document describes the changes, upgrades, and new additions.

## Background

Java is a popular computer programming language that was created mainly to support uniform software development for various platforms. Java technology was used intensively by *English Discoveries Online* for delivering content and providing rich web interaction.

In recent months, this technology became less reliable, requiring frequent updates by the user and ongoing compatibility responses and support.

In this release of *English Discoveries Online*, all Java-based capabilities were rewritten using the most advanced and standard HTML technologies.

The platform's usage and interaction remain unchanged, except for specific places described below.

## Updates and Changes

In this update, the changed modules include the learning module ("My Courses"), other learning and testing tools, and the System Check.

### System Check

As before, System Check runs automatically upon entering *English Discoveries Online*. In the new version, it will only check for the Flash plug-in and therefore will be completed much quicker. In the case that the Flash plug-in is not installed, an indication will appear at the top of the screen, but the user will not be prevented from using *English Discoveries Online*.

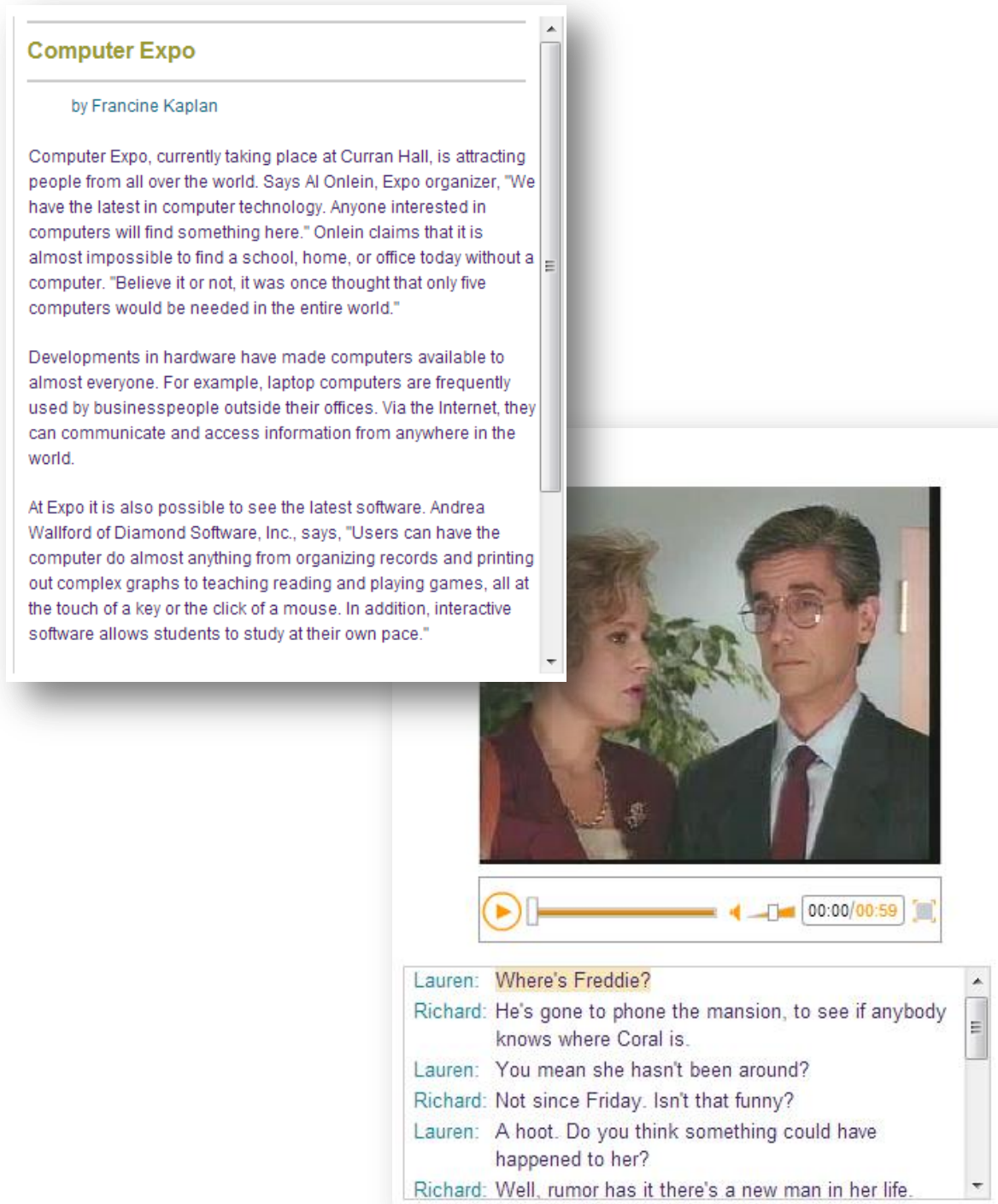
### You!Who?

You!Who? module will not be available in the Java-free version.

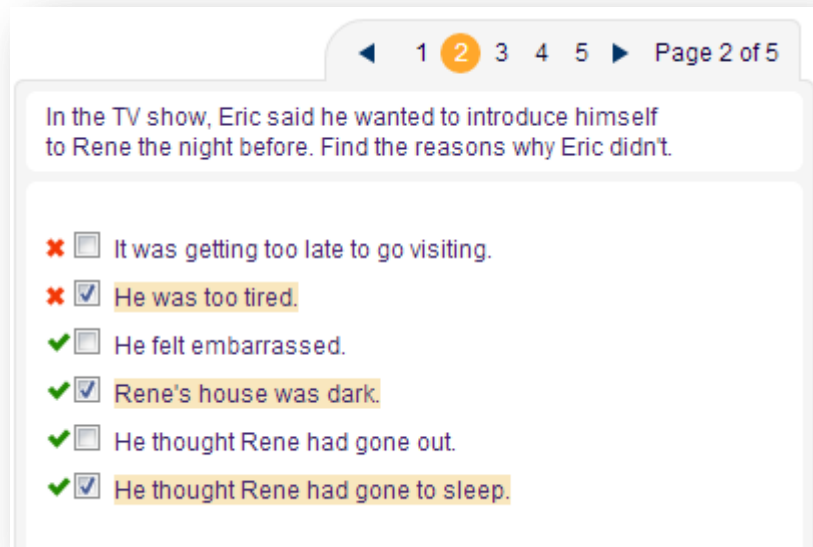
## My Courses

All components of the courses were converted and therefore, the behavior of the Explore content and Practice items remains the same. The following changes have been added:

1. Scroll bars have been added to Readings. In the previous version, Readings were displayed in short pages. This change will now allow the user to view the entire text at once and interact with the content in a more natural environment.

The screenshot displays the Edusoft learning interface. On the left, a reading passage titled "Computer Expo" by Francine Kaplan is shown with a vertical scrollbar. The text discusses a computer expo at Curran Hall, mentioning AI Onlein as the organizer and describing the availability of computers and software. On the right, a video player is embedded, showing a scene with a man and a woman. Below the video is a progress bar and a timestamp of 00:00/00:59. At the bottom, a chat window displays a conversation between Lauren and Richard about a person named Freddie and Coral.

2. Multiple Choice questions distinguish between the two existing types:
- 2.1. Check boxes (rectangles) are used when the user needs to choose more than one answer:

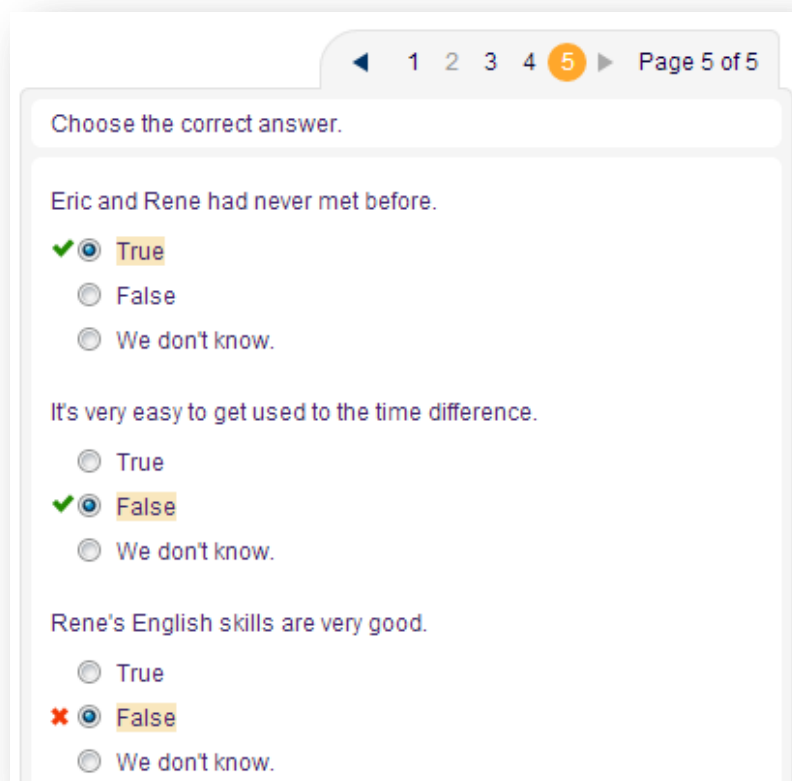


Navigation: ◀ 1 2 3 4 5 ▶ Page 2 of 5

In the TV show, Eric said he wanted to introduce himself to Rene the night before. Find the reasons why Eric didn't.

- ✗ ☐ It was getting too late to go visiting.
- ✗ ☒ He was too tired.
- ✓ ☐ He felt embarrassed.
- ✓ ☒ Rene's house was dark.
- ✓ ☐ He thought Rene had gone out.
- ✓ ☒ He thought Rene had gone to sleep.

- 2.2. Radio buttons (round) are used when the user needs to choose only one answer:



Navigation: ◀ 1 2 3 4 5 ▶ Page 5 of 5

Choose the correct answer.

Eric and Rene had never met before.

- ✓ ☒ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ We don't know.

It's very easy to get used to the time difference.

- ☐ True
- ✓ ☒ False
- ☐ We don't know.

Rene's English skills are very good.

- ☐ True
- ✗ ☒ False
- ☐ We don't know.

This will help students differentiate between question types and the interaction/activity they need to complete.

3. Drag & Drop word banks are now entirely visible, instead of showing one item at a time as in the previous version. This will help students answer the questions by showing all of the possible options at once.

◀ 6 ▶ Page 6 of 6

Coral calls her best friend Lucy to say hello. Fill in the gaps by choosing the correct words.

- Hi Lucy, it's Coral. How are you? - Coral! \_\_\_\_\_  
are you?! Freddie's been looking for you \_\_\_\_\_!  
They haven't seen you \_\_\_\_\_ Friday and now they  
think you might be \_\_\_\_\_. - Oh, really? That's very  
\_\_\_\_\_! I've just been \_\_\_\_\_ with Adam,  
my new man. He's just the best... - Coral! They've got the  
police \_\_\_\_\_ – you must call Freddie and let him  
\_\_\_\_\_ you're OK. - Oh, that's silly. Freddie knows I  
can be \_\_\_\_\_, and anyway, I don't have to tell him  
everything. I mean, I'm not a little girl anymore,  
\_\_\_\_\_ I?!

since everywhere involved Where  
missing funny am know  
unpredictable staying

#### 4. Changes in Speech practice (Dialog and Branched Dialog):

##### 4.1. Dialog: Interact 1 and Practice 1 (both now called "Interact 1")

###### 4.1.1. No automatic speech analysis.

###### 4.1.2. After listening to the dialog in the "Explore" section, the user selects the part he wants to take by clicking on one of the two arrows.



- Oh, Loretta. You're so gullible. Can't you see that this new boyfriend of yours is only after your money?

- How dare you insult Frankie! He's the sweetest guy I've ever dated. I'm sure he was only joking when he asked you how much our house was worth.

- Oh, Loretta. You're so gullible. Can't you see that this new boyfriend of yours is only after your money?

- How dare you insult Frankie! He's the sweetest guy I've ever dated. I'm sure he was only joking when he asked you how much our house was worth.

Hear Record Play

Continue

###### 4.1.3. The session starts automatically in recording/playback, according to the selected part.

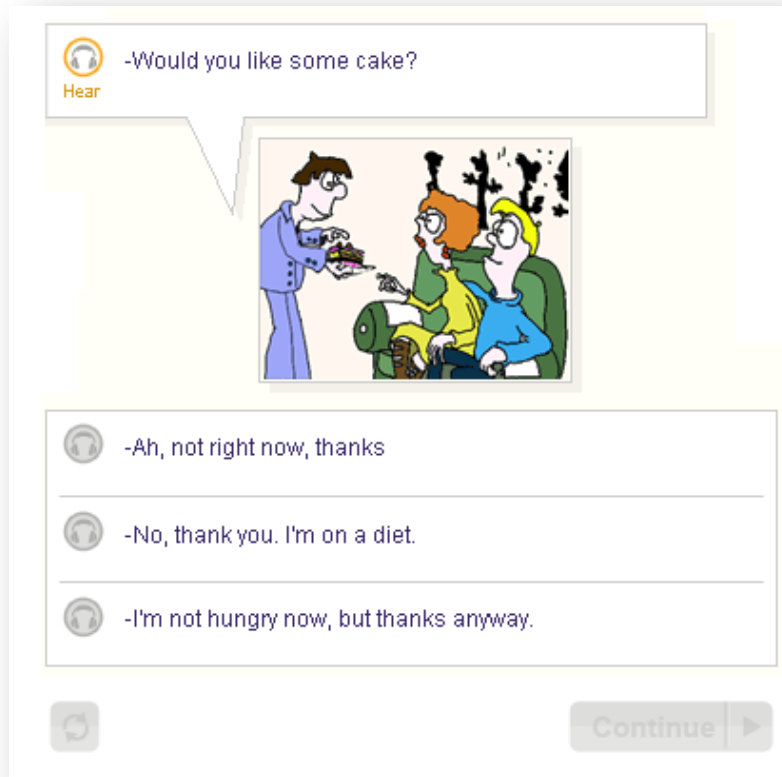
###### 4.1.4. The user can record his part and listen to his recording, or listen to the sample recording.

###### 4.1.5. Each dialog is divided into steps. Moving to the next step is controlled by the user, (by clicking on the "Continue" button).

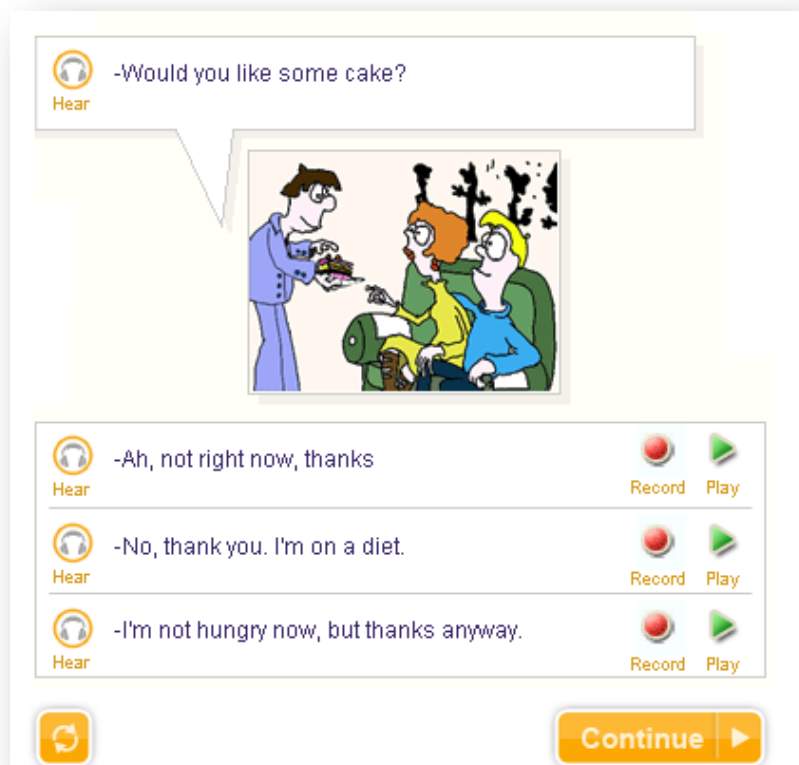
#### 4.2. Branched Dialog: Interact 2 and Practice 2 (both now called "Interact 2")

4.2.1. No automatic speech analysis.

4.2.2. The user can listen to the first part by clicking on the "Hear" button.



4.2.3. Once the user hears the first part, he can choose the answer he wants by clicking and recording it.





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## Migration and Compatibility

Transition to the new version of *English Discoveries Online* will be transparent to the users. Using their URL, Login, and Password, they will be able to enter the new system and continue their work.

*English Discoveries Online* November 2013 release uses the same database as the previous version, and therefore, current registered users will not lose any personal, learning, or other information as a result of the migration to this release.

## Viewing results of Tests taken in the previous version

Test results are displayed on the actual test that was taken. If the test was conducted on the Java version, it will be displayed on that version.

This means that when accessing test results from the previous version, the system will require Java. In most cases, we expect Java to be installed, since the user has already taken the Java-based test. If Java is not installed, the "install Java" message box will appear and after approving, the user will be able to see the test results.

This capability is only meant to support students and teachers during the transition period and will be supported for a limited time.

## Known Issues

The following issues were identified and will be addressed in subsequent releases from Edusoft:

1. In lessons that have "Prepare" tab, going back to "Prepare" after "Explore" might cause Prepare text to disappear.
2. Teachers cannot set "Do not show test results" for their students.
3. "Next Course" feature is not fully operational.





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## Questions and Answers

### Is this version in HTML5?

No. This version is based on HTML and Javascript. HTML5 is a relatively new subset of HTML that is intended for specific presentation purposes and is not completely supported by all browser versions. It is not required for replacing Java.

### Does this version support tablets and mobile devices?

No. Regardless of the Java issue, *English Discoveries Online* requires the Flash plug-in to present content. Most mobile devices and tablets don't support Flash, so they cannot play the videos and sounds required for learning.

In future versions, Edusoft intends to replace the Flash plug-in with a tablet-supported player.

### Will this version have "Speaking"?

Yes.

### Will I have to repeat all the exercises and tests in the new environment?

No. All the data is preserved.

### Will I have to build the classes and assign students?

No. All the data is preserved.

### I didn't see the System Check running; do I have to run it myself?

No. System Check is only checking for the Flash plug-in so it takes a lot less time. If it discovers a problem, it will notify the user.

### Does the new version have any effect on our Media server?

No. The new version does not affect any servers.

### Does the new version have some new requirements for computer configuration?

No. There is no change in system requirements.