



Person for Canvas Plug-in Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Data Passed between Canvas and Pearson and its Security

What goes out from Canvas (user info, etc) to Pearson through the app?

The Canvas Pearson app enables mapping between Canvas courses, student and instructor accounts to Pearson, student and instructor accounts. The information required for this mapping is sent using the IMS LTI standard. All communication between Canvas and Pearson happens over HTTPS and each message is secured using the OAuth standard.

Canvas sends a token representing the user account to Pearson. This information is not encoded however all requests use HTTPS and are signed using OAuth. The Canvas Pearson app does not send user account logins and passwords to Pearson.

In addition, the plug-in passes a Consumer Key (entered during the Canvas Pearson app configuration when the app is installed).

What comes back from Pearson into the Canvas course (Grade data, participation data, etc)?

Data returned from Pearson contains student scores for each selected gradebook assignment/column.

What data are stored on Pearson systems and what can you tell us about the security of student data?

There are two kinds of data elements related to the Canvas Pearson integration stored in the Pearson systems: instructor and student account mapping information (see anonymous hashed token discussed above), and student results/scores from their participation in Pearson course.

Student Pearson account information and student performance data is stored on Pearson servers hosted at a contracted data center. Backups of application content and user data are made nightly. On a regular basis, copies of these backups are encrypted using industry standard software and sent offsite to a secure third-party for storage.

Does the Canvas Pearson app support Single Sign On?

Yes, the Pearson plug-in supports Single Sign On.

If I have two students each named John Smith in my course, how does it know which grades in Pearson go with the student in Canvas?

Each user in Canvas has a unique identifier that is generated by Canvas. So while the course roster may show two John Smiths, behind the scenes, Canvas knows them as two unique users.

Matching the user's Canvas account to their Pearson account happens the very first time the student clicks on a link to access Pearson from within their Canvas course.

The Canvas Pearson app passes the unique user identifier over to the Pearson server.

When the user is asked to sign-on to their Pearson account, the Pearson server then stores their unique user identifier with their Pearson account credentials. From then on, every time the student accesses their Canvas course and clicks a link into Pearson their unique user identifier is passed and Pearson knows which student it is. This linkage between the unique user identifier and Pearson account ensures that all scores and activity information is associated with the correct student record.

What specific encryption algorithms are employed for your product(s), system(s) and/or service(s)?

All Traffic comes through HTTPS, it is TLS security. There is no other encryption done.