



# Exams on laptops now available at UTAS

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Following national success in 2009 and three years of use, eExams have been strategically funded and are now available to unit coordinators in Launceston.

- Do you teach using MyLO?
- Find it hard to read handwriting on examination scripts?
- Willing to let students use a keyboard in your exam? Perhaps as an option?

Then consider using an eExam.

## What is an eExam?

The eExam system is built on free, open source software (Ubuntu) which is copied onto USB sticks. Students boot their own laptop from the USB which then:

- Prevents access to the computer hard drive (so students cannot retrieve information)
- Interdicts communication (so they have no access to the internet etc.).

At the end of the exam, scripts are collected from the eExam USB sticks and recorded onto a CD for you.



## Preparation

If you are going to offer your students this option, they will need a practice exam. This can be provided to each student upon receipt of a 2Gb USB stick (about \$10) in an envelope which has their unit code, name and ID number written on it. The envelopes will be returned to you with the sticks programmed using last year's paper and an instruction sheet on how it can be used.

## Technical

Because the Ubuntu software is open source, copies are easy to distribute. The eExam System works with just about all PCs, Macs built since 2004 with a CD drive and netbooks etc. If a student requires a loan laptop, a trolley is available with spares. Filtered mains power is made available to students, so battery life is not an issue. Answers are saved to the stick at regular intervals – students can save more often if they wish.

## Administration

It's easy. You prepare your exam in the normal way and submit to the UTAS Exams Office through InSite as per usual. Also provide a unique photograph for the desktop background. There are two new codes to include in the exams file:

- *Materials Allowed:* LA – a laptop computer with at least 1Gb RAM and an Intel processor for the eExamination with the appropriate mains adapter/charger, a wired mouse and headphones.
- *Materials Provided:* US - USB Drive containing the eExam System, exam materials and space for answer script.

For more details please see the web site or e-mail [Andrew.Fluck@utas.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.Fluck@utas.edu.au)