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Dealing With Digital Academic Dishonesty

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For some time, universities have been concerned about digital academic dishonesty, particularly with respect to plagiarized term papers and reports. Recently, many universities have adopted classroom management software, such as Blackboard ™or WebCT™. These classroom management applications afford faculty and students many additional electronic capabilities, including easy posting of class notes or presentation files for downloading, collection of student assignments in digital drop boxes, online testing, chat rooms, and so forth. The inventive student intent on earning an acceptable course grade may use classroom management software, email, and the Web in ways that violate academic integrity standards. Now, in addition to the problem of electronically plagiarized term papers and reports, students are discovering ways to cheat in online and computer-based testing.

The University of Tampa began using Blackboard in the fall 2001 semester. Our workshop explores the ways students are cheating during online and other computer-based testing (Baker & Papp, 2003). The workshop suggests practical ways to deal with each type of testing problem, and presents or demonstrates NetSupport™ Classroom Software. Four general methods of online test cheating are covered:

- Accessing other websites during online testing
- Using instant messenger/winpopup.exe to communicate during online testing
- Seeding test computers with test answers, formulae, or crib sheets
- Bringing in floppy/zip disks containing test answers, formulae, or crib sheets.

Digital safeguards for testing, interception methods to provide evidence of dishonesty, and computer lab classroom software that can be used to inhibit cheating will be covered.

The software will be presented through relevant screen captures in a PowerPoint presentation and demonstrated through a small network of laptops.

Baker, R. & Papp, R. (2003), "Academic Integrity Violation in the Digital Realm", *SAIS 2003 Proceedings*, Savannah, Georgia. *Note: This workshop is an outgrowth of this previously presented paper.*