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Wizards of the Coast Readies Magic: The Gathering Online for Launch

Final weeks of beta bring modifications to testers' accounts and a new "Free Trial" feature

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RENTON, WA, MAY 10, 2002 - In preparation for the launch of its highly anticipated *Magic: The Gathering Online* game, Wizards of the Coast announced today the planned implementation of changes to beta testers' accounts. The changes, scheduled for May 25, include the clearing of online card collections and implementation of pre-set limits for online card purchases during the remainder of the beta period. The beta test will continue after May 25. *Magic Online* is slated to officially launch in late June.

The modifications are designed to enable thorough testing of the game's ecommerce system, including the card store where players will be able to purchase online cards. "Every aspect of game-play is running extremely well thanks to an extensive beta test that has included upward of 60,000 testers," commented John Doyle, technical director for *Magic: The Gathering Online*. "Equally important to game-play is the infrastructure that supports the game. We are committed to thoroughly testing all of *Magic Online's* supporting systems to ensure a successful launch."

Free Trial Feature Launched

Related to today's announcement, Wizards said a new "Free Trial" feature is now available in *Magic Online*, offering players access to five ready-to-play theme decks of 40 cards each, for a total of 200 cards to play with in the Practice Games room. "The Free Trial is a bonus feature we believe a lot of players, especially new and casual players, will take advantage of," said Kyle Murray, Director of Marketing for *Magic: The Gathering*.

After logging on to *Magic Online*, players will be able to click on the "Free Trial" tab at the top-left of their screen to access the free decks. Players then click on a deck of their choosing to open the deck and then can begin playing immediately in one of *Magic Online's* "Practice Rooms."

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