



8th July 2009 - Loughborough University

Session Title: Using eMarking Assistant to help markers provide specific, detailed, and timely feedback on written assignments
Format: Hands-on Workshop – <i>this session will be led by Dr Evans 'virtually' from Australia, with two 'physical' facilitators in the Lab</i>
Presenter: Dr Peter Evans
Institution / Organisation / Company: University of Southern Queensland, Australia
Website / Blog: http://www.usq.edu.au/users/evansp/ http://emarking-assistant.baker-evans.com
E-mail: evansp@usq.edu.au
Country: Australia
Summary: <p>The presenter has been teaching online since last century and while opportunities for interaction with external and distance students has increased, the traditional written assignment or paper is often still the major way students demonstrate their learning. Assignment feedback is also the major way students monitor and improve their performance. While feedback is most useful if it is detailed, specific, timely, and constructive, the provision of such feedback is expensive and sometimes is not adequately resourced.</p> <p>eMarking Assistant is an add-in to Microsoft Word (all versions of Word for Windows) which allows markers to quickly pick comments from a floating toolbar using the mouse or keyboard. These comments are inserted into the margin or the text of the assignment and can be very detailed containing text, tables, images, hyperlinks, audio etc. Inserted comments can be modified and markers can easily store new comments for future reuse.</p> <p>Stored comment banks can be easily saved and distributed to contract markers and existing users tend to have several comment banks e.g. a comment bank that is shared across a department as well as course and assignment specific comment banks. Use of eMarking Assistant reduces marking time, increases student satisfaction and also reduces the need for moderation. A comment bank focusing on academic writing is supplied. The package also contains suggested workflow when marking electronic assignments and modifiable marking rubrics which automatically record, add and rescale marks.</p> <p>eMarking Assistant is now being trialed at a number of universities and feedback from course examiners, markers and students will be available for presentation at the conference.</p>