

PERTS Custom Portal Technical Guide

Your organization has chosen to implement a PERTS program with the help of your organization's internal network authorization. This is simple to do and will mean greatly improved accuracy and usability for participants. It involves creating a server-side http request handler which is available at a URL you specify.

Logistical Outline

1. You'll need your organization's *participation code*. If you have access to the Dashboard, you can find your participation code in the **Facilitator Instructions** in the **Prepare To Participate** step. If you don't have access to the Dashboard, please get the participation code from your organization's PERTS liaison.
2. You'll need to tell PERTS about the URL of the portal you are building. If you have access to the Dashboard you can enter the URL in the **Custom Portal URL** task in the **Prepare To Participate** step. If you don't have access to the Dashboard, please inform your organization's PERTS liaison that they must enter this value.

Technical Outline

1. PERTS program participants (either students or faculty at your organization) will enter their participation code at **perts.me**
2. We'll use the participation code to tie participants to your organization and then forward them to a **URL you specify during program setup**. The script you build will need to reside at this URL.
3. We'll append two query string parameters to your URL: "code" and "session". Save these for step 7. **If for any reason these values are missing**, please have them default to "__missing_code__" or "__missing_session__", respectively. See the test cases, below, for a full examples.
4. You'll need to take whatever actions are required to authenticate the user on your local network, like a displaying a screen with a username and password form.
5. Establish a reference to the user's identity from your organization's perspective, whether that's a network ID, an email address, a user ID, or some other unique identifier. We'll call it the "token". **Exactly what token is used is important for the integrity of your organization's data. Make sure to coordinate with your colleagues on this matter so everyone understands what student identifiers will be sent to PERTS.**
6. Make sure to encode/escape the token for use in a URL, if necessary. For instance, spaces might need to be substituted with "%20".
7. Finally you'll need to redirect them to a PERTS URL, which is constructed like this:

`https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal/{code}/{session}/{token}`

Here's an example with the values "trout-viper", "1", and "87759" filled in.

`https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal/trout-viper/1/87759`

Test Cases

Typical case

Given that your organization sets up a page at `example.com/perts-redirect`, and the user is a student with the network id "87759", a visitor arriving at this URL:

`http://www.example.com/perts-redirect?code=trout-viper&session=1`

Should result in them ultimately arriving at this URL:

`https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal/trout-viper/1/87759`

Missing code parameter

Suppose a similar example, but the code is missing.

`http://www.example.com/perts-redirect?session=1`

The custom portal should result in the user ultimately arriving at this URL:

`https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal/__missing_code__/1/87759`

Missing session parameter

Suppose a similar example, but the session is missing.

`http://www.example.com/perts-redirect?code=trout-viper`

The custom portal should result in the user ultimately arriving at this URL:

`https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal/trout-viper/__missing_session__/87759`

Example Script

The following is a demonstration php script that encodes all the rules above, except for how the user's token is determined. You may adapt this for your own purposes.

```
<?php

# Custom Portal Code Sample
# -----
#
# The purpose of this script is to demonstrate how institutions should
# handle a PERTS program participant and correctly return them to PERTS.
#
# The most up-to-date version of this script and other accompanying
# documentation is available at:
#
#     https://neptune.perts.net/static/custom_portal_technical_guide.pdf
#
# If your institution can run php scripts, you can adapt this sample by
# completing the function `get_network_id()` below. Otherwise this
# should provide a description of the logic necessary for implementation in
# another language.
#
# Inputs
# -----
#
# $code          string Provided in the query string of the request, set as
#                  '__missing_code__' if not present, which also logs
#                  an error.
# $session       string Provided in the query string of the request
#                  '__missing_session__' if not present, which also logs
#                  an error.
# $token         string Drawn from institution's sign in system.
#
# Outputs
# -----
#
# None. Rather script redirects to a PERTS-controlled URL containing the
# three inputs.
# -----

/**
 * Capture PERTS-supplied query string parameters or log an error
 * if it is missing or falsey.
 *
 * @param string $key
 * @return string
```

```

*/
function get_param($key) {
    if (isset($_REQUEST[$key]) && $_REQUEST[$key]) {
        $value = $_REQUEST[$key];
    } else {
        error_log("Incoming URL missing '". $key.'" parameter in query string.");
        # This value will signal PERTS to attempt to handle the error.
        $value = '__missing_'. $key. '__';
    }
    return $value;
}

$code = get_param('code');
$session = get_param('session');

/**
 * Retrieve student's institutional network id.
 * Exact implementation depends on institution's network.
 * YOU MUST ADAPT THIS FUNCTION FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT.
 *
 * @return string The user's id on this organization's network.
 */
function get_network_id() {
    return $_SERVER['WEBAUTH_USER']; // example only!
}

$token = get_network_id();

# Make sure the network id / token has been set and is well formed.
if (!isset($token) || !is_string($token) || $token == '') {
    throw new Exception("Network id invalid.");
}

# Build the destination URL.
$base_url = 'https://neptune.perts.net/participate/portal';
$redirect_url = implode('/', array($base_url, $code, $session, $token));

# Redirect the user to PERTS with the network id.
header('Location: '.$redirect_url);

?>

```