



Applying Learning Management Systems in classroom based assessment

Dan Savanovic

Faculty of Business & Information Technology
Canberra Institute of Technology
Canberra, Australia
dan.savanovic@cit.act.edu.au

This poster endeavours to answer the question “Why use assessment management features of a Learning Management System during a classroom based assessment”.

As a teacher have you ever received a blank floppy disk or a disk that was unreadable after conducting an assessment in a computer lab? Many Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as WebCT have a file transfer function called the Assignment Drop Box that can be utilized to overcome the problem of corrupt floppy disks being submitted by learners. Learning Management Systems may also provide further benefits such as the controlled release and submission of assessment files in the lab room. Large files such as an Access database can reliably be downloaded and uploaded online rather than the submitting a floppy disk.

Since the beginning of 2003 I have used WebCT during classroom-based assessment with groups of around 100 learners in the Diploma of Information Technology at Canberra Institute of Technology. WebCT’s assignment drop box has saved time in the release of information, the management of assessments and the dissemination of results. From a students view, the assignment drop box enabled verification that the assessment files were indeed submitted. The assignment drop box enabled the teacher to have greater classroom management by controlling student access and their ability to submit files. It overcame the problems of students handing in corrupt disks and students leaving the room with their assessment. WebCT enabled online recording of assessment outcomes and feedback. Using the drop box overcame filing of 100 to 200 floppy disks per semester. Teachers can download all classroom submitted assessments into automatically created folders, named with the student number, which makes marking and searching for individual assessments

easier. Course evaluation surveys showed that 70-80% of the learners preferred to use WebCT’s assignment drop box during an assessment rather than submitting a floppy disk.