Renaissance Home Connect™
Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is to address some of the technical aspects of Renaissance Home Connect installation, set up, and use.

What is Renaissance Home Connect?
Renaissance Home Connect is a feature of Renaissance Place™ Enterprise which allows students and parents to track progress in reading and math from home. Renaissance Home Connect provides functionality for parents to receive emails when students complete Renaissance Place activities such as taking an Accelerated Reader™ quiz, scoring an Accelerated Math™ test, or completing a MathFacts in a Flash™ level. Parents and students may also log in to Renaissance Home Connect to see progress information.

Renaissance Home Connect is available as follows:
- Accelerated Reader Enterprise, Accelerated Reader Starter Kit, and Accelerated Reader Enterprise Special Edition customers get Renaissance Home Connect for Accelerated Reader.
- MathFacts in Flash RP customers with a current subscription get Renaissance Home Connect for MathFacts in a Flash.

Where is Renaissance Home Connect installed?
Renaissance Home Connect is installed as part of the Renaissance Place Web application installation. Renaissance Home Connect is not enabled automatically and requires a decision by your district administrator to enable and setup Renaissance Home Connect.

How do I setup Renaissance Home Connect?
Renaissance Home Connect requires that the Renaissance Place Web application be accessible from the Internet. In addition, Renaissance Home Connect requires the Renaissance Messaging Upload Service be able to communicate from your Renaissance Place server to a server at Renaissance Learning through standard http and https protocols.

After setting up the server configuration, your district administrator for Renaissance Place will need to setup Renaissance Home Connect and activate each school that will be using Renaissance Home Connect. This can be done using the Setup Renaissance Home Connect and Activate Schools links under the Renaissance Home Connect tab within Renaissance Place.
Are special firewall configurations required to support Renaissance Home Connect?

All Renaissance Home Connect features are accessed through standard http and https protocols and only require port 80 and 443 to be open to the Internet.

How do students and parents access Renaissance Home Connect?

Teachers will have access to generate Renaissance Home Connect Informational Letters once Renaissance Home Connect has been set up and activated by a district administrator. This letter can be sent home to parents explaining how to access Renaissance Home Connect. The Web address for Renaissance Home Connect is not the same Web address used by students to take quizzes and other tasks in Renaissance Place.

Can I limit Renaissance Home Connect access to classes or schools?

Renaissance Home Connect is activated at the district level. However, access to Renaissance Home Connect is obtained by providing users with the appropriate Web address and login information which is included in the Informational Letter. Teachers can choose to send home the Informational Letter for only those students they wish to use Renaissance Home Connect.

How does the Renaissance Home Connect email feature work?

Once Renaissance Home Connect is setup, enabled by the district, and the teacher has sent home the Informational Letter, parents can log in and choose to subscribe to notifications about their child’s activities within Renaissance Place by providing their email address.

What information is sent by the Renaissance Home Connect email feature?

After a parent has registered, details of their child’s Accelerated Reader quizzes taken, Accelerated Math objectives mastered, and MathFacts in a Flash levels completed are sent to a mail server at Renaissance Learning where an email is generated and sent to email address(es) provided. The parent can then log in to Renaissance Home Connect to see further details. A typical email for a student taking an Accelerated Reader quiz is as follows:
Subject: Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz results for Casey

Dear Mom,

Casey took an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz today.

**Title:** A Game of Tag at the Farm  
**Author:** Laura Burton Rice  
**Score:** 100%  
**Points:** 0.5

To learn more about your student's progress, log in to Renaissance Home Connect and enter your student's user name and password.

If you have questions about this email or Renaissance Home Connect, please contact your student's school.

Thank you.

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**How often does the Renaissance Home Connect email feature communicate with Renaissance™ Servers?**

When a student completes an activity that will generate an email, that information is sent to the mail server at Renaissance Learning. The mail server processes queued messages approximately every 15 seconds, generates the email, and sends the email to the address(es) provided. Although delivery time will vary, it should generally arrive within about 15 minutes.

**Should I be concerned about Renaissance Place Web application being available from the Internet?**

As with any Web site on the Internet, standard security practices should be followed by your Administrator and Staff. Because your hosted site is available on the Internet, teachers will be able to access Renaissance Place from outside the school, allowing them to run reports and other tasks to manage their class' Renaissance Place activities.
Students will use the same login name and password to access Renaissance Home Connect as they use to access Renaissance Place at school. Having strong passwords and keeping passwords private are important factors in maintaining a high level of security. Renaissance Place has an IP Restrictions feature which we recommend to restrict Renaissance Place Student Login to known IP addresses assigned to computers within schools.