



with



Mary Kemp
kempm@blountk12.org

Colleen M. Mattison
mattisonc@blountk12.org

Blount County Schools
Maryville, TN

www.blountk12.org

TrackStar with TrackPack

What is TrackStar?

- **TrackStar** is an on-line interface that helps teachers organize and annotate web sites into lessons. The list of web sites acts like a table of contents and remains visible throughout the lesson, allowing the student to easily browse through the lesson and stay on track. The teacher creates annotations for each web site that direct the student to look for information, answer questions, etc.
- The **TrackStar** site is: <http://TrackStar.hprtec.org/> (or click the **TrackStar** button on the **Teaching with Technology** page – **Teacher Learning Links** or the **Technology Training** page). Bookmark this site for easy access.

Finding a Track

- There are several ways to locate Tracks: **keyword, author, themes & standards, Track ID number**, from the **Top Track** list, or **subject/category**.
- Before creating a track, it is a good idea to see what has already been created.
- To view a website in a window by itself, *right-click* on the underlined web address or within the web site frame and click **Open Frame in New Window** on the pop-up menu. Close this window when finished and the Track will still be open. Toggle back between the two windows by clicking the buttons on the task bar.
- Middle school track examples: **Honey I Shrank the Clothes** (Track #49725) – Julie Bass, WBMS; **Plate Tectonics** (Track #74943) – Donny Anderson, CMS;

What Makes a Good Track?

- Stimulates higher order thinking
- Has extensive resources with excellent annotations
- Supports project-based learning
- Illustrates excellent use of primary resources
- Illustrates a creative way to use Internet resources

To Register as a New User

1. At the **TrackStar** site (<http://TrackStar.hprtec.org/>) Click **TrackStar Registration (for new users)**.
2. Fill in your name and correct email address. Use a password that you already have, something easy to remember!

PASSWORD _____

3. Click the **Register and create a Track** button.
4. Once you are registered, you will log on to **TrackStar** and **TrackPack** with your email address and the password you create.

Installing TrackPack Button

Before using **TrackPack** you must be a registered user in **TrackStar**. The same email address and password will be used to create your **TrackPack** account.

1. Prepare your Browser

- Make sure the **Personal Toolbar** is showing. If it isn't showing, go to the **View >Show menu** and select **Personal Toolbar** (If the **Personal Toolbar** appears as a thin line, expand it by clicking on the little arrow on the left side of the toolbar).
- To remove any unwanted buttons in the **Personal Toolbar**, hit **Ctrl-B** to open the **Edit Bookmarks** window (or click the **Bookmark** button, then **Edit Bookmarks**)
- Click to select any unwanted bookmark, then press the **Delete** key, then close the window

2. Drag and Drop the TrackPack Link

- On the **TrackStar** home page (<http://TrackStar.hprtec.org>) click the **TrackPack tool** link at the bottom of the middle column.
- Scroll down until you see the **TrackPack** logo with a **TrackPack** link in blue beneath it.
- Place the mouse pointer on the blue **TrackPack** link. Hold the left-click button down and drag it to the **Personal Toolbar**. When it changes to a “+” sign, release the button. A **TrackPack** button should now appear on the toolbar.

Preplanning a Track

1. You are now ready to search for sites to use in creating a **Track**.
2. Use the **Planning Your Track** template (in your handout and on the web) to help plan the *track* as you find sites. This information is required by **TrackStar** to create a *track*.
3. Write down the names of the sites (URL is optional) to help you keep up with what you have saved to your **TrackPack**.

Collecting Sites in your TrackPack

1. Use **Netscape** to search for possible web sites for your Track. Use the **Learning Links** as a place to start, or click on **Search the Web** (the binoculars) on the **Teacher Links** page to go to **FindSpot**, a web page with lots of search engines.
2. Locate a web page you would like to use in a *track*. Be sure to look through the web site before copying the **URL**. Sometimes the initial page looks good but it goes downhill from there. Make sure you have a specific reason for having your students view the site. You want your students to benefit from this lesson and **TrackStar** will help you maximize your teaching time.
3. Click the **TrackPack** button on the **Personal toolbar**.
4. The **TrackPack** window will open. Log in with the e-mail and password you created in **TrackStar**. Click **Log in**.
5. The window now shows the **Title** of the site and its **URL** already in place. Add an annotation (directions – what you want the students to do) if you desire. Then click


Add to TrackPack. This site will be added to your **TrackPack** and will be available whenever you make or edit **Tracks**. Don't forget to add the link to your "Track Planning" worksheet.

- You are now ready to find a new web site. Keep this layout in mind:

<p>List of Sites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. <p>Your Site Titles will be listed in this frame.</p>	<p>Site Location: web address (URL) Your <i>annotations</i>, or directions for each link will appear here.</p> <hr/> <p>This is where the Web Page will appear when you click on the Sites on the left-side frame. That is why you may want them in a particular order for your students to follow.</p>
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- Do not** use several links off a web site's main page as different links for your track. Instead, use the main page and direct students to click to go to different places on the web site and what to do when they get there. (Otherwise, you may infringe on the Copyright law)
- Do not use URL's unless they end in ".htm" or ".html" If you come across one you want to use, try using the previous page and telling the student where to click.
- Once you have found several good links, you are ready to create your Track. A good track should include at least 4 web sites.

Making a New Track with TrackPack


- Go to **TrackStar** at <http://TrackStar.hprtec.org> and click **Make or Edit A Track**.
- Log-in with your e-mail and **TrackStar** password. Click **Make a New Track**.
- Fill out all the information requested on the first page (required). Use your "Track Planner" to help.
- At the bottom of the page, click the **TrackMaker Lite** button to proceed.
- Click the **Open Your TrackPack** button at the top of the form.
- You will see the **TrackPack** window with a list of all the sites you have collected. Sites may be added in any order, and you do not have to use all the sites in your **TrackPack**.
- Find the first site in the **TrackPack** window that you wish to add to your track. Click on the **Add to Track** icon  next to the item you wish to add. You will get a confirmation message that your site has been added to your **Track**.
- Keep adding sites in the order you want them to appear in your **Track**. When you have added all the sites you want, click outside the **TrackPack** window on the **TrackStar** window (do not close the **TrackPack** window yet).
- Scroll to the bottom of the **TrackStar** window and click **Submit Track**.
- After clicking the **Submit** button, write down your Track ID number: _____
- Click on the web address to view your track. Click the **View in Frames** button.
- Check through all of your links to see if they work. Also, check the annotations to see if you need to make any changes.
- Click **Back to your account** to edit or make changes. Follow the directions for **Editing an Existing Track with TrackPack**.

14. Click **Email this track** and email it to yourself, then return to your track and email it to Mary (kempm@blountk12.org) and/or Colleen (mattisonc@blountk12.org)
15. You will probably want to delete some sites from your **TrackPack** and then close the window when you are done. The directions for doing this are given below.

Deleting Items from your TrackPack and Closing the TrackPack Window

1. You can only delete items from your **TrackPack** when you are in the **Edit or Make Track** mode. Your **TrackPack** window should still be open. Click the **TrackPack** button on the *Task bar* at the bottom of your screen.
2. Next to each site in your **TrackPack** window is an empty checkbox that is entitled **Delete**. Click inside the checkbox of those sites you wish to delete from your **TrackPack**. You should see a checkmark appear inside the checkbox
3. Scroll to the bottom of the **TrackPack** and click on **Delete Selected Items**. When the content re-appears in the window you will notice that the sites you selected have been deleted.
4. To close the **TrackPack** window (with or without deleting sites first), simply scroll to the bottom of the **TrackPack** window and click **Close Window**.

Editing an Existing Track with TrackPack

1. Go to **TrackStar** at <http://TrackStar.hprtec.org> and click **Make or Edit A Track**.
2. Log-in with your e-mail and **TrackStar** password. Click **Edit** next to the name of the **Track** to which you wish to add sites or edit in some other way.
3. Make any changes you wish on the first page of the track, then choose **TrackMaker Lite** to proceed.
4. Click the **Open Your TrackPack** button at the top of the form.
5. You will see the **TrackPack** window with a list of all the sites you have collected. Click on the **Add to Track** icon  next to the item you wish to add. You will get a confirmation message that your site has been added to your **Track**. Continue adding sites in this manner.
6. When you have added all the sites you want, click outside the **TrackPack** window on the **TrackStar** window (do not close the **TrackPack** window yet).
7. Scroll to the bottom of the **TrackStar** window and click **Submit Track**.
8. Delete sites from your **TrackPack** and close it, following the above directions.

When you want students to use tracks you have created, they can be bookmarked, or students can go to the TrackStar site and find the Track by number or by your name.

You may want your students to try creating tracks. Be sure they click on *Demo* under format until you approve the site. Then you can make it permanent by choosing one of the other formats.

For an in-depth tutorial on using **TrackStar**, go to <http://TrackStar.hprtec.org/tut.html>