

New Maintenance Release Delivers Bundle of New Features



Building on the successful launch of its Guard Collaborative Learning Source (GCLS) this spring, the National Guard Bureau's Distributive Training Technology Project (NGB-DTTP) has begun rollout of GCLS Maintenance Release 4 (MR4), which offers its users a variety of new features and a more streamlined enterprise architecture. GCLS MR4 rollout began on Monday 18 Aug. 2003 to DTTP classrooms in the East; the release will be deployed to all 318 DTTP classrooms across the country by Sept. 19.

GCLS MR4 comprises a series of scheduled system enhancements including an augmented Site Locator Map and functionality; improved GCLS reporting features; a more streamlined enterprise architecture; and the introduction PC Duo, a commercial-off-the-shelf enterprise classroom desktop-management solution from Vector Networks Inc. In replacing the application-metering component of the old Integrated Information System (IIS), GCLS MR4 eliminates the distinction between "IIS Classrooms" and "Non-IIS Classrooms" – from this point forward, all classrooms are "DTTP classrooms."

Highlights of GCLS MR4 include:

- ◆ **Simplified Log In** – GCLS MR4 eliminates the DTTP Login dialog box. When a user logs into the classroom workstation through the Windows NT Login dialog box, he or she will immediately see the Windows Desktop. To access GCLS, the user simply selects the GCLS icon from the desktop.
- ◆ **Enhanced Metering** – The PC Duo application metering module replaces the old IIS desktop-application-metering component, providing greater detail on the overall application use on the workstations.
- ◆ **Improved Classroom Maintenance Tools** – PC Duo also provides workstation, hardware, and software configuration and change reports to help Site Administrators and Help Desk personnel troubleshoot problems and resolve workstation configuration issues. In addition, PC Duo provides the ability to distribute workstation software updates such as anti-virus files, Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (IAVA) patches, operating system patches, software plug-ins, etc., to all classroom workstations. Finally, the product's remote control module enables Help Desk personnel to access classroom workstations remotely to better support troubleshooting efforts.
- ◆ **Improved DTTP Site Locator Map** – The DTTP Site Locator Map now includes all DTTP sites and features a "Map It" function that gives general area directions to each site. Site Administrators can update their site information using the "Manage Sites" hyperlink in the GCLS Menu portlet window.
- ◆ **Streamlined Architecture** – GCLS MR4 eliminates the IIS Classroom Content Servers; they will be disabled as part of the maintenance release's implementation, and states will be able to repurpose them for alternative uses.

For more information about GCLS MR4, visit the GCLS website at <https://www.gcls.ngb.army.mil>. Users may also submit questions or comments via the GCLS Feedback portlet window or contact the NGB Help Desk at 1-800-821-3097. For questions about content and collaboration, please contact DTTP Policy & Liaison at dtpp@busops.ngbcio.ngb.army.mil.

<https://www.gcls.ngb.army.mil>