

# What Is PCPAC

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PCPAC is a PCLinux2007 reconfigured for safer use and designed for public access computing.

PCPAC allows office functions (OpenOffice.org), browsing (Firefox), mMedia (Amarok and Mplayer), instant messaging and VOIP (Skype).

- Several applications or programs not advised for PACs have been removed, e.g. email clients are removed, web email is, of course, allowed.

- Firefox has been hardened so that there is not intersession memory of sites or forms entries.
- VOIP so students or other users may be in touch have been added.
- The system boots into user/user automatically, minimizing staff involvement.
- Shutdown and Restart icons are prominently displayed so staff can easily manage the system.
- An Update Notifier has been added to minimize the staff involvement with updates. Automatic, daily updates will be done soon.
- The firewall has been configured to a more hardened state.
- Caches have been minimized and are cleared, or eliminated, wherever possible.
- User History is cleared on browser shutdown.

PCPAC is a very safe, very easy to test, very easy to install, basis for a Public Access Computing workstation. Techy note: I am fully aware that LTSP is a superior, even more efficient, safer and more effective solution for schools and libraries. PCPAC is considered a step in the path to LTSP solutions. We had an LTSP/Neoware demo up and all that I can say is that the few demonstrations were confusedly received. I figure that for some environments we have to get workstations moved over to a superior solution before we can address centralizing the software on a server.