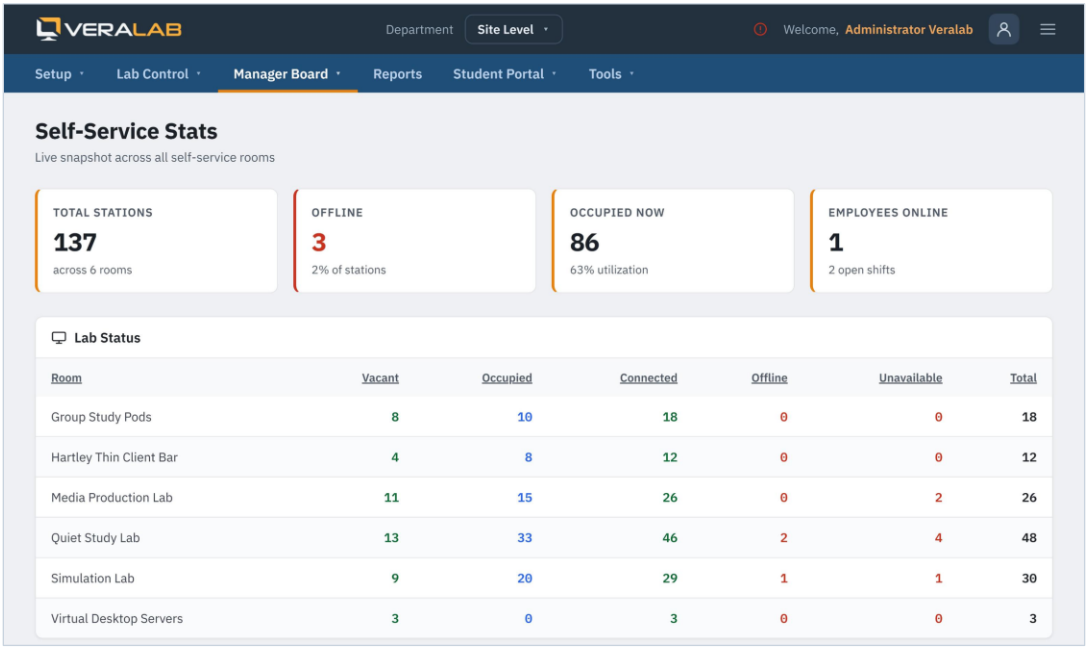
What's New in VeraLab 26.2

Release Date: November 20, 2026

VeraLab 26.2 brings a completely redesigned web console, a new AI Insights usage analytics board, a redesigned Student Portal with a display mode for lobby screens, and a broad set of accessibility, security and reliability improvements. This document outlines the key enhancements, updates and technology improvements introduced in this release.

Enhancements & Updates

- **Redesigned Web Console** — Every administration, monitoring and reporting page has a new, consistent look with clearer forms, tables and navigation. Your data, menus and permissions stay the same.
  - **Light and dark themes** — Switch themes at any time; both are tuned for readable contrast.
  - **Phones and tablets** — On small screens the menu moves into a drawer, and the department and theme switchers stay available.
  - **Clearer feedback** — Confirmations and messages open in VeraLab's own dialogs instead of browser pop-ups, and after each save or delete a message names exactly what changed.
  - **Fewer pop-up windows** — Creating and editing accounts now happens on regular pages.



The redesigned console: Self-Service Stats

- **Redesigned Reports and Dashboards** — Reports open with summary cards, interactive charts and sortable tables, and still export to Excel and PDF.
  - **Day-of-week reports** — Registrations, Waitlist, Inventory, Logins and Number of Bookings share one board; click a day to see its busiest hours.
  - **Usage Trends** — Compare years and seasons, follow running seat hours with the typical range shaded and outliers marked, and compare Hours per visit with the previous year.
  - **Room Cost** — Switch between By room and By workstation, and drill down from a station to its repair history.
  - **Also redesigned** — Monthly and Year-to-Date Usage Stats, Headcount, Downtime, Software Compliance, Aggregate Software Tracking, Block Booking, and the Manager and Booking dashboards.
  - **Local formats** — Hours follow your time format setting, and counts use your locale's number grouping.
  - **Accurate dashboard figures** — Total stations, the Self-Service bar and Running Metered Apps now show correct values.

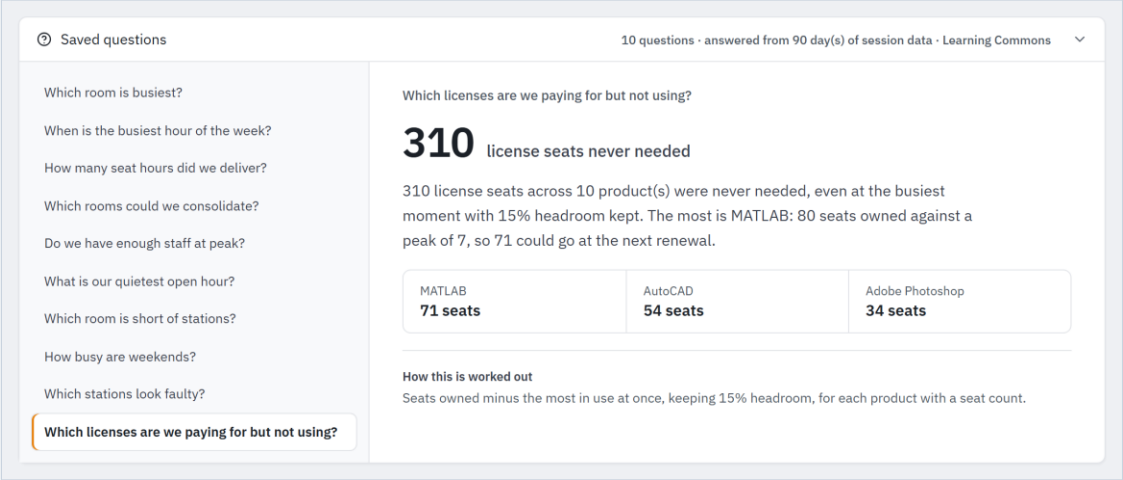


Usage Trends: visits by month, compared across academic years

- **AI Insights (new)** — A usage analytics board that answers the questions lab managers ask most: how busy each room really is, when to staff it, what changed last week and which licenses go unused.
  - **Room utilization and traffic** — Average utilization, peak concurrency and visits for every room.
  - **Typical-week occupancy** — A heat map of each hour of the week with a plan-for level, to help set opening hours and staffing. The number of seats per assistant is a setting.
  - **Unusual activity** — Rooms and hours that were quieter than usual or had no usage in the most recent week, a common sign of a closed room or a network fault.
  - **License right-sizing** — Recommendations based on how many licenses are actually in use.

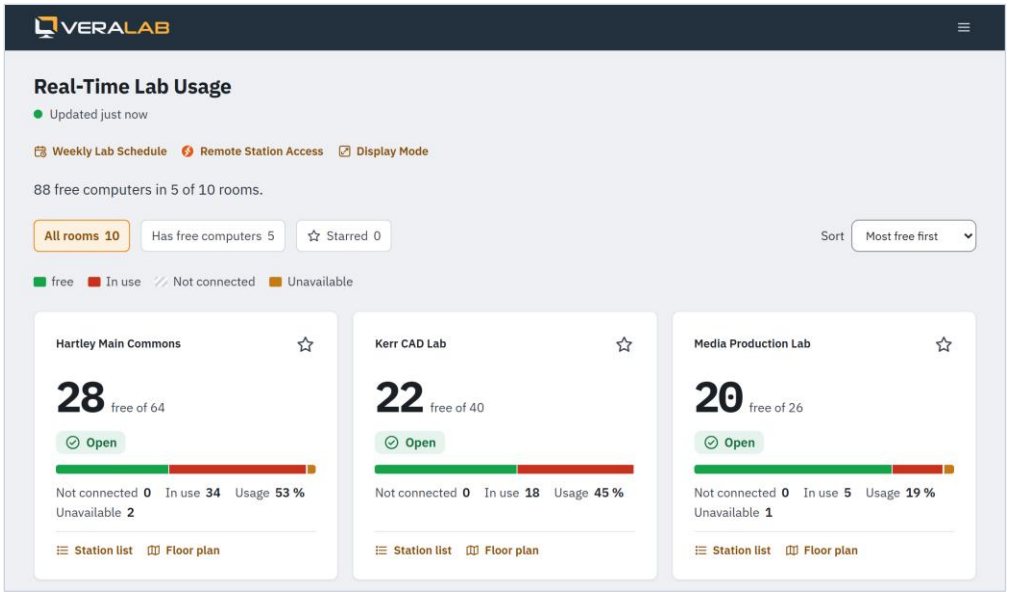
- **Saved Questions** — Ready-made answers to common questions, such as which stations look faulty and which licenses are unused.

Please note: AI Insights is calculated on your VeraLab server from your own usage data. After an upgrade it builds its history in the background; progress is shown on the Maintain Data page, which can also rebuild it. It is available at Site Level and for each department.

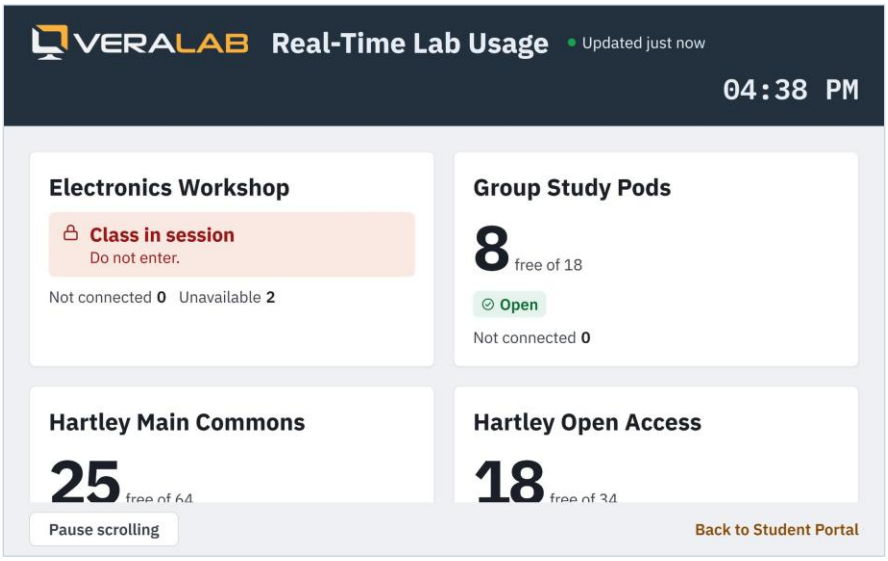


AI Insights: a Saved Question about unused licenses

- **Redesigned Student Portal** — Students see room cards with filters, sorting and favorites, and each room offers Floor plan, Station list and Today views. Information refreshes without reloading the page.
  - **Display Mode** — A full-screen view for lobby screens and kiosks. It shows every room, scrolls through them automatically and can be paused. A single room can also be shown on its own.
  - **Station list for every room** — Rooms without a floor plan can show their stations as a list.

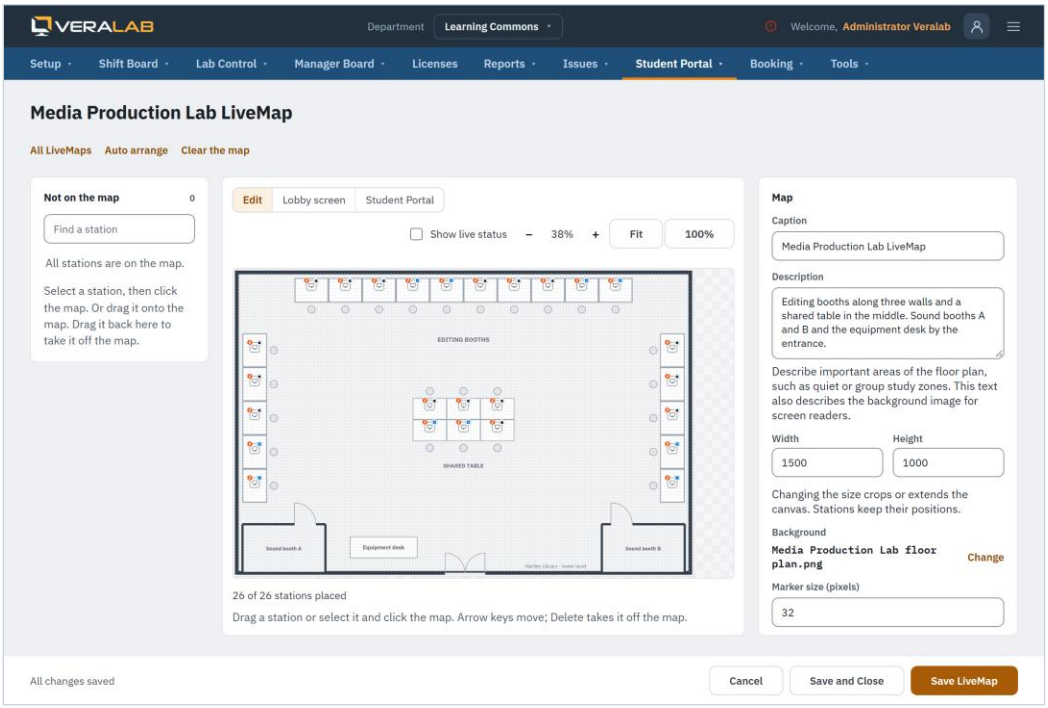


Student Portal: room cards with free computers for each room



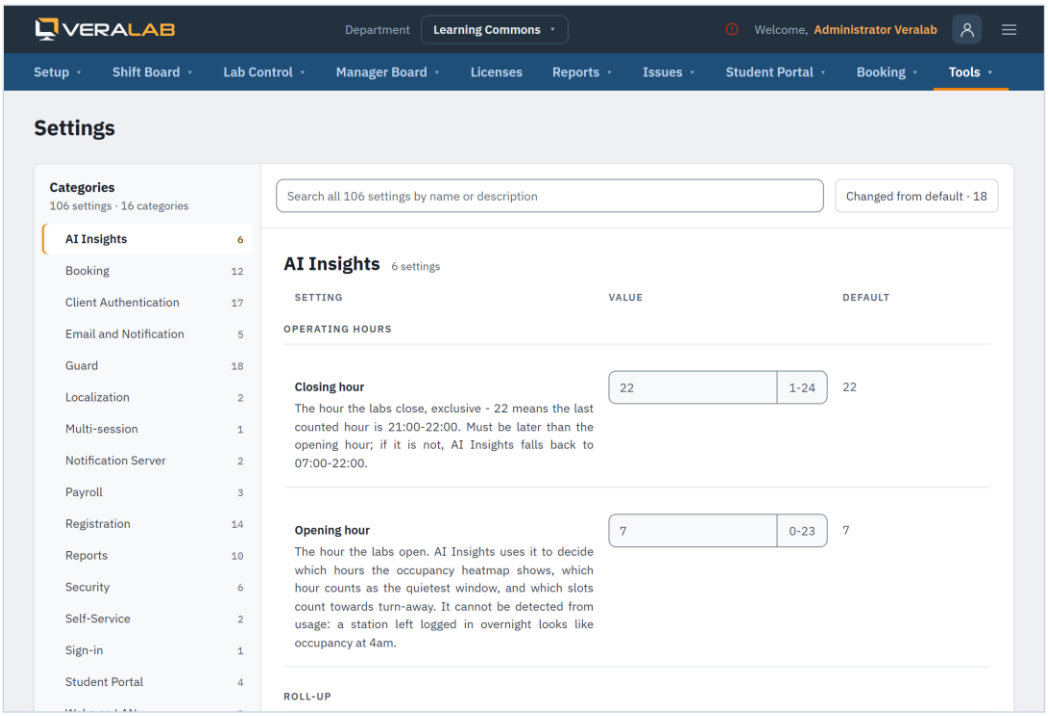
Display Mode on a lobby screen

- **Redesigned LiveMap Editor and Viewer** — Drawing and editing floor plans is simpler, stations align to the grid, and both the editor and the viewer can be used with the keyboard as well as the mouse.



The LiveMap editor

- **New Settings Workspace** — All settings are now in one place, grouped into categories and subcategories. Search across all settings, review your changes before saving them, and see who changed what and when in the new Settings Change History.



The Settings workspace: categories, search and the Changed from default filter

- **Booking** — The end-user Booking app and the console's Booking pages share the new design. The student filter matches the console's, the app explains why no time slots are available, My Bookings can be printed again, and a new editor makes Booking email templates easier to maintain.
- **Guided Remote Client Update** — Updating clients is now a three-step process: choose the update package, choose the stations, and confirm.
- **Client Banners** — Banner management is redesigned, and you choose the level at which each banner applies. Banner files are kept within the department that owns them.
- **More redesigned pages** — Add / Edit Alert, Inventory Administration, Search Issues (live filtering with counts and export), Workstation Availability (faster loading), Enrollment, the Shift Panel, the sign-in page, and the page shown when the server installation is complete.
- **Accessibility** — VeraLab was reviewed against VPAT 2.5 and improved throughout: validation errors are announced to screen readers and lead to the field concerned, help and tooltips work with the keyboard, contrast is improved in both themes, and the LiveMap can be used without a mouse.
  - **Session timeout warning** — Before an inactive session ends, VeraLab shows a countdown with Stay signed in, so unsaved work is not lost.
- **Refreshed Demo Data** — The optional Demo Data installed with VeraLab now holds a full recent year of realistic campus activity, with floor plans, bookings, schedules and software use, in place of the old 2012 records. The new reports, dashboards and AI Insights have meaningful data to explore when you evaluate VeraLab or train new employees.

Security and Reliability

Alongside the new design, VeraLab 26.2 makes the server more secure and more dependable. We recommend this upgrade to all customers.

- **Security Hardening** — Stronger protection against cross-site request forgery and script injection, safer processing of XML and uploaded files with size limits, a size limit on HTTP requests from lab computers, and passwords are no longer written to diagnostic logs.
- **Safer database updates** — VeraLab updates its database each time it starts. If that update can't be completed, VeraLab now stops instead of running on a database that was not updated: its pages show "404 Not Found", and the reason is recorded in the server log. See Upgrading to VeraLab 26.2 below.
- **Dependable station commands** — A slow or unresponsive lab computer no longer delays commands sent to other computers.
- **A console that stays responsive** — While VeraLab waits for a lab computer to answer, for example when you request a screenshot, other employees working in the console are no longer slowed down.
- **Clear results for a test send** — Clicking Test on a scheduled report now tells you when the report could not be sent, and names an invalid email address so you can correct it.

Technology Stack Updates

This release includes the following embedded platform technologies and dependencies.

Component	Version / Notes
Apache Tomcat	11.0.29
Embedded Java Runtime	JDK 25 (LTS), 25.0.5.1
Database	PostgreSQL 18.7
Library Dependencies	Updated and streamlined across platform components

Upgrading to VeraLab 26.2

The installer upgrades your VeraLab server and its database from earlier VeraLab releases in one run. Upgrading requires an active Extended Support agreement; if yours has lapsed, contact sales@veralab.com to renew before you upgrade.

- **Back up before you start** — Make your own backup of the VeraLab database before you run the installer, and take a snapshot if the server is a virtual machine. The installer keeps a backup too, but your own copy is the quickest way back to the version you have now.
- **Choose a quiet time** — VeraLab is unavailable while the installer runs. Schedule the upgrade outside lab hours.

- **Supported browsers** — VeraLab 26.2 needs Chrome or Edge 111, Firefox 121, or Safari 16.4 (iOS and iPadOS 16.4), or later. Check kiosks and lobby screens before you upgrade.
- **Check VeraLab after the upgrade** — Sign in as an administrator and open the pages you use most, such as Lab Control and a report or two. If you see error pages, don't enter new data: contact support@veralab.com and keep your backup, so we can help you finish the upgrade or return to your previous version.
- **If VeraLab pages show "404 Not Found"** — When every VeraLab page shows "HTTP Status 404 – Not Found" after the upgrade, the database update did not complete and VeraLab stopped to protect your data. The reason is in the newest catalina log file in VeraLab's tomcat\logs folder, under "Database migration failed". Send that file to support@veralab.com and keep your backup.
- **Custom changes and scripts** — If VeraLab Inc. made custom changes for your site, or you use scripts or bookmarks that call VeraLab pages directly (for example to wake lab computers), contact support@veralab.com before you upgrade. For security, VeraLab now accepts such requests only from its own pages.
- **Trusted certificates** — VeraLab 26.2 includes an updated list of trusted certificate authorities, and the installer replaces the previous list. If sign-in with campus accounts or outgoing email stops working right after the upgrade, check these two cases:
  - **Certificates you added** — If you added your own certificate to VeraLab's Java certificate store (for example, your campus CA for LDAPS), the upgrade removes it. Have the certificate file ready before you upgrade; your previous store is also kept in the dated .zip file in the backup folder. After the upgrade, open a Command Prompt as administrator, run the command below with your own folder, alias and file name, and restart the VeraLab Apache Tomcat service.

    ```
    C:\Veralab\jre\bin\keytool -importcert -keystore C:\Veralab\jre\lib\security\cacerts ^
      -storepass changeit -alias campus-ca -file C:\certs\campus-ca.cer
    ```

  - **Older public certificates** — Some older root certificates are no longer included, among them the 2006 DigiCert, QuoVadis and COMODO roots and several Entrust roots. If your server's certificate was issued under one of them, ask your certificate provider to reissue it.
- **Web server ports and settings** — The installer replaces the Tomcat configuration files in the tomcat\conf folder, including server.xml. If you changed the HTTP or HTTPS port in Server Manager, or edited these files yourself, note your changes before you upgrade and make them again afterward, then restart the VeraLab Apache Tomcat service. Your previous files are kept in the same backup .zip file for reference. The HTTPS keystore file (tomcat\.keystore) and the server memory setting are carried over automatically.
- **Guest account numbers** — Short-term (guest) account numbers no longer restart from guest1 each day. A number is reserved when the Add page opens and keeps increasing; numbers from accounts that were never activated are skipped.

Support & Feedback

Need assistance or have feedback? Contact VeraLab Support at support@veralab.com.

Thank you for using VeraLab and for helping us improve the platform through your feedback.