

IN THIS ISSUE

Feedback from AMEE 2015 Conference and Exhibition held in Glasgow at the beginning of this month (September). Details of the latest OSCE system release with added new features including video clipping, candidate photographic ID, 'Real Time' OSCE Monitoring facility and a request for your ideas/feedback.

AMEE 2015 Exhibition Feedback

At the beginning of this month we attended the AMEE 2015 Exhibition and Conference in Glasgow, where we were showing our well proven and established electronic stand-alone OSCE application. Reactions from the delegates and visitors to our stand at the exhibition, who showed keen interest in our systems, can only be classed as above all expectations, with a particular interest shown in the abilities of the software to work as a stand alone application without the need for an internet connection. This was an overwhelming requirement due to the failure of other systems used when operating in circumstances in which there was either problems with the internet or in one case no internet connection at all. The main points picked up detailed below from all delegates and others that visited the stand can be summarised as follows -

- **Offline** and/or **Online** E-marking system using tablet based technology
- **One off purchase** (not priced by number of students but by number of tablets)
- Supports **both Electronic** and **Paper** based technologies for maximum flexibility and security
- Comprehensive **continuous data backup** to Tablet, Micro SD Memory card (if fitted), Online (if available but tablet will continually poll for signal on Submit) and paper (as a last resort)
- Ability to use **local intranet and web hosting** from a centralised laptop (subject to layout of room/s used for OSCE circuits)
- **Candidate picture ID** facility on tablet for validity checking
- **Full video** and **image** support
- **OSCE/OSPE Monitoring** tablet based facility **to allow invigilators to constantly track** student, examiner and station performance in 'real time' (provided internet or intranet access available)
- **Full reporting statistics** covering student, examiner and station performance by circuit and whole exam sequence
- **Optional Question/Item Bank** to generate stations automatically and set circuit rotation using unique 'drag and drop' facility. Station performance history available with station selection based on Ebel rating and Learning Outcome/s.



For further information on any of the new online or paper based systems please contact Colin Woolhouse or Erin Bannister on +44 (0)1227 793200 or email sales@traxuk.com

Where Are We: MARINE HOUSE, TYLER WAY, WHITSTABLE, KENT. CT5 2RS. TEL+44 (0)1227 793200 FAX: +44 (0)1227 793730
E-MAIL : SALES@TRAXUK.COM WEB PAGE (DATA CAPTURE): www.trax-uk.co.uk WEB PAGE (BUSINESS SOLUTIONS): www.traxuk.com

Latest OSCE Rollout News for Trax UK Android Application

As announced in our last newsletter and following requests from a number of users, we have now developed a video clip system that can be used on tablets, thus improving interactivity and negating the need in certain circumstances, for material and equipment to be used on a station/case. This new option entails the administrator setting up an additional tablet/s and selecting the appropriate video loaded for the station concerned from the list shown on the tablet screen. This means that tablets can be interchanged as the system stores all video clips required on the external micro SD Card (an mpeg4 video for a four minute video only takes approximately 60MB of space).

When undertaking a circuit, the examiner simply hands the video tablet to the candidate who then views the clip (with or without sound as required) then at the end of which the examiner asks questions and uses the station tablet for scoring the candidate's performance.

Another new feature that has been included in the system is a facility which automatically displays a picture of each candidate as they are selected from the candidate list so as to confirm their identity. This method of identifying candidates is thought to be the best approach as using identity cards with barcoding etc. is very open to the possibility of candidate's swapping ID's, whereas a recent picture is far more difficult to use for those trying to circumvent the system. Obviously, for those institutions not wishing to use this option then this can be turned off when downloading circuit data to the tablet device.

Also shown at the AMEE 2015 conference and exhibition was the new 'Real Time' OSCE monitoring system, which requires internet access (to operate in 'real time') plus the use of a Windows based tablet or laptop. The system is able to provide instant feedback to an invigilator, which allows them to constantly track student, examiner and station performance so as to immediately address any problems as they arise. For those institutions that have problems with internet access this facility can still be used by setting up a small 'intranet' using a laptop computer with router, however this is subject to the area used for the OSCE examination as range is limited.



An OSCE being carried out using the Android System & OSCE Monitor



The Android OSCE App set up and ready for an examiner to use

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 Application on Apple IOS systems, we have now released a version designed specifically for other operating systems other than Android. This not only covers Apple IOS, but also the Microsoft platform 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 work completely off-line and 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). This 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 web server at regular intervals during and at the end of each circuit then this should not present problems. As always, it is strongly advisable that the 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.

Your Ideas and Feedback Needed for Future Projects

With the feedback from AMEE 2015 and with the cycle for development of the present version of the OSCE/OSPE application almost completed, we are now looking at developing additional stand alone off-line applications that are able to work without the need to have a constant internet connection. These type of applications mean that users are free to undertake additional tasks, such as examinations, monitoring, practical assessments, surveys, attendance checking, health and safety tasks etc. in remote locations without the need for access to the internet. Data can then be downloaded when a connection is available or, using the SD card, transferred to a laptop/desktop system without the need to worry about strength of signal and poor connectivity, which we know from a number of you who attended AMEE 2015, has caused major problems. In order to throw this open to everyone, we are happy to receive your feedback/ideas on what type of applications you would like to see developed in the near future that would make your job easier. We will then look at the possibility of developing the most popular ideas put forward.

For further information on any items mentioned in this newsletter or for details of our other products please contact Colin Woolhouse or Erin Bannister on +44 (0)1227 793200 or email sales@traxuk.com