

# About e-Lab Activities: Instructor FAQ

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## **What are e-Lab Activities?**

E-Lab Activities are a powerful instructional tool to facilitate the learning of the IOS. When a new IOS command is introduced with text and graphics, students can immediately explore and practice the command using the Flash syntax activities. We have created syntax activities for the vast majority of IOS commands used in the CCNA curriculum. While waiting for access to physical routers for lab work, students can be guided step-by-step through the Flash lab activities. We have created lab activities for the vast majority of hands-on labs in the CCNA Curriculum. Ultimately, the activities will be integrated into the curriculum but we did not want to delay releasing e-Lab Activities while waiting for the much larger task of a curriculum version release.

## **May I distribute the e-Lab Activities to my students for their personal use?**

Yes! E-Lab Activities are free for Cisco Networking Academy Students through the Cisco Networking Academy Program. Before downloading e-Lab Activities from the website, you are required to agree to the terms and conditions “User Agreement” that define proper use of this software.

## **Why should I use e-Lab Activities?**

E-Lab Activities will enhance the learning experience of the students. These interactive activities will help to further explain or reinforce the material already learned online. It is one of the most significant instructional tools that the Cisco Networking Academy Program has created to help you teach the curriculum.

## **How should I use e-Lab Activities in my class?**

- Use them as exploratory activities.
- Use them as formative assessment and student self-assessment.
- Use them as homework.
- Use them for review in semesters 2, 3, and 4.

## **How can I integrate e-Lab Activities into my lecture?**

You can easily integrate e-Lab Activities into your lecture. For instance, you are teaching extended access-lists, a subject that is difficult for many students to grasp. Prior to Flash syntax activities, the student would read text about the command, including the abstract syntax of command, argument, keyword, argument, etc., and view a graphic showing examples of the command’s usage. But the student also needs to experience how the command is entered and its result in order to fully understand extended ACLs. In the past, the student would need to gain access to a router which may not be readily available, particularly if the student is studying at home. With e-Lab Activities, the student can have an IOS-like experience.

### **Does e-Lab Activities replace Labs or Lab (Skills) exams?**

No. The goal of the Academy program remains to teach students to design, install, operate, and troubleshoot networks. There is no substitute for actual lab experience when educating future networking professionals.

### **Will there be future versions of e-Lab Activities?**

Yes. Cisco Worldwide Education is working on numerous extensions of this product.

### **What is Flash?**

Macromedia Flash 5 allows Cisco Worldwide Education Curriculum Development to create engaging and effective instructional experiences while delivering high-impact animation, sound, interactivity, and graphics. We currently use three types of Flash IOS activities: the syntax activities (short drills), lab activities (step-by-step Flash versions of the hands-on labs), and the Router eSIM Student Version (full 5-router network simulation environment).

### **Why is the command “clock rate” only accepted on some of the e-Lab Activities?**

Some e-Lab activities require the command clock rate to be entered as two words, “clock rate,” while other e-Lab activities require only one word, “clockrate.”

### **What is the “show me” mode designed to show?**

The “show me” mode is designed to show students the relevant commands, not the output. The “show me” mode is only accessible once the student has completed the activity.

### **Why do some e-Lab activities contain steps that are not contiguous?**

The steps in some e-Lab activities are not necessarily contiguous. For example, an activity may bypass a configuration mode (e.g., showing the interface configuration mode prompt after the privileged mode prompt) in order to focus on a particular mode or command.

### **Why does the “debug” command only show some of the output generated by a router?**

The output from the “debug” command is a representation of the type of messages generated by a router. The output generated by a router is simply too long, and contains information that a student at this level would not need to understand.

### **Where can I send comments, questions, and concerns regarding e-Lab Activities?**

You can send comments, questions, and concerns to [esim-quality@cisco.com](mailto:esim-quality@cisco.com), or you can read and post comments to the support forum at <http://cisco.netacad.net/cnacs/prot-bin/forum>.