

# Contract Cheating in UK Higher Education: *promoting a proactive approach*

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## Overview of this session

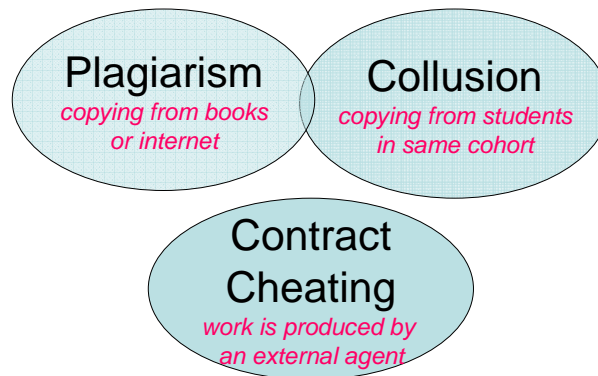
- What is contract cheating?
  - How is different from other forms of cheating?
  - Examples of contract cheating.
- The players in a multi-faceted approach
  - Designing out opportunities to cheat.
  - Dealing with cases of contract cheating.
  - Other issues.
- Workshop Activity
- Problems for the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

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## Categories of “Cheating”

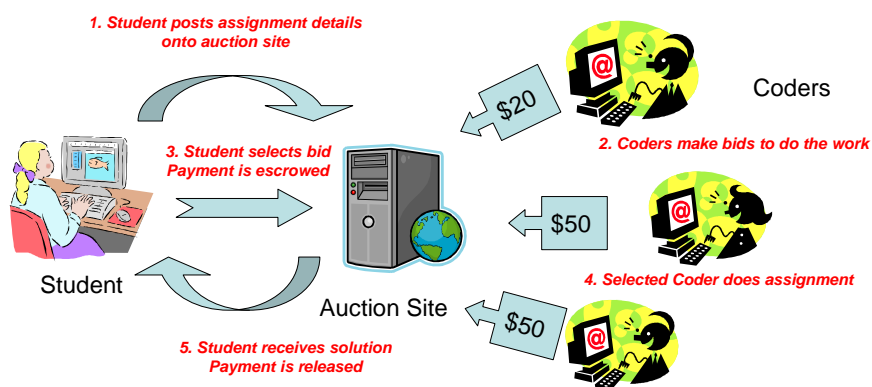
In assessed coursework we can characterise 3 main categories:-



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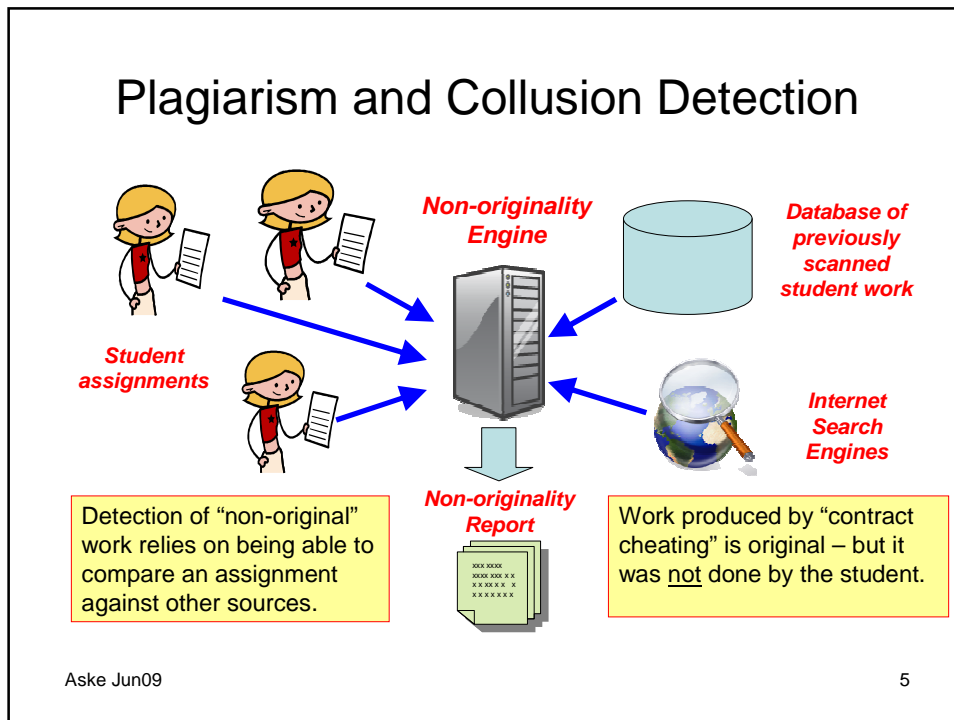
## What is “contract cheating” ?



“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](mailto:sales@youdoit4me.com)  
website: [www.youdoit4me.com](http://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 7:55:14 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

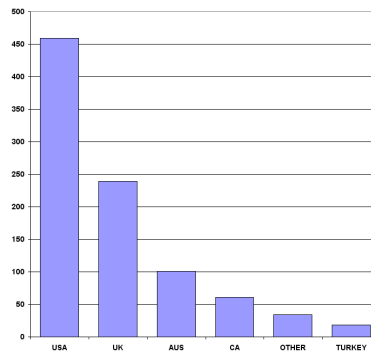
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# Extent of Contract Cheating

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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>100%</b>



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:	XOLAREPSXX (6 ratings)	Phase:	Bidding open
Non-action Ratio:	Very Good - 18.18%	Max Accepted Bids:	20
Buyer Security Verification:	Excellent	Project Type:	Personal Project / Homework Help
Approved on:	Sep 21, 2008 8:40:46 AM EDT	Bidding Type:	Open Auction
Bidding Closes:	Sep 28, 2009 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.  
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**The final project is due September 28.**

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## 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 Hoar  
 Coursework Part: One of One  
 Due Date: 30<sup>th</sup> 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

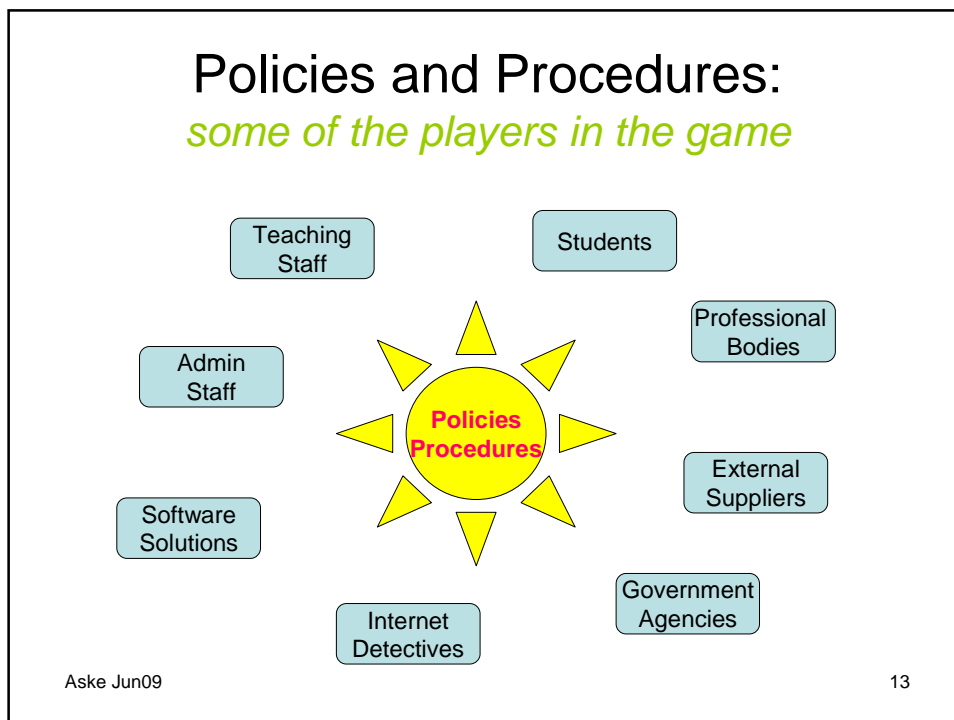
In this coursework, you are going to design and development a personal diary application that keeps records of appointments.

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

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## 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**

- 1 - Using OPNET IT Guru produce a network diagram of your individualised scenario (below) for this part of the coursework.
- 2 - You must hand in **hardcopy** of your network diagram together with all other parts of the coursework.
- 3 - 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**

- 1 Explain how simultaneous use of phone and internet link are possible using ASDL. 3 marks
- 2a What are three main differences between TCP/IP transport and internet layers? 3 marks
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2b Which of these do you think is the most important difference? 1 mark
- 2c 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:-

1. Describes the main functions that your program will have to carry out. [5%]
2. Describes the data structures that you intend to use in this program. [5%]
3. Describes a graphical user interface that would be suitable for this application. [5%]
4. Contains an **annotated** listing of your completed program. [15%]
5. Describes the test data you will use with your program. [10%]
6. 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:-

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

Use of a “scripted” viva

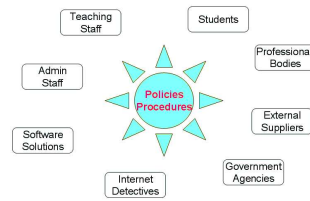
Assignment also tagged:  
Team “Escandov” used in a Google Alert

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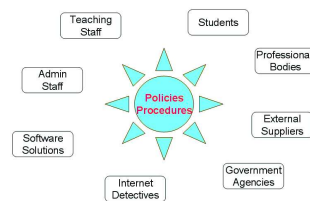


# Students



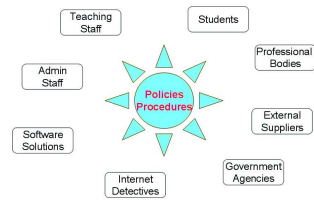
- **Honor codes**
  - *an idea from the USA; could it work here?*
- **Plagiarism awareness sessions**
  - practical sessions to explain what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour
  - Needs integrating into normal teaching sessions – not just a single session during induction
- **Emphasise that cheating 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.



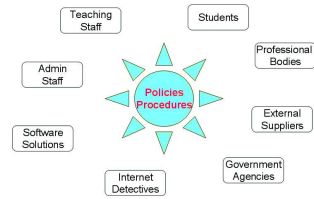
Department of Computing at BCU required staff to define anti-cheat measure for each element of assessment

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

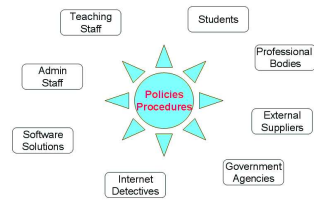
# Results from Turnitin

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

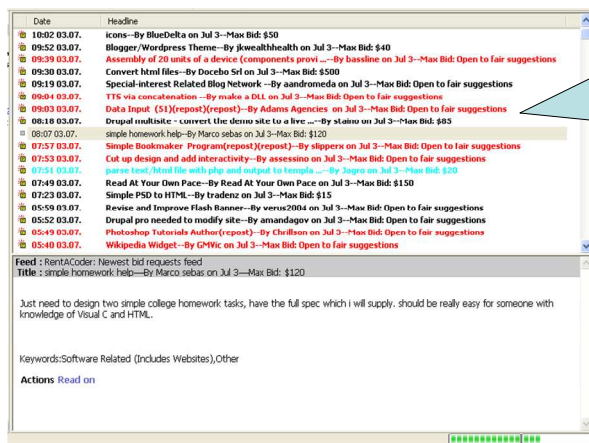
These are contract cheating examples – 5 have led to identification

# 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?logAuthId=1738754>  
 Status as at 1:10pm Tuesday 28 Nov 2006

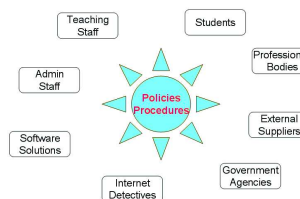
Name:	r0m4n4		
Location:	In London, London United Kingdom ( <a href="#">See Local Data Here</a> )		
Buyer Rating:	10 (Excellent) ( <a href="#">See All Ratings</a> )		
Sign up date:	Fri 8, 2006 10:00:00 PM EDT		
Last Logged In:	Nov 22, 2006 0:48:21 PM EDT		
Items cancelled:	22 Bid Requests		
Bids Accepted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

Title	Bid #	Coder	Date
<a href="#">Google Web Applications Java</a>	<a href="#">51521.2.P</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 22, 2006
<a href="#">Google Maps</a>	<a href="#">50815.7.P</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 17, 2006
<a href="#">C# Web Application request</a>	<a href="#">50551</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 12, 2006
<a href="#">Google Maps from JSP code</a>	<a href="#">50505</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 6, 2006
<a href="#">Google Maps from JSP</a>	<a href="#">50501</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 4, 2006
<a href="#">Java Program (Developer's Book)</a>	<a href="#">50500</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 3, 2006
<a href="#">Google Maps from JSP code</a>	<a href="#">50399</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 1, 2006
<a href="#">Google Maps from JSP</a>	<a href="#">50397</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 1, 2006
<a href="#">Report on Software Studies</a>	<a href="#">50217.2.P</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	November 1, 2006
<a href="#">Report on Java Studies</a>	<a href="#">50211</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	October 29, 2006
<a href="#">Java Case Studies</a>	<a href="#">50201</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	October 24, 2006 8:50:46 PM EDT
<a href="#">Google Maps from JSP</a>	<a href="#">50015</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	October 21, 2006
<a href="#">Java Web Application</a>	<a href="#">50004.P</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	October 21, 2006
<a href="#">Java Web Application</a>	<a href="#">50000.DOC</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	May 1, 2006
<a href="#">Report on Java Studies</a>	<a href="#">49281</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	May 1, 2006
<a href="#">Report on Java Studies</a>	<a href="#">49239</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	April 17, 2006 02:01:47 AM EDT
<a href="#">Report on Java Studies</a>	<a href="#">49232</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	April 14, 2006
<a href="#">Google Web Applications Java</a>	<a href="#">42981.2.P</a>	<a href="#">See Details</a>	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 flames, 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.

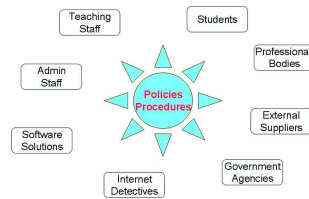
All your Turnitin accounts have default settings, and we cannot allow you to continue to save the papers in Turnitin's 'repository'. Those writers, who will upload the plagiarism report to the order, will be fined in the amount of writer's total. We are hoping for your consideration.

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.

.....

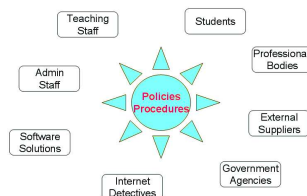
In the Wales study, which began in the mid-1960s, 46% of the unmarried fathers were providing support to their children a year after delivery. Seventeen years later, just 11% of the never-married and 23% of the formerly married men were helping to support their children (Furstenberg et al., 2001).

**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

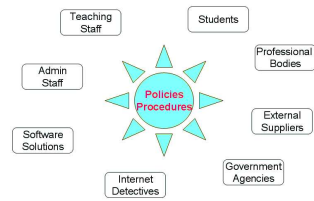
<http://eye-on-immigration.blogspot.com/2009/02/when-skilled-immigrants-arent-so.html>

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## The 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

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## 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.

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*BBC News – May 2004*

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## Famous for 15 minutes in June 2006

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

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**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.

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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.

## 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 Yossierian 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](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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