

App Inventor FAQs

Some users are experiencing challenges with MIT App Inventor due to district or state policy requirements. This Frequently Asked Questions document answers common questions, but if your question is not answered below, please feel free to reach out to the PLTW Solution Center at 877.335.7589 or solutioncenter@pltw.org.

Do I need a login or am I required to share personally identifiable information (PII) to use MIT App Inventor (AI)?

No. Per the MIT App Inventor Terms of Service, “If you are seeking to use MIT App Inventor for classroom use, we have developed a different version of the platform which does not collect or maintain any personally identifiable information (PII). This version is available at <http://code.appinventor.mit.edu> and may be more appropriate for your use.”

This version works by creating a random code that can be used to save projects and come back to them.

Can I use App Creators without MIT App Inventor?

Unfortunately, since App Inventor is the primary tool in App Creators, no other application can be easily substituted.

How do I set up my classroom tech to work with MIT App Inventor?

Please see our setup guide for more information: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/support-downloads.pltw.org/Software+Page/App+Inventor/MIT+App+Inventor.pdf>.

Do I need to use the MIT AI2 Companion App?

Students’ ability to deploy and test the mobile apps they create is a key part of the App Creators learning experience! The following tools can be used to deploy and test mobile apps created with App Inventor:

- MIT AI2 Companion App: For use by Android and Apple mobile devices and Android-enabled Chromebooks.
- AI Starter Emulator: For use by Mac and PC users who do not have access to a mobile device.

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These tools allow students to preview, interact with, and debug their apps. Without either the emulator or the companion app, students cannot run their programs or experience how their apps function in a real-world setting.

Is there an alternative emulator to the MIT AI2 Companion App or the AI Starter Emulator?

Currently, the MIT AI2 Companion App and the AI Startup Emulator are the only recommended methods for testing apps built in MIT App Inventor.

We encourage schools and districts to partner with their IT teams to implement appropriate safeguards so students can access these essential tools and fully experience the creativity and innovation App Creators offers.