Thommen’s Timely Technology Tips Three Helpful D2L Testing Tips

Desire2Learn provides a robust online testing capability that I recommend everyone consider using as a part of their “teaching toolbox.” Below are three quiz settings that may improve the overall online testing experience.

**Quiz Automatic Grading (not enabled by default)**

In the **Assessment** tab, there is a checkbox labeled “Automatic Grade.” The checkbox’s default condition is **not checked**.

*Whenever creating a new quiz, I strongly recommend checking the “Automatic Grade:” box immediately.*

If the Automatic Grade: box is left unchecked, the student’s submitted quiz answers are recorded, but nothing else happens. The test is not scored and feedback is not available. Disabling automatic grading defeats the major advantages of online testing: 1) eliminating the task of manually grading most questions, and 2) the immediacy of student feedback.

**Quiz Passwords**

Adding a password to a quiz assures that the quiz is taken in the presence of a proctor or in a controlled testing environment.

*In Desire2Learn typing a password into the Restrictions tab > Optional Advanced Restrictions Section > Password field will require that a password be entered every time a student can click on the Begin quiz button.*

The password is **not required** for the student to see the review screens for a completed quiz. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the instructor to control the information displayed on the review screen (Submission views tab > Default view link) to maintain security while the test is in progress.

**Question Pages (a D2L feature that may avert disaster)**

On the **Properties** page there is a field labeled “___ questions per page” with an **Apply** button to the right (this field is only displayed after the first question is entered). I recommend that instructors type a number from three to five into the field and click the **Apply** button.

If the number of questions is set to three questions per page, the student will see the quiz, three questions at a time. Clicking the **Next Page** button displays the next three questions in the quiz, and so on.

Each time the **Next Page** button is clicked, the answers from the current page are sent to the D2L server. The server then changes the color of the question icons on the student’s computer to indicate completed questions. Should a communication problem occur between the student’s computer and the D2L server only the last page of answers will be lost rather than the entire test.

When the problem is resolved, the student can resume the quiz near the point where the problem occurred.

**This timely tip can also be found at:**

D2L: Faculty Community Group > Content > Thommen’s Timely Technology Tips

[http://www.lcc.edu/cte/resources/thommen_tips/](http://www.lcc.edu/cte/resources/thommen_tips/)