

Helping to Prevent Cheating in the Technology-Enabled Classroom

Cheating in schools has become easier and more prevalent in recent years. In 2010, 2,400 students from 70 different schools were surveyed, and Rutgers University found that 95 percent of the students admitted to cheating in some form. While some attribute this to the school and parents for having failed to give strong messages to their students regarding what is right and what is wrong, some also argue that it is because grades are becoming the greater concern to students, rather than the education as a whole.ⁱ

At the same time, some education institutions today contain testing facilities that do not require a professor or supervisor to administer exams. New open environment testing centers allow students to take exams electronically with little or no privacy. Such environments, in combination with today's pressure to perform in school, produce "hot spots" for cheating and in turn a need for educational institutions to take action.

With an increase in the use of technological devices in schools, technology departments and teachers have to find ways to prevent students from using the Internet browsers during exams. *Education Week* wrote an article in 2014 about the use of screen casting in schools with iPads. Screen casting allows students to do homework or take exams on the device with the ability to still "show their work" on necessary problems presented by educators. Additionally, educators can watch students work through problems as the devices record what the student is doing, allowing the teacher to watch without having to stand over a student's shoulder.ⁱⁱ

However, there is still question regarding challenges with security and usability on content that is available to students working on devices. Apple's iOS8 allows teachers to disable the iPad home button during exams so students cannot exit the exam screen. But what about students visually hacking information or answers from the screens of fellow students by simply looking over their shoulder?

The following tools can help enhance security and privacy when technology is used by students and staff in your educational institution:

1. Screen Privacy Products

Screen privacy products, such as 3M™ Privacy Filters allow the user directly in front of the screen to see the information displayed on the screen while anyone attempting to view the screen from the side sees only a black screen. 3M™ Privacy Filters give users the ability to access data any time, anywhere without having to worry about visual hackers beside them catching glimpses of private and confidential information (such as test answers).^{iv}

2. Browser Lockdown

Software from Respondus enables institutions to protect the integrity of non-proctored, online exams. With an added webcam, institutions can record assessment sessions. Browser blocking software addresses core issues of student identity and cheating, creating an essential layer of security.

3. Remote Web Proctoring

Capabilities include securely and efficiently administering exams and other assessments online, allowing students to test anywhere, which measures more than standard knowledge regurgitation and focuses on performance and applied learning too. Today's student body includes more non-traditional students who balance school, work, families and other responsibilities, making anywhere test locations less cost- and time-consuming than on-site examinations.^v

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Apple's iOS8 allows educators to disable the lock button on iPads used by students.

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ⁱ2010 plagiarism.org. ⁱⁱ2012 NYTimes.com. ⁱⁱⁱ2012 thejournal.com
^{iv}Respondus.com. ^v2012 McGraw-Hill Education—integrity.com

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the best policy.

