Promise and Perils of Online Proctoring

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Why do you give exams?

What is the purpose of proctoring?
Academic Integrity

• Literature on online courses suggest that students are likely to cheat in an online environment (Alessio, Malay, Maurer, Bailer, & Rubin, 2017).

• “The most commonly reported challenge in online assessment is how to maintain academic integrity” (Hollister & Berenson, 2009).

• Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008
  • Accrediting agencies require distance education programs validate identity of students and provide assurances that work is completed by actual enrolled students.
How Students Cheat

• Obtain exam questions/solutions from files (online, fraternities, etc.)
• Conspire with classmates.
• Test banks from publishers
• Collusion with proctors
• Whatever means they think they can get away with
Dependable Distributed Testing Risks

• Testing management
• Impersonator
• Computer misuse
• Forbidden stuff (unauthorized materials)
• Accomplice
• Test leakage
• Electronic warfare

*Risks can be mitigated, but NEVER eliminated!*

Online Exam Control Procedures

1. All students (including distance) take exam at same time.
2. Short exam accessibility.
3. Randomized questions.
4. One question at a time.
5. Exam designed to fit within allotted time.
6. One-time access to exam.
7. Lockdown browser.
8. Change exams between terms.

Online Proctoring Features

• Webcam / microphone
• Live monitoring of student/exam/test environment by remote proctor
• Secure authentication & identification
  • Username / password
  • Keystroke pattern analysis
  • Fingerprint identification
  • Photo taken next to their approved picture id (student id or driver’s license).
  • Public-records questions
• Lockdown browser (optional)
• Review of exam recording by proctor / instructor
Exam Questions for Online Proctoring

Easy question types:
• Multiple Choice, T/F, Multiple Answer
• Fill in the Blank
• Numerical Answer
• Essay / Short Answer
• Matching
• SIMPLE Formula Questions
Exam Questions for Online Proctoring

Hard question types:
• Sketches, diagrams, graphs
• “Show your work” problems
• Multiple-part questions
• Form-based questions
• File-upload questions
Promises of Online Proctoring

• Low-cost alternative for distance students
  • $15-$30 per exam based on system and length of exam
• Low burden of implementation on teachers/students
  • Students need to meet tech requirements
  • Teachers just need to create exams in online proctoring system/LMS
• May not even be required for many assessments
  • Alternatives may exist for summative/formative assessment
  • Local instructional design team can offer possible solutions
• Online proctors are
  • paid for their work
  • trained to detect cheating behaviors
  • record the entire exam session for later review
S&T’s Results with ProctorU

Since Fall 2017 (when we started with ProctorU)

• 215 sessions
• 68 exams
• 124 test takers
• 4 incidents (all flagged as “medium” priority)
• Approximate costs for FS2017: $3,400 (with late fees)
  • Average cost per session: $16
Future of Online Proctoring

Automated proctoring system (ProctorU Auto)

• Artificial intelligence monitors student
• Real-time alerts for suspicious behavior
• Instructor can monitor in real time
• Faster turn-around times on recordings
• No special hardware (other than webcam) required

SOURCES:


Questions?
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