

# Introduction

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UTIPS Core is a formative assessment system developed in a partnership between the Utah State Office of Education and the Utah Education Network. UTIPS Core is a modernization of the current UTIPS EDesk system that teachers in Utah have been using for several years. UTIPS Core was written from the ground up to be a dependable and easy to use assessment system for **all** stakeholders in Utah.

At the heart of UTIPS Core is an item bank that contains thousands of items that are aligned to the Utah Core of this year and more importantly contains searchable items that are aligned to the new Common Core. Better yet UTIPS Core has been designed to be easily updateable with fresh items, so you can be sure that there are many great new Common Core aligned items that will be arriving on UTIPS Core soon.

UTIPS Core was developed with a forward looking approach, using the newest web standards and technology. If you are familiar with terms like CSS 3 and HTML 5, you'll be happy to know that UTIPS Core is built using those technologies. If these terms don't mean anything to you and you're wondering how it will affect your experience, there are a few things that you should know.

- 1) You will have an easier time uploading and using media in your assessments.
- 2) There are some great new interface additions like item drag-and-drop and WYSIWYG assessment editing.
- 3) While UTIPS Core looks great on mobile devices like the iPad, your browser choices on the PC and Mac will be limited. For the time being we suggest you stick with [Mozilla Firefox® 4+](#), [Apple Safari®](#), or [Google Chrome®](#).

UTIPS Core has tighter focus on assessment than the previous version. If you are looking to using blogging software or calendaring software, check with UEN. They have many great suggestions. However if you are looking for a great assessment engine, we hope that UTIPS Core will provide a powerful tool for both the classroom and the principal's office.

Finally, Unlike UTIPS EDesk which was served from service centers across the state, UTIPS Core will serve all of its customers from a single server cluster located at UEN. A centralized service means that you can share your tests with your peers, whether they are in your same department or in a school at the other end of the state.