

# Enabling the Dynamic Workspace for Digital Testing

The world is quickly becoming digitalized, and it's no different in education—particularly in the area of knowledge testing. More and more exams today are being digitalized and presented via devices and locations typically used as a study workspace (computer) or classroom. Consequently, it's important to enable those digital workspaces to be adapted quickly and dynamically to serve multiple purposes.

**How can you enable workspaces for digital testing so that digital exams can be taken safely and securely—and then speedily reconfigure the workspaces back to a normal educational environment?**

## The Risks of Digital Testing

Students are always tempted to cheat when taking exams. We've now entered the era of digital exams, where the possibilities for potential cheating have multiplied. Consider the abuse of Wikipedia, Google, and many other resources available on the internet.

What's more, there are many new ways of "secret" communication between students to give them access to data and possible answers. Think about applications like Skype and WhatsApp.

While there is a range of security measures for fair and secure testing with paper exams, these measures must be drastically extended when exams are administered in a digital workspace. Examples include a restricted network environment; multi-factor authentication; preventing the use of Bluetooth, infrared, and Wi-Fi; and restricted use of applications, internet access, USB ports, and external hard drives.

## Configuration and Security Demands

There is no such thing as "the secure digital exam configuration." Demands for security and configuration vary depending on the type of the digital exam. Access to the digital test platform is always required, but it's possible that other types of access are required, such as access to specific applications or websites. Examples include:

- Spelling and grammar control in Microsoft Word is normally not an option that links directly to fraud. However, when taking a language test, it would be.
- Usage of USB storage devices would not be desirable; however, the usage of a USB mouse or headphones might be necessary.

With a dynamic solution, the workspace can be configured to accommodate every digital-exam need.

## Flexible Use of Digital Workspaces is Challenging

Digital workspaces must be configured and secured to enable digital exams, and then reconfigured to serve as a normal student workspace after an exam period. A good example is internet access, which likely isn't needed during an exam but is required during a normal day in the life of a student.

Configuring workspaces dynamically is challenging for most educational organizations today. It reduces the productivity of IT and students and frustrates teachers. Most organizations struggle with deploying a standard workspace, let alone one where they must switch configurations multiple times a year.

Mostly this happens by "imaging" the computers. Installing a different base image consumes valuable time, and the process starts over after the exam period to revert to the original configuration. Images then need to be maintained and updates for software and OS

installed. And the more images that are created and maintained, the more work this brings. IT must know far ahead of time which exams will be taken and what configurations are needed, so they are ready when the exam period starts.

Due to the time-consuming process of reimaging workspaces for an increasingly large scale of digital exams, enabling individual testing is virtually impossible.

### Just-in-Time Configuration of the Digital Workspace

Ivanti automates and secures the digital workspace based on (exam) location, time, device, and identity. Ivanti also automates the process of requesting an exam environment via self-service.

For example, let's say a teacher needs to test students via a digital exam. With Ivanti, the teacher can request a date and location suitable for the right number of students via a self-service portal. When this request is approved by a co-worker in the planning department, or through integration with a planning system, the digital workspaces at the desired location will be reconfigured automatically for secure testing during the exam period with no IT involvement.

Ivanti places a filter in between the student and the digital workspace. This filter configures the workspace depending on the context of the student (identity, location, device, time). Pre-configuration by IT prevents cheating by disabling certain applications, internet access, USB storage devices, etc. The student can only start the exam application and any authorized applications and tools specific to the exam being taken.

After the exam period, Ivanti reconfigures the workspace back to its normal educative open state automatically. Ivanti helps contain risk and improve both the productivity of students and teachers and the availability of facilities.

### Individual Digital Testing within Reach

The ability to configure workspaces dynamically for digital testing places the possibility for irregular

individual testing within reach. Students with individual learning paths could request exams at a specific time through self-service. The exam would be offered to the individual learner and would be secured and configured automatically at the desired time to meet the exam requirements.

By offering individual digital testing, educational organizations can enter a new dimension of learning possibilities.

### Why Ivanti?

Ivanti offers your digital exam environment several advantages:

- Self-service for teachers and students affords flexibility and reduces dependency on IT.
- Significant time savings for IT through automatic configurations of digital exam workspaces based on self-service.
- A predictable and safe digital (exam) workspace through automatic, contextually aware configuration.
- Integration with planning and digital exam systems to streamline and automate the administrative workflows necessary in the process of requesting exams.
- Individual digital testing within reach, expanding the learning possibilities that traditional educational organizations can facilitate.

#### Learn More

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