



eExam Trial Results

December 2010

Results of the project trials

Three Faculties used eExams in 2010 – Education, Law and Arts (History). In each case the examinations went well, with 100% of students in Education using video stimuli, running educational software and reviewing digital pupil products during their ‘papers’. In other Faculties, candidates chose the writing tool which would give them the best advantage (Law=20% and History=6% using computers). An analysis of word counts showed that by changing procedures to allow typing in reading time, eExam candidates should produce more words and therefore score higher marks. Ninety percent of eExam candidates used their own computers – the others were provided with a UTAS laptop.



Each candidate's computer is controlled by this USB stick during the exam, interdicting communications and local disk access.

Project outcomes

The UTAS eExams strategic project has achieved the following outcomes:

- Successfully conducted eExams in three Faculties
- Upgraded the software to the latest version of Ubuntu using a portable method to suit future editions
- Purchased sufficient equipment to offer eExams at the Cradle Coast and Launceston campuses over coming years (a request to cover Hobart is being considered)
- Negotiated with the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority to run a pre-tertiary state-wide trial in 2011. This will link with the Authority's distributed digital marking system
- Trained Exams Office and Information Technology Resources staff to run eExams (more training will be offered in 2011)
- Had motions of support passed by several Faculty teaching and learning committees
- Initiated a commercialisation process for the concept of eExams
- Presented at *Teaching Matters* conference (available online)

Comments

Lecturers	Yes it went well. Hopefully more students will select this option next year
Students	I would not have been able to manage half of that if I'd had to hand write.
	It was an absolute blessing.
	Yes, you could just change things

To offer the eExam option to your students, please include this text in your unit outline:

Students will need to provide a USB data stick with a minimum capacity of 2Gb for a practice eExam. This will overwrite any data already on the stick. In the eExam you will need a laptop computer with a minimum 10" screen, earphone(s), at least 1Gb of RAM and an Intel processor which can boot from a USB stick or CD-drive (Apple Macs) for the examination. You may also bring a wired mouse.

We are finishing the project by producing experimental exams requiring text input in Mandarin.

For more details please see the web site or e-mail Andrew.Fluck@utas.edu.au