**Lab Management Systems** are applications that institutions use to manage lab computers and restore installations to original configurations. ExamSoft currently supports Deep Freeze and Windows computers, but in many situations, other Lab Management systems are compatible if they can set a Persistent Storage Path.

A **Persistent Storage Path** needs to be created on each of the lab computers to allow SofTest to write its working and backup files to. This prevents loss of data in the event of a restart on the computer.

1. **Create a Persistent Storage Path**
   First, a Persistent Storage Path needs to be created for SofTest to write its working and backup files. This is a separate partitioned space on the computer’s hard drive disk. The Account Manager (AM) of your institution needs to be informed which path is intended for the Persistent Storage.

   The AM will use this information to configure SofTest to save information to this path by default.

   The Persistent Storage Path must be partitioned on the computer’s hard drive disk. If the Persistent Storage is set on a network drive, SofTest will not write to it.

2. **Install SofTest**
   The next step is to install SofTest in your lab environment to do this, launch the **STWIN11.exe** file and follow the onscreen instructions of the installation package. The Account Manager (AM) of your institution can provide you a direct link to the installation file. The machine will need to be unfrozen at this point to do this.

   If you have SofTest installed on the computer, you will need to unregister it. This is accomplished by holding the key-combination **CTRL+F7** at the startup screen.

3. **Register SofTest**
   Now, SofTest needs to be registered with a **Lab Exam Taker** account. To accomplish this, launch SofTest. Then enter the ID and password of an ET into the SofTest **Registration** window. This will instruct SofTest to operate in lab-machine mode.

4. **Exam Taker License Agreement**
   At this point, an ET License Agreement needs to be read. When ready, select ‘Accept’.

5. **Path Controller**
   After SofTest has been successfully registered, a pop-up window will appear requesting you to input the path on the computer to which it will write. This path will always be the **Persistent Storage Path** that was created earlier. This is the **same path** that you provided to your AM.

   Once the correct path is represented, select ‘OK’ to finish.

   ![Path Selection](image)

   If the specified path is incorrect, use the ‘Path Selection’ button and select the top-level part of the correct path. For example, if it was C:\ES_DATA, select C:\ and then click ‘OK’.

6. **Finalizing the Installation and Testing**
   After the **Persistent Storage Path** is selected, the registration process is complete. In order to test the installation first download then begin a mock exam with at least one essay question. Type content into the essay question and then wait approximately three minutes and shutdown the machine using the power button (to simulate a crash). Restart the machine and if SofTest returns you to the exam with saved content you know that the persistent storage is working properly.

   The computer now needs to be rebooted into a frozen state. Afterwards, **ETs** can begin to log into the machine and take exams. All SofTest working files will be retained.