Faronics Deep Freeze Console

All Public Internet computers with Windows 7, 8.1, or 10 should have Faronics Deep Freeze to keep them safe from virus and malware attacks and patron changes, including attempts to install unwanted software, change web browser home pages, or change Windows personalization settings.

Deep Freeze Console, which is normally installed on a staff or circulation computer, has several tools for managing the Public computers. Deep Freeze Console can usually be found on the Taskbar.

Figure 1 below highlights some of the tools and pieces of information Deep Freeze Console provides.

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When you first open Console, expand the "localhost" and "Entire Network" options in the Network and Groups pane of the Console window to show the "PUBLIC" workgroup¹.

The "Workstations" and "Status" columns in the Workstations pane will tell you if your Public computers are Frozen, ready for public use, or Thawed, ready for staff to install software, update Windows or make changes to other software programs or settings.

The Workstations pane also lists the operating system version of the public computer in the "Operating System" column, version of Deep Freeze installed in the "Version" column, and what userid, if any, is logged in in the "Login Name" column.

The Version will show in red text, as seen below, when the client on the Public computer is a different version than Deep Freeze Console. If there is a mismatch in version numbers, some Console options may be unavailable for the Public computer.



Figure 1

¹ Most libraries only have one Public network group. Libraries with more detailed network groups should contact the CNS department for additional information.

The main toolbar at the top of the Console window will have grey icons until a computer is highlighted in the Workstations pane. When one or more computers are highlighted, the toolbar becomes active. If you hover your mouse cursor over a toolbar icon, pop-up text will tell you what function the icon has.

Using the icons indicated below, you can restart or shutdown one or more of your Public Internet computers by selecting them in the Workstations pane and then clicking the corresponding toolbar icon.

The "Reboot Thawed" and "Reboot Frozen" icons can be used when you need to thaw a Public computer to do things such as update Symantec, install a new printer driver, or install new software, and then freeze it again for public use.

The "Run Windows Update" icon is used to manually start a Windows Update session. The Public computer needs to be Frozen when starting the update.

If the Deep Freeze Console has been updated to a new version, the "Update" Deep Freeze Clients icon can be used to push the update to the Public computers. The Public computers will reboot several times while their current version is uninstalled and the new version installed. When finished, the Public computers will be Frozen. The Public computer clients will maintain their settings and password but be upgraded to the new version.



Restart Public workstations

Figure 2

When viewing the Public computers in Console, if you see the "Version" column in the Workstations pane highlighted in red text, that means the version of Deep Freeze Console and Deep Freeze Client don't match. That should not be a problem for basic actions such as Restart, Shutdown, or Reboot Thawed or Frozen. If you see a mismatch, select the computer(s) and use the Update icon to push out an update to the client.

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Figure 3

Deep Freeze can be used to manage Windows Updates automatically via a scheduled task. Public computers with Deep Freeze installed can be left turned on at the end of shift on Saturday (or Sunday). The scheduled task will reboot the computer thawed, run Windows Update rebooting as needed, and when done, power the computer off. When the computer is next powered on, Deep Freeze will be frozen and the computer ready for public use.

If a Windows Update task is scheduled to run, it will disable Windows Update and you won't be able to run it from the Public Computer unless the service is turned back on manually. If you choose to run Windows Update as a task, and find that you need to run Windows Update outside of the scheduled task, use the "Run Windows Update" icon on the Console toolbar.

While running Windows Update, the Public computer will be unavailable. The mouse and keyboard will be locked and a message on the Public computer will notify you that updates are running.