

Contract Cheating in UK Higher Education:

promoting a proactive approach

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Overview of this session

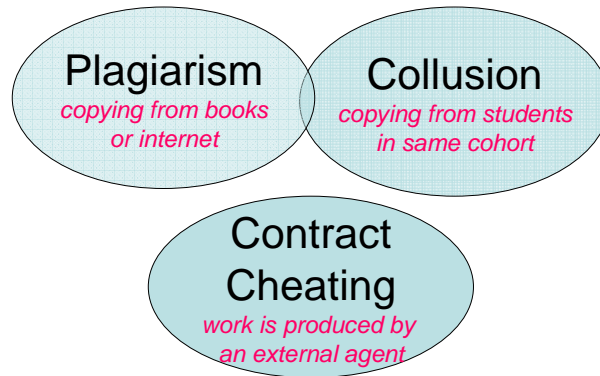
- What is contract cheating?
 - How is different from other forms of cheating?
 - Examples of contract cheating.
- The players in a multi-faceted approach
 - Designing out opportunities to cheat.
 - Dealing with cases of contract cheating.
 - Other issues.
- Workshop Activity
- Problems for the future.
 - Challenges for the future

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Categories of “Cheating”

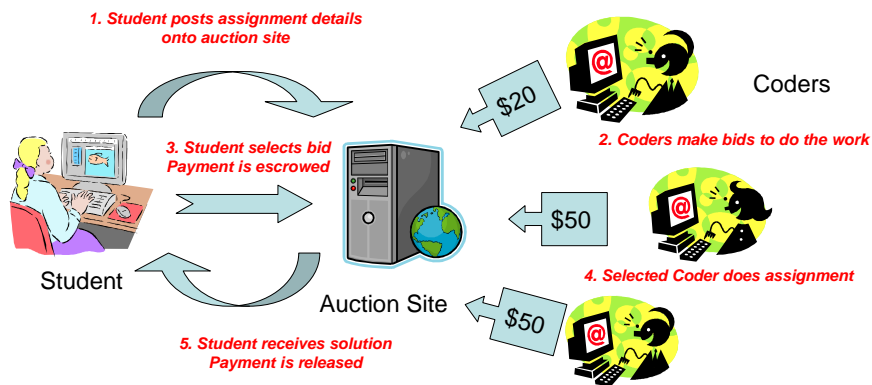
In assessed coursework we can characterise 3 main categories:-



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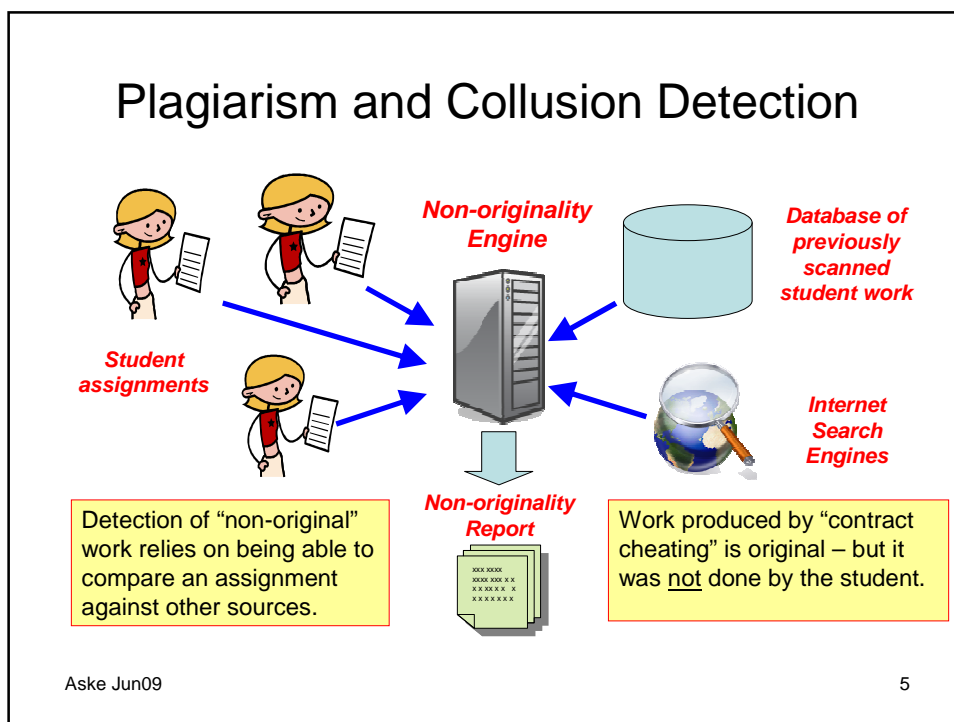
What is “contract cheating” ?



“Contract cheating” occurs when a student gets someone else to do an assignment for them and then hands it in as their own work.

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- ## Different Ways of Contract Cheating
- **Auction sites** (eg Rentacoder)
 - set up to provide service for businesses
 - **Tutorial sites** (eg StudentOfFortune)
 - set up to provide "assistance" to students
 - **Essay Mills and Essay Banks** (eg Brainmass)
 - provide tailor-made and off-the-shelf solutions
 - **Discussion Forums**
 - provide technical help for free
 - **Social networking sites** (eg FaceBook)
 - students can form private groups to exchange answers
 - **Liveware approaches**
 - Contact other students
 - Contact friends and relations
- Aske Jun09 6

It pays to advertise ...

kijiji
Free local classifieds
Need your Accounting Assignment/online exam done??
Address: Toronto [View map](#)
Location: Toronto
Date Listed: 30-Apr-09
4th year accounting major, A+, student will do your Introduction to Financial Accounting Assignment/Exams at top rates and efficient time.
Email for Details.

Online "small ads" web site

facebook
Advertise
Oxbridge Freelance Writer

TORG is looking for former and current Oxbridge members to undertake freelance academic writing services. Great earning potential!

Are you a student or professional who needs to hand in an assignment?
Why not let us do the work. Just say the words: "you do it 4 me".
www.youdoit4me.com
Whether:
1) You cannot complete the assignment yourself by the deadline.
2) You are student and you would rather be doing something else, other than coursework.
3) You are finding that you are not getting the results/ marks that you would like.
4) You are busy with work & family commitments, but still need to complete the assignment.
Then why not let us do the work. We have teams of professionals who specialise in all subject areas and at all levels (eg GCSE's, A levels, Degree, MSc, Open University courses, History, PhD). Our specialists prepare the assignment specifically to "what the examiner is looking for". Each assignment answer is unique and tailored to YOUR request, no one else will have a similar piece of work to yours, so there will be no issue of 'plagiarism', it will be as though you have completed the work yourself.
The answer prepared for you will be owned by you, no copy will be given to anyone else, we will destroy our copy.
Contact us with your NAME, ASSIGNMENT DETAILS, SUBMISSION DATE, WORD LIMIT, we will then reply letting you know whether we can do your assignment & how to proceed. If you have been given any material to go with your assignment, please include this in your email.
E-mail us : sales@youdoit4me.com
website: www.youdoit4me.com
fee: up to 1000 words = £50 - 1000 to 2000 words = £100 - 2000 to 3000 words = £150 etc.
All work completed within 14 days or less (we also offer a 24-48 hour emergency service). The earlier you place an order, the earlier we can commence working on it.
WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL GET HIGHER MARKS.

Leaflet handed out to students

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Our own experiences

We started our research with the aim of analysing the extent and characterising the types of "contract cheating" when our own assignments appeared on Rentacoder in 2004.

Show Bid Request
java program
Bid Request Id: 159278
Posted by: [hull11 \(1 ratings\)](#) (Software buyer rating: 100%)
Non-action Ratio: [Very Good - 5.00%](#)
Buyer Security Verifications: [Good](#)
Approved on: Mar 23, 2004 8:20:39 AM EDT
Bidding Closes: Apr 25, 2004 7:53:14 AM EDT
Viewed (by coders): 336 times
Phase: [100% of work completed and accepted. Coder has been paid.](#)
Pay Type: [Pay for deliverables](#)
Max Accepted Bid: [Bidding is closed](#)
Project Type: [Personal Project / Homework Help](#)
Bidding Type: [Open Auction](#)
Accepted Bidder: [All](#)
Accepted English: [All](#)
Accepted English fluency: [All](#)

Bob's assignment
Student paid \$50
Coder still active today
(100+ assignments done)

Show Bid Request
Simple Java Assignment
Bid Request Id: 60964
Posted by: [hull11 \(1 ratings\)](#) (Software buyer rating: 100%)
Non-action Ratio: [Very Good - 13.33%](#)
Buyer Security Verifications: [Good](#)
Approved on: May 1, 2003 2:45:47 PM EDT
Bidding Closes: May 2, 2003 1:46:55 PM EDT
Viewed (by coders): 417 times
Deadline: [Monday May 5, 2003 12:00:00 PM EDT](#)
Phase: [100% of work completed and accepted. Coder has been paid.](#)
Pay Type: [Pay for deliverables](#)
Max Accepted Bid: [Bidding is closed](#)
Project Type: [Personal Project / Homework Help](#)
Bidding Type: [Open Auction](#)
Accepted Bidder: [All](#)
Accepted English: [All](#)
Accepted English fluency: [All](#)

Tom's assignment
Student paid \$15
Student went on to post
work from other universities

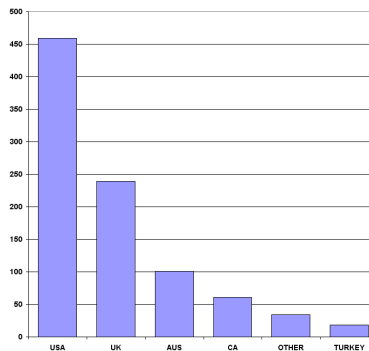
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Extent of Contract Cheating

Number of cases of Contract Cheating by Country where the source was identified
(912 cases from Mar 04 to Oct 06)

Country	nCases	%
USA	459	50%
United Kingdom	239	26%
Australia	101	11%
Canada	61	7%
Other	34	4%
Turkey	18	2%
Total	912	100%



The "average student" posts between 4 and 7 assignments

R. Clarke, and T. Lancaster, "Eliminating the Successor to Plagiarism? Identifying the usage of contract cheating sites", in *Proceedings of 2nd International Plagiarism Conference*, Gateshead, United Kingdom, June 19-21, 2006

Contract Cheating Example 1 "Help! I've got stuck"

GetACoder.com

Home | My Account | Past Projects | Browse Projects | RSS Feeds

C++ College Program Help

Budget: \$ 20-100
 Status: Closed to Bidder (selected user Agagali)
 Project Creator: madad (id=1)
 Programed Skills: C++ (C/C++ Programming)
 Attached Files: (None)

Description
 OK...I'm not a software engineer nor do I plan to be one (I'm sure glad there are those of you that are good at it - I am not). I'm a network/communications design engineer who needs one more C++ class before graduation. Can you help with a homework project? More projects to follow...(-8 total), quick turnaround.

Here is the info from the textbook project:
 Write a program that compares the efficiency of the bubble and selection sorts. Model the program to compare the efficiency of the sequential and binary searches. Declare two arrays: int arr1[50000], arr2[50000].
 Fill each array with the same set of random number in the range from 0 to 99999, and time the execution of the algorithms. Fill each array with the sequence 1,2,3...50000, and time the algorithms. Do your results correspond the Big-O running time?

Reminder
 You may not start working in this and any project before your bid is accepted. Any user who violates this policy may have their account permanently suspended.

Bids Received (1) | Completed (0) | Declined (0) | Average Bid Amount: \$79.64 | Average Delivery Time: 3 Days

Description

OK...I'm not a software engineer nor do I plan to be one (I'm sure glad there are those of you that are good at it - I am not). I'm a network/communications design engineer who needs one more C++ class before graduation. Can you help with a homework project? **More projects to follow...**(-8 total), quick turnaround.

Here is the info from the **textbook project**:

Write a program that compares the efficiency of the bubble and selection sorts. Model the program to compare the efficiency of the sequential and binary searches. Declare two arrays: int arr1[50000], arr2[50000];

Fill each array with the same set of random number in the range from 0 to 99999, and time the execution of the algorithms. Fill each array with the sequence 1,2,3...50000, and time the algorithms. Then fill the arrays with the sequence 50,000, 49,999,...,2,1 and time the algorithms. Do your results correspond the Big-O running time?

Contract Cheating Example 2 Planning to cheat in advance

Show Bid Request

Simple Design Document and Small C Program		Bidding in my To Do List	
Posted by:	XOLARERSXX (6 ratings)	Phase:	Bidding open
Non-action Ratio:	Very Good - 18.18%	Max Accepted Bids:	20
Buyer Security:	Excellent	Project Type:	Personal Project / Homework Help
Verifications:		Bidding Type:	Open Auction
Approved on:	Sep 21, 2008 8:40:46 AM EDT		
Bidding Closes:	Sep 28, 2008 12:16:08 PM EDT		
Viewed (by code):	183 times		
Deadline:	7 days		

Categories:
(Note: Like everything else on this page, these categories are part of the original contract for this bid request.)
C++ / C

Description:
DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT ARE ATTACHED. THIS PROJECT IS TO BE DONE IN SIMPLE STAGES.
Project: Write a GPA (Grade Point Average) calculator in C that will run on the campus UNIX system.
Part 1: Write a technical (design) document that describes the project as you understand it.
Part 1 is due on September 23 at the beginning of class.
Part 2: Revise your technical document that you turned in to include the information received during the class on September 23.
Part 3: Documentation within the program is an essential part of any program. Write, document, debug and test your program based on the design you describe in your technical write-up. The full source of your program is to be included in your paper as an appendix.
Part 4: Data testing is necessary to ensure that the program works as designed. Programs should be carefully tested using typical and extreme data. Include as the second appendix to your technical write-up session scripts of tested programs, and numerical computations obtained using other means that verify the correctness.
The final project is due September 28.
Platform: Insert the documentation delivered in a word document.
Additional Files: This bid request includes IMPORTANT additional attached files. Please download and read fully before bidding.

Description:
 DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT ARE ATTACHED. THIS PROJECT IS TO BE DONE IN SIMPLE STAGES.

Project: Write a GPA (Grade Point Average) calculator in C that will run on the campus UNIX system.
Part 1: Write a technical (design) document that describes the project as you understand it.
Part 1 is due on September 23 at the beginning of class.

Part 2: Revise your technical document that you turned in to include the information received during the class on September 23.

Part 3: Documentation within the program is an essential part of any program. Write, document, debug and test your program based on the design you describe in your technical write-up. The full source of your program is to be included in your paper as an appendix.

Part 4: Data testing is necessary to ensure that the program works as designed. Programs should be carefully tested using typical and extreme data. Include as the second appendix to your technical write-up session scripts of tested programs, and numerical computations obtained using other means that verify the correctness.
The final project is due September 28.

Postgraduate Example (3)

Object-Oriented Programming Techniques Coursework (2008-2009 September Cohort) A Personal Diary

1. Administrative Issues

Module Number: MM205
 Module Name: Object-Oriented Programming Techniques
 Coursework Title: A Personal Diary
 Lecturer/Examiner: Dr. Mervyn Hill
 Coursework Part: One of One
 Due Date: 30th April 2009 (4:00pm)

2. Aim

This coursework aims to examine the student's ability in the following areas:

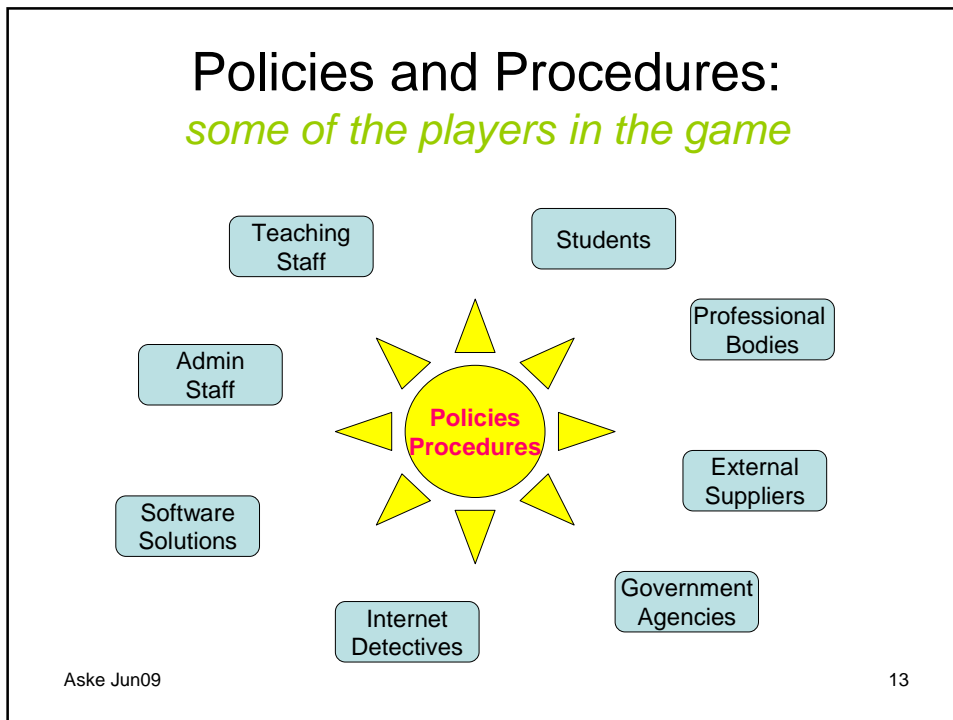
- To model an application domain following object-oriented principles.
- To implement the application using Java:
 - with a GUI using the Java Swing library.
 - that manages a collection of records.
 - using available classes with API documents provided.

3. The Application Domain

In this coursework, you are going to design and development a personal diary application that keeps records of appointments.

Postgraduate assignments and final year projects are commonly posted.

This one was posted by a "third party subcontractor" who has posted assignments from several different UK universities



Teaching Staff

- **Design-out the opportunity to cheat**
 - Do not re-use assignments
 - Individualise assignments
 - Assess process as well as product
- **Professional ethics modules**
 - Form part of many degree programmes
- **Use of Vivas and supervised exams**
 - Alternative forms of assessment
- **Add “water-marks” and “tags”**
 - Aids in searching for postings on the web

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Example Individualised Assignment

Part C

Instructions

- Using OPNET IT Guru produce a network diagram of your individualised scenario (below) for this part of the coursework.
- You must hand in **hardcopy** of your network diagram together with all other parts of the coursework.
- This part of the coursework is worth **20** marks of the coursework marks in total. These are awarded as follows:
 - Correct network topology [5 marks]
 - Correct number and type of nodes [5 marks]
 - Correct type of connection [5 marks]
 - Appropriate naming of nodes and connections [5 marks]

Scenario Details are given on page 5

Your scenario is:-

Scenario C - School with X = 9, Y = 13 and Z = 4

Part D

- Explain how simultaneous use of phone and internet link are possible using ASDL. 3 marks
- What are three main differences between TCP/IP transport and internet layers? 3 marks
 -
 -
 -
- Which of these do you think is the most important difference? 1 mark
- Give reasons for your choice in (b) 3 marks

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Assessing “process”; Using a viva

Ruritanian Football League

You are required to hand in a **written report** [50%] that:-

- Describes the main functions that your program will have to carry out. [5%]
- Describes the data structures that you intend to use in this program. [5%]
- Describes a graphical user interface that would be suitable for this application. [5%]
- Contains an **annotated** listing of your completed program. [15%]
- Describes the test data you will use with your program. [10%]
- Contains an **annotated** printout of the results of using your test data. [5%]

Limit number of marks for the “product”

You are required to submit the **source code** for your finished program on a **floppy disk or CD** as:-

Additionally you will attend a **viva voce examination** [50%] in which you will be asked to:-

- Explain the operation of the key features of the program. [15%]
- Make recommendations for the future development of the program. [15%]
- Reflect on the way software engineering principles have been applied to this application [20%]

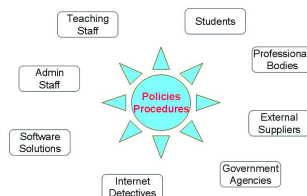
Use of a “scripted” viva

Assignment also tagged:
Team “Escandov” used in a Google Alert

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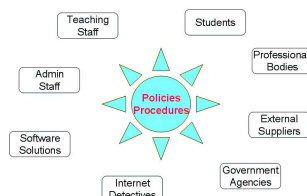
16

Students



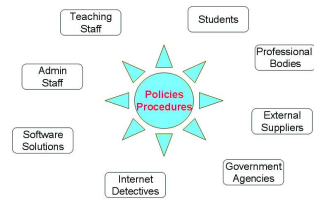
- **Honor codes**
 - *an idea from the USA; could it work here?*
- **Plagiarism awareness sessions**
 - practical sessions to explain what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour
 - Needs integrating into normal teaching sessions – not just a single session during induction
- **Emphasise that cheating is not a “victimless crime”**
 - *Your degree is devalued when cheats are found out.*
 - *Do you want to be treated by a nurse who had to cheat to pass?*

Administration (1)



- **What levels of “proof” are needed?**
 - Easy for plagiarism and collusion
 - Hard for contract cheating and essay mills
 - Proof needs to be “auditable” in case of appeal
- **Ensure that policies are kept up to date**
 - build in a revision cycle
- **Appropriate levels of punishment**
 - Retrospective removal of an award?

Administration (2)



- **“Name and Shame” those found guilty?**
- **Use other regulations, if appropriate**
 - misuse of computer equipment to post assignments
 - breach of copyright by posting an assignment
- **Cheating and plagiarism measures as part of internal moderation process.**
- **Promote good practice.**

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Exam Paper and Coursework System
Coursework Item

Course:	BSc(Hons) Computing Business e-Systems and Technology
Module:	AT11: Computer Technology
Period:	Feb 2007 - Jun 2007
Staff Names:	Robert Clarke/Cie, Richard Midgley/Cie
Title:	CW1 - Number Systems Quiz (19 Feb 07)

Moderation Status
Status Flag 6, Moderation Completed

[Edit Document](#)

Plagiarism and Collusion Prevention Measures
Indicate how you will check for collusion and plagiarism within this assignment (ie submission of work on disk + JISC)
Indicate how you will avoid/check for re-use of the same material (ie ensure a different result topic is allocated)
For more help on how to complete this field click [here](#)

This is an individualised assignment where each student is allocated a different data set.

A different hashing algorithm and a different set of encrypted words is used each time the assignment is offered, preventing the student getting the same set of data again.

Moderation History

*** New entry made by Richard Midgley on 18/01/2007 11:15:01**

The element of coursework has been checked for accuracy and consistency. The coursework set assesses the stated learning outcome. The assessment is appropriate for the level of the module. I agree with the plagiarism and collusion prevention measures outlined above.



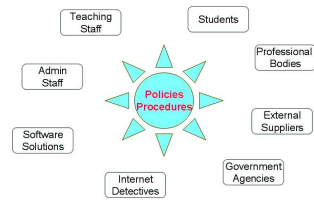
Department of Computing at BCU required staff to define anti-cheat measure for each element of assessment

Next move – require the reporting back of success of these measures in module reports with best practice going forward to the annual course report.

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Software



- **Use of packages like Turnitin and JPlag**
 - Use may be limited to a few ~~fanatics~~ “early adopters”
 - Institutional-wide policies and funding
 - Need support to interpret results
- **Must recognise the limitations of these systems**
 - Can only find items that are in its “database”
 - Does NOT work for “Contract Cheating”
- **Newer developments not yet proven**
 - Writing style comparison tools

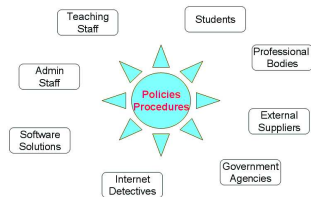
Results from Turnitin

checkbox	author	title	report	grademark	file	paper ID
<input type="checkbox"/>	52958, Getacoder,	Moins-ticketing (dynamic)	99%			1061250 02-07-07
<input type="checkbox"/>	902682, Rentacoder	History Essay (1)	99%			1924216 18-04-08
<input type="checkbox"/>	1156212, Rentacoder	Investiating the effects of realism in...	98%			3637611 23-04-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	History, Rentacoder	Modern Inequality and Early Modernity	98%			1924572 18-04-08
<input type="checkbox"/>	1130675, Rentacoder	NETWORK INTRUDERS DETECTORS	94%			3267380 19-03-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	1140516, Rentacoder	How to bake and decorate a cake (DH00)	91%			3491129 01-04-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	1147338, Rentacoder	Lancaster Youth Centre (S006143)	79%			3885490 13-05-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	2, Test	Z61619	77%			94626 06-02-05
<input type="checkbox"/>	1133789, Rentacoder	final year Project - Java Beans	76%			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1202577306, Scriplan...	Online Tour Management System	59%			1639920 21-09-07
<input type="checkbox"/>	Getafreelancer, 1719...	Are the products resulting from the prod...	58%			1107684 23-09-07
<input type="checkbox"/>	1165324, Rentacoder	Sequence Diagram from VB.net code (DH00)	55%			3824836 08-05-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	1110875, Rentacoder	Msc multimedia and e-learning	52%			3170364 20-02-09
<input type="checkbox"/>	Julienne26, Rentacod...	Online Trading Is One Of The Best Wealth...	49%			2037007 02-05-08
<input type="checkbox"/>	518130, Rentacoder	Research on Business Modeling and UML	47%			372980 13-12-06
<input type="checkbox"/>	Edu-Sg, Mmu	BC426755	43%			257465 14-03-06

Turnitin can sort by number of matches

These are contract cheating examples – 5 have led to identification

The Detectives



- **Monitoring of known web sites**
 - “Radar” system to filter suspect items
 - needs assignments to be “searchable”
 - need staff email addresses to be visible
- **Providing an evidence-base**
 - Evidence to identify multiple attempts at cheating
 - Look for patterns in assignment postings
- **Active hunting rather than passive fishing**
 - Maintain a “frequent offenders” list
 - Follow up lead from “frequent coders” who are known to provide solutions for students

Screenshot from our “Contract Cheating Radar”



Looks for keywords like “homework” and “algorithm” in a variety of spellings

Providing an “Evidence base”

We now regularly archive examples of contract cheating so that evidence can be presented when a positive identification of the student has been obtained.

In this example the items in red were the ones collected and enabled the source institution to deal with the student.

Of the 22 bids paid for, we provided evidence for 12 items.

About Buyer r0m4n4
<http://www.rentacoder.com/RentACoder/Software/Buyer/ShowBuyerInfo.asp?hgAuthId=1738754>
 Status as at 1:10pm Tuesday 28 Nov 2006

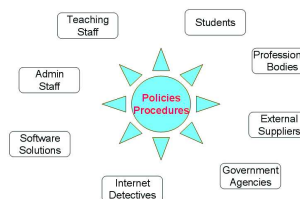
Name:	r0m4n4
Location:	In London, London United Kingdom (See Local Data Here)
Buyer Rating:	10 (Excellent) (See All Ratings)
Sign up date:	Nov 8, 2005 10:00:00 PM EDT
Last Logged In:	Nov 22, 2006 0:48:21 PM EDT
Items cancelled:	22 Bid Requests
Bids Accepted On:	24 Bid Requests
Work Accepted and Paid:	22 Bid Requests

Title	Bid #	Coder	Date
Google Web Applications Java	51521.2.P	Tom-Edwards	November 22, 2006
Google Maps	50815.7.P	Cody	November 17, 2006
C# Web Application	50551	Ardian-Combe	November 12, 2006
Google Maps from JSP	50505	Al-Khan	November 6, 2006
Google Maps Java	50957	Cody	November 4, 2006
Java Program (Developer's Book)	50959	Dmitry-Solovov	November 3, 2006
Google Maps from JSP	50399	Ardian-Combe	November 1, 2006
Google Maps Java	50377	Ardian-Combe	November 1, 2006
Google Maps Java	52177.2.P	Ardian-Combe	November 1, 2006
Google Maps Java	50311	Ardian-Combe	October 29, 2006
Java Class Modules	52181	Ardian-Combe	October 24, 2006 8:50:46 PM EDT
Google Maps Java	50515	Tom-Edwards	October 21, 2006
Java Class Modules	50499.2.P	Cody	October 21, 2006
Java Class Modules	50450.DOC	Cody	May 1, 2006
Google Maps Java	44281	Cody	April 17, 2006 02:01:47 AM EDT
Google Maps Java	44252	Cody	April 14, 2006
Google Maps Java	42981.2.P	Tom-Edwards	March 26, 2006

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Suppliers



- Forum sites have “codes of practice” for members
 - *unix.com being an exemplar of responsible actions*
- Auction sites will remove postings that breach copyright – eg rentacoder.com
- Essay sites state “for tutorial support only”
- Students acting as coders
 - *The coder’s university may bring pressure to help provide evidence.*

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RULES OF THE UNIX AND LINUX FORUMS at Unix.com

- (1) No flams, shouting (all caps), sarcasm, bullying, profanity or arrogant posts.
- (2) No negative comments about others or impolite remarks. Be patient.
- (3) Refrain from idle chatter that does not contribute to the knowledge base. This does not apply to the for off-topic discussions.
- (4) Do not 'bump up' questions if they are not answered promptly. No duplicate or cross-posting and do not send a private message where your goal is to get an answer more quickly.
- (5) Search the forums database with your keywords before asking.
- (6) Do not post classroom or homework problems.**
- (7) No job postings from headhunters or recruiters except in The Unix Forums Job Board.
- (8) No BSD vs. Linux vs. Windows or similar threads.
- (9) Edit your posts if you see spelling or grammar errors (don't write in cyberchat or cyberpunk style). English only.
- (10) Don't post your email address and ask for an email reply. Don't send a private message with a technical question. The forums are for the benefit of all, so all Q&A should take place in the forums.
- (11) Post questions with descriptive subjects. For example, do not post questions with subjects like "Help Me!", "Urgent!!" or "Doubt". Post subjects like "Execution Problems with Cron" or "Help with Backup Shell Script".
- (12) These are not hacker boards so hacker related posts will be promptly deleted or moderated.
- (13) The forum administrators reserve the right to prune, move or edit posts that do not adhere to the rules or are technically inaccurate.
- (14) The forum administrators reserve the right to remove users or change their posting status to read only without notice if any rules are not followed.

Threads that contain homework requests are closed down

Essay Mill warning to its authors

February 10, 2009

Dear Writers!

Please, stop using Turnitin Software.

Recently we have noticed that the papers that are checked by you with Turnitin Software are saved in the database of Turnitin. Please note, that once we find such papers, we will mark them as 100% plagiarized, the order will be canceled and the fine in the amount of writer's total will be imposed.

Please, stop using Turnitin Software even for your own paper check.

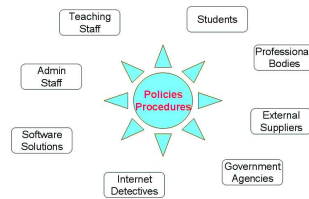
All your Turnitin accounts have default settings, and we cannot allow you to continue to save the papers in Turnitin's 'repository'. Those writers, who will upload the plagiarism report to the order, will be fined in the amount of writer's total. We are hoping for your consideration.

Best regards,
EssayWriters.net Team

Chronicle of Higher Education
March 20, 2009
<http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i28/28a00102.htm>

- What you get for your valuable money:**
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Professional Bodies



- Require ethical behaviour of members
- May expect “ethics” to be covered
- Could accreditation of courses be at risk?
- “Fitness for practice” in Nursing, Law etc

Nursing Degree Example

Third year research essay bought from an Essay Mill web site

Of all women with court orders for child support payments in 2001, 40% received full payment, 28% received partial payments, and 32% received nothing (United Kingdom Bureau of the Census, 2003). Support is undoubtedly highest at the time of birth and drops off sharply as relations frequently deteriorate between the child's parents.

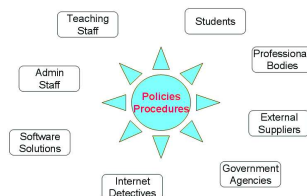
.....

In the Wales study, which began in the mid-1960s, 46% of the unmarried fathers were providing support to their children a year after delivery. Seventeen years later, just 11% of the never-married and 23% of the formerly married men were helping to support their children (Furstenberg et al., 2001).

Original Source
 Teenaged pregnancy and childbearing.
Furstenberg, Frank F.; Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne; Chase-Lansdale, Lindsay
 American Psychologist. Vol 44(2), Feb 1989, 313-320.

United States changed to United Kingdom
 Boston changed to Wales
 Year changed from 1989 to 2001

Government



- **Targets for completion rates**
 - Possible disincentive to deal with cheats
- **Students may breach visa conditions**
 - If they are failed students
- **Gaining qualifications to gain residency points**
 - Particularly postgraduate qualifications
 - Economic pressures on both student and universities

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When Skilled Immigrants Aren't So Skilled

From *The Independent Australian*, Issue No. 13 (Spring 2007):

Frankly, cheating is cheating. If a student who aspires to be a professional, particularly one aspiring to work in a Western country such as Australia, and can't recognise the difference between submitting his own original work or plagiarising slabs of text and passing it off as his own, then he *shouldn't be rewarded by entry into the profession* of his choice. A post-graduate student could hardly be unaware of the ethical difference.

The universities talk of counselling students, marking-down their contributions or failing a subject but it is doubtful if few or any students have been stripped of their degrees no matter how blatant their plagiarism. It's *all about money rather than academic standards*.

Even the Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop, has belatedly got around to warning of the *damage plagiarism could do to the reputation* of Australian universities.

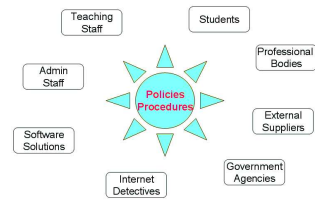
Selected text (my italics) from

<http://eye-on-immigration.blogspot.com/2009/02/when-skilled-immigrants-arent-so.html>

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The 4th Estate



- The press has an “interest” in students cheating.
- Tend to look for more sensational aspects
 - *Outsourcing to India*
 - *Dramatic increase in cases of cheating*
- May mis-represent results of research
- May reveal the cloud behind the silver lining
 - *Coventry University’s “Zero Tolerance” policy*
- May give extra publicity to essay mill sites
 - *Owners of these sites are always good for a quote*

Sample press coverage

Half of Cambridge students have cheated in their work

Half the students at Cambridge University have cheated, according to figures released yesterday.

In a survey of 1,000 undergraduates, 49 per cent admitted they had plagiarised work.

Law students were the worst, with 62 per cent breaking the top flight university’s rules, according to student newspaper Varsity.

Many blamed their intense work load for cutting corners.

One professor said: “It’s a depressing set of statistics.”

The university now plans to use plagiarism detection software to tackle the problem.

Daily Mirror – Oct 2008

Second university in 'cheat' probe

Nearly 50 students at a Scottish university have been accused of cheating, following the introduction of a pioneering anti-copying computer program.

Staff at Glasgow University said they had become suspicious of similarities in some computer studies course work.

In the case of Edinburgh University, computer studies student Henrietta Roe has threatened legal action after being accused by her university of using e-mail to cheat.

BBC News – Aug 1999

'Plagiarist' to sue university

A student who admits downloading material from the internet for his degree plans to sue his university for negligence.

Michael Gunn claims his university should have warned him his actions were against the regulations.

BBC News – May 2004

Famous for 15 minutes in June 2006

THE HINDU
 News Update Service
 Tuesday, June 13, 2006 : 1820 Hrs

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Top Stories

Academics use technology to combat plagiarism

GUARDIAN NEWS SERVICE

Plagiarism via the internet is a growing problem - but academics are fighting back with their own technology.

June 13: Perhaps, only a few academics have heard of "the Oracle". They may well have marked his (or possibly, her) essays and assignments, however.

Operating via internet sites, the Oracle is a symptom of the increasing professionalism of student plagiarism. "It's a little cottage industry," says Robert Clarke, Lecturer in the department of computing at the University of Central England (UCE), UK.

Weather

- Bangalore
- Chennai
- Hyderabad
- Delhi
- Thiruvananthapuram

Cities

- Chennai
- Delhi
- Kolkata
- Mumbai
- Thiruvananthapuram

The Hindu Print Edition

- Front Page
- National

[Ads by Google](#)

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Workshop Activity

- Form small groups of 3-5 people
- For the topics allocated to your group:-
 - What measures are in use or planned at your institutions?
 - Consider the effectiveness of these measures.
 - Consider how these issued might develop in the future.

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Workshop Summaries

- Each group to summarise its discussions
- List the key points onto the poster
- Give a brief (2 min) summary

Wrap-up session

- Contract Cheating has the potential to be a serious threat to academic quality
- No Magic Bullet solution to contract cheating
 - Need to use a multi-faceted approach.
- Better to be proactive than reactive
 - Don't wait until the problem becomes endemic

The Arms-Race

- Increase in on-line course provision
Never see the students; no sense of "belonging" to a course
More "for profit" provision;
How do you tell the OU that someone is cheating?
- Assignments will be downloaded directly to students' PDAs
Missing out the opportunity to correctly attribute a contract cheating bid.
- Peer-to-Peer working may mean coders will make direct contact with students
Auction sites could be less important as sources of bids.
Tutorial and social networking sites are already a significant problem.
- Pervasive devices will make "triangulation" tests more difficult to police
We have already seen examples of students preparing to use "Instant Messenger" to take practical exams.

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"Cheat 22"

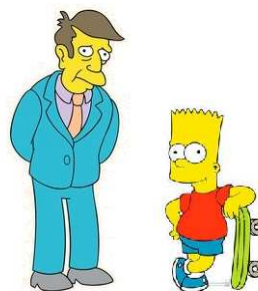
no plagiarism intended

Professor Daneeka is berating his student who has been caught cheating.

"... and what if all students paid someone to do their assignments".

To which Yosserian replies.

"Then I would be a damn fool to do otherwise!"




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A slide from a talk at Greenwich

Contract Cheating
... sold to the student at the back!

Today he's buying
the assignment
Tomorrow it may be
the degree



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References

Links to more information on “contract cheating” can be found through the entry on Wikipedia:-

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contract_cheating

This includes links to the HEA and ICPCA07 conferences and the HEA workshop in held in March 2008 at BCU.

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