

Academic honesty and the LMS

Summer 2021 Hack/Doc

Moodle logs store detailed information about student actions which can be used as evidence of potential academic dishonesty. How do you respond to requests for student Moodle activity from faculty or administrative staff? What types of requests should be accommodated and what type of request crosses the line from legitimate inquiry to fishing expedition?

The issues

- Faculty (dis)comfort with take home exams and potential cheating
 - Wide variety of faculty opinions
- Increased use of take home exams via Moodle may continue post-pandemic
- Possible solutions may be beyond the purview of IT:
 - [Honor code?](#)
 - More authentic assignments
- Faculty look to IT for help with determining cheating
- What is an appropriate scope for ITS to get involved?

Dartmouth Medical School 2021

Online Cheating Charges Upend Dartmouth Medical School

The university accused 17 students of cheating on remote exams, raising questions about data mining and sowing mistrust on campus.

Pre-emptive searching for potential cheating

[New York Times, May 9, 2021](#)

Webcam Spy Case

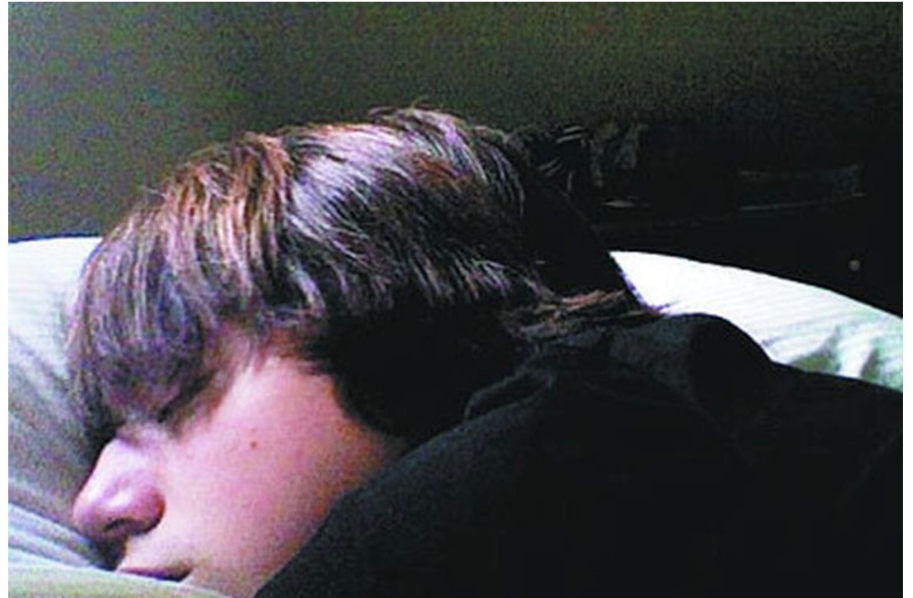
Don't want the wild west - have some policies in place

[Lower Merion report: Web cams snapped 56,000 images](#)

[Robbins v. Lower Merion School District](#)

Lower Merion report: Web cams snapped 56,000 images

Lower Merion School District employees activated the web cameras and tracking software on laptops they gave to high school students about 80 times in the past two school years, snapping nearly 56,000 images that included photos of students, pictures inside their homes and copies of the programs or files running on their screens, district investigators have concluded.



This photo, allegedly taken surreptitiously by the Lower Merion School District through a laptop web camera, shows Blake Robbins sleeping at home at 5 p.m. on Oct 26. (Photo provided by the Robbins family)

Moodle Academic Integrity Landscape

- Moodle logs track most student actions, including
 - IP address
 - Detailed information about when each question of a quiz is submitted
- Easy for instructors to view course logs, but volume of information / lack of familiarity make it difficult to process for large classes
- Plagiarism utilities such as Turnitin are available for assignments (and soon for quick essay questions)
- Safe Exam Browser available to lock down browser for quizzes - not widely used at CLAMP/CLAC schools (same with proctoring software)
- Logs don't show downloaded files or cached files in Moodle app

How would you handle these requests?

- Professor notices a student is logged into Moodle during a synchronous exam and asks for data about what was accessed.
- Professor notices two nearly identical essay responses for a quiz in a large class and asks for help comparing all the other students' responses.
- Professor requests timestamp data for all Moodle quiz questions to analyze for similar responses / timing of a take home exam.