



## Procedure for approval of new Experiments and allocation of Slices

MeasurementLab (M-Lab) is an open platform for research, and accordingly is essentially open to all participants. However, in the interests of managing the use of resources and steering the mission of the project, proposals for new experiments must comply with the basic points and requirements as detailed in this document. Any experiment running on M-Lab must adhere to the following underlying principles, unless waived by the Steering Committee due to unusual circumstances:

- **The tools being used must be open-source.** The software running the experiment must be released under a permissive license approved by the Free Software Foundation (FSF), Open Source Initiative (OSI), or Creative Commons (CC) in order that its source code and methodology are free to be examined or modified by interested parties and so that the client-side tools can be integrated into a variety of applications. The source code to the tools must be released either immediately upon the tool's launch or within the shorter of the following two periods: [1] a research paper is published utilizing data from the tool as run on the M-Lab platform or [2] one year from the time of the tool's launch.
- **The data must be open-sourced.** All data produced by the experiment must be publicly released (e.g., using a Creative Commons Zero (CC0) or similar license) and made available for free and in a portable format so that it may be examined and freely utilized for research purposes for the foreseeable future. The data must be released either immediately upon its collection or within the shorter of the two periods: [1] a research paper is published utilizing data from the tool as run on the M-Lab platform or [2] one year from the time of the tool's launch. Any data collected after that period must also be released as its collected for the duration of the tool's persistence on M-Lab.
- **The tests must be actively initiated by the client.** M-Lab employs active measurement tests only, in order that there be no question of M-Lab examining everyday user traffic without that user's knowledge. Consequently, tests running on M-Lab must not utilize M-Lab's infrastructure to conduct passive monitoring tests or tests that are otherwise not purposefully initiated by the user. Accordingly, the test should not transmit any data that does not directly pertain to operation of the test, and all transmitted data should be synthetic.
- **Experiments must not collect personally identifying information.** M-Lab makes every possible effort to preserve user privacy. Accordingly, the only identifying information that M-Lab collects are IP addresses. Any future collection of data that could possibly serve to identify an individual user must: [1] be approved by the Steering Committee, [2] not be tied directly to names, addresses, and/or phone numbers, [3] be described clearly to users and [4] be opt-in only. M-Lab's infrastructure cannot be utilized to collect names, addresses, or phone numbers. If the researcher wishes to collect this data as a component of a research project which involves M-Lab, they must

collect and store this information separately from M-Lab. For example, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission has separately collected address information from those participating in a bandwidth test that utilizes M-Lab's infrastructure.

An experiment which fits these criteria may apply by submitting the following information to the Steering Committee:

1. A description of their organization, including an introduction to the team that will be maintaining the experimental tools.
2. A description of their research goals. What do they hope to study by conducting this experiment? Over what period of time do they intend that this experiment run?
3. A description of their experimental methodology. This should include an in-depth description of the data the experiment gathers and how it is gathered, as well what information is transmitted in each direction (client to server, server to client). They should make clear how their experiment intends to fit within the principles described above. They should additionally describe how their experiment differs from existing M-Lab tools. In order to most efficiently utilize the resources of the platform, tools should be novel both in the data they collect and the experience they offer to the client. If their experimental tools already exist and are open-source then they should provide links to access the source code. If research papers or articles already exist describing their experimental tools then they should provide links to that documentation.
4. A statement that they have read and understood the [M-Lab Roles & Responsibilities](#) document, and will operate the experiment in accordance with their responsibilities as laid out in that document.
5. An example of the data files generated by the experimental tool.
6. A timeline for deploying the tool, including what milestones exist and what effort is being put into meeting those milestones.

Once that information has been furnished to the Steering Committee, they will deliberate on the question at their next official meeting or via email, and decide whether or not to support the new experiment. If the decision is to accept an experiment, the Steering Committee will:

1. Notify Larry Peterson or other designated representative of PlanetLab that the experiment has been approved for deployment on the platform.
2. Notify the researcher of their approval and put them in touch with PlanetLab and the M-Lab Operations Team.