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With the introduction of our combined Online/Paper based data capture systems, the company has announced a new Web App, using a Cache option, specifically for the Apple iPad and other mobile devices, which need to run offline if no internet signal is available. The main story below details the successful rollout of the Android App for the recent NEBDN OSCE examination. Lastly, a summary of the combined Paper/Online technologies and related products now available from the company is shown in an easy reference format.

NEBDN OSCE Rollout for Trax UK Android Application

Following over eighteen months development and three full scale trials of both the Online and stand alone Android App OSCE module from Trax UK, the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) launched the full version of the Application in January this year, by rolling the system out to both locations in London and a location in Birmingham. The system was used over the full two days of the OSCE covering 12 circuits with 11 stations, two of which were actor stations, on each circuit. This meant a total of 15 tablet computers being available (1 for each station plus actors and spares) for each circuit with a total of 45 tablets being available across the three locations.

Members of the Trax team were on hand to give support at all three locations over both days of the OSCE's with no major incidents other than poor internet connection reported at the London locations. The Birmingham location (Aston Villa Football Stadium) had one incident where the SD Card in one of the tablets failed and caused the tablet to lock- out, however no data was lost as it had been uploaded to the internet as well as storing the data internally.

A spare tablet was on hand and was given to the examiner at the appropriate time during a break between candidates. In the interval between the changeover a couple of the candidates were hand marked onto the OMR forms provided to each station with the tablets (a complete circuit was printed for each location as the ultimate backup).

This meant that at no stage was there any loss of data which has proved the original concept of the approach adopted whereby this application has negated the necessity of having an internet connection by using a software module that can write to the internal memory and added external SD card on the tablet or device, so that the system can operate as a stand alone application, if needed, without requiring an internet connection.

At the end of the two days, all examiners participating at both London and Birmingham event locations commented on how easy the system was to use with none reporting any problems in understanding and operating both the software application or the tablet. It is now anticipated that the NEBDN will be rolling out the system to all nine locations, totalling nearly 120 tablets, in June of this year. The main advantage, from the NEBDN perspective, is the savings that will be achieved over the next couple of years in terms of print and the time taken to scan the forms back into the system as the new application is able to give almost immediate candidate results, including immediate feedback, as well as ensuring that all data is entered into the tablet by automatically preventing examiners submitting candidate forms with blank spaces being left plus highlighting any areas where problems have occurred.

For further details and information please contact either Erin Bannister or Colin Woolhouse on 01227-793200 or email sales@traxuk.com



Alex showing a new examiner how the OSCE/OSPE tablet option works



General view of the Birmingham Aston Villa FC Venue but where's the paper!

Summary of Product Technologies Available from Trax UK

We are often asked about the solutions and technologies we provide to clients worldwide. Normally, with our standard releases, we give an in-depth description of each product as it is released thereby keeping users and potential clients updated on that particular release. In order to give a clearer outline of the company's products and areas of expertise, we have listed below the products available, with a summary of their features and the category in which they are used in (paper, online, combined etc.) -

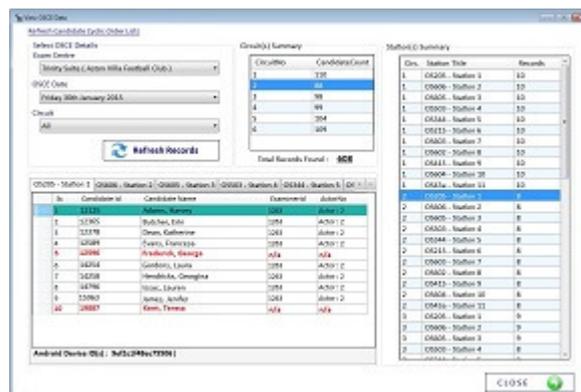
Product	Description	Paper	Online	Web App	S/A App
Print & Scan	Core Module incorporating form design, project details & database options with links to all technologies listed.	✓	✓	✓	✓
MultiTest	Optional Module that integrates into the Print & Scan core module for examination set-up and reporting.	✓	✓		
OSCE/OSPE Practical Assessment	Optional Medical OSCE/OSPE Practical Assessment module for examination set-up and reporting of results.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Print & Scan Question/Item Bank	Optional module which links to MultiTest and OSCE/OSPE modules for use with both online and paper.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schools Management System	Schools Management system covering Attendance, Assessments and Achievements (as assessed by teacher) including student details and records and test options (suitable for all school types from pre-school upwards).	✓	✓	* ✓	* ✓
Online Marking	Distributed Online Marking system. Stand alone option Allows scripted examination papers to be distributed to a number of examiners for online marking.		✓		
PIP (Performance Improvement Process)	Uses core Print & Scan system to monitor 360 degree performance tracking over a period of time since a training event. Measures Skills, Knowledge, Behaviour and Attitude as seen by peers, managers, self and others to gauge performance fall off and the required training intervention needed.	✓	✓		

Items marked thus “*” are currently under development. As can be seen, except for the Distributed Online Marking system, all of our software can be used both paper, online or as a combination of both, whereby the systems can handle both paper and online options together with all data being written to a common project database regardless of technology. In the case of the Web Application option, this has been introduced so as to support Apple tablet and mobile technology, insofar that data can be captured on the device and stored off-line internally regardless of whether an internet connection is available. However, unlike the Android application, which can run continuously off-line, users must upload the data before commencing a new assessment circuit or round.

New OSCE/OSPE Option for Apple IOS Devices Available with New Features

Following the successful implementation and running of the Android Application for practical assessment and OSCE/OSPE style examinations plus enquiries from several institutions regarding use of the system on Apple IOS devices, we have now released a version designed specifically for other operating systems. This not only covers Apple IOS but also Microsoft devices as well and is based on the use of Web caching and is able to work offline by using its own internal memory. Unlike Android systems, which are able to use an SD Card to act as a further back-up for data, this feature is not available with Apple IOS systems (it is available on Microsoft products but numbers are too small presently to implement the Android functionality), which means that should the tablet be reset or freeze then the data will be lost.

However, as Apple systems are normally resilient, then provided that data can be uploaded to the internet at regular intervals during and at the end of each exam circuit then this should not cause problems, but it is strongly advised that a final fall back of paper based OMR forms are made available. The functionality of the Web Cache App follows the same path as the Android App insofar that each device can be allocated to any assessment station and examiner before the start of an examination by simply following the easy to use log-in facilities.



Last Word - Business Solutions News

Please go to our Business Solutions newsletter for all the latest news on the 'Analyser' & 'Organiser' Sage management solutions at www.traxuk.com or contact Barry Snashall on 01227-793200