Helping Teachers Manage the Digital Classroom with Casper Focus

Q & A from the Webinar - April 02, 2014

Is Casper Focus a feature of something we may already have? We have Self-Service on iPads?

Yes, Casper Focus, like Self-Service, is part of the Casper Suite. There is no additional cost to use it. You can download Casper Focus for free from the App store.

Focus requires Supervised mode, which is not feasible in our BYOD scenario. Is any of that changed with iOS 7.0?

The devices do need to be supervised – either through Apple Configurator or through the Apple Device Enrollment Program. Requiring BYO devices to be supervised is a site decision.

Is there any means to accommodate teachers on a block schedule where their time with their students alternates from week to week?

Setting less restrictive access to classes will allow for block schedules and changes to the routine schedules. You can give a teacher access Monday through Friday and set a time restriction beginning at the start of the day and at the end.

Can Casper Focus work when the teacher is on different wireless networks and still manage them?

The teacher can be on a different network and still manage the student devices. Off-campus access depends on the setup of your Casper Suite server.

Are there any plans to be able to manage the websites for Casper Focus through the JSS, so teachers can select from a list of websites to focus students on (just like it works for apps that are added to the JSS)?

Not currently. One concern is of how long the list would become. The current process puts the ability right in the hands of teacher and also keeps the list manageable.

You have mentioned Apple TV. We are using Reflector not Apple TV. Do they function the same when using Casper Focus or are there issues using Reflector?

Airplay prompting through Casper Focus works only for Apple TV.

Is this being used in any large-scale 1:1 environments?

Yes, while we do not share customer information, you can go onto JAMF Nation and ask. You do not need to be a customer to log into JAMF Nation.

Can you distribute apps to the student iPads with Casper Focus?

Casper Suite's Self-Service is used to distribute apps to devices. Casper Focus does not provide a method to distribute apps.

Is Casper Focus a standalone solution? Or will it only work if I have Casper Suite? And what does Casper Suite cost?

Casper Focus is a free value-added piece of the Casper Suite. In general, pricing is tiered based on the number of devices managed and the years of the service contract. For detailed pricing information please contact: info@jamfsoftware.com

Is it possible to focus devices on a lock screen? In other words, instead of focusing on an individual app, can you just lock down devices so they are temporarily disabled?

Casper Focus can lock to an app or website, however, we use an in-house app that is just a basic image. You could create your own in-house app using your own image to accomplish the same as a lock screen, or use an app such as Red Light, Green Light.

Is communication directly from the teacher device to the students' devices, or does it route thru Casper/Apple?

The communication flows through Apple and the Casper Suite server. The process usually only takes 3 to 5 seconds.

How do we set this up for the teacher to do this in their classroom?

The teacher accounts and classes/carts are managed in the Casper Suite. This can be done manually or by importing teacher and class information.

In a large-scale 1:1, how do you deal with changing schedules, populations, etc.?

Our SIS Importer can be set to run on a schedule. Depending on your SIS – you may be able to set up a scheduled export and have the process run as needed. Information on the SIS importer can be found at: https://jamfsoftware-content.s3.amazonaws.com/downloads/SIS-Importer-User-Guide-v1.21.pdf

Do we need to be on the most recent version of JSS to lock to a website? We have Casper Focus, the app is up-to-date, but I do not see websites as a choice.

Student devices must to be on iOS 7 or later for Casper Focus's website locking feature.

How are Apple TVs assigned to teachers?

Apple TVs are assigned to classes or carts, and teachers are granted access to those classes within the Casper Suite. We have a webinar scheduled on May 8th, 2014 covering Apple TV & the Casper Suite. We'll send out an invitation a week prior to the webinar.

If you lock a device to a website, does a Bluetooth keyboard easily disable this like an app?

The use of a Bluetooth keyboard does not have any affect on Casper Focus's ability to lock to an app or website

When locking into a website, can students navigate within that particular website?

Yes, once locked on a specific website the student can only navigate within that website.

Do the teacher iPads need to be supervised?

The teacher's devices do not need to be supervised.

Will the teacher ever be able to lock students to multiple apps within the Casper Suite?

The ability to lock to multiple apps is based upon iOS functionality. If Apple changes how Guided Access works, we would look to adjust how Casper Focus works.

Our JSS server has all district-wide apps on it. This list is very cumbersome for a teacher to wade through. Is this due to the way our server is configured or is there a way to minimize the app list to apps that are on the iPads in the group?

All apps within a JSS are shown in Casper Focus. The search feature was added to the apps list to help teachers more quickly get to a specific app.

Are there any plans to allow Casper Focus to be managed via a laptop?

Please visit JAMF Nation to request and support feature requests

Is the switching to or locking to websites only in Safari, or does it work with the Chrome?

The website locking feature within Casper Focus is specifically for Safari.

Are eBooks on Casper Focus only ones found through the app store, or can I push out my own PDF file or eBooks stored on my iPad? I know you can push out through the JSS but wondering if you could do the same from Casper Focus.

Casper Focus ties into the Apple iBook store.

For information, and to schedule a demonstration, please visit jamfsoftware.com

JAMF software