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Collaborative assessment with SIETTE

Ricardo CONEJO [a,1], Beatriz BARROS [a], Eduardo GUZMAN [a], Jaime GALVEZ [a]
[a] *Universidad de Málaga, Spain*
Boulevard Louis Pasteur, 35, 29071 Malaga

SIETTE [1] is a Web-based tool for managing and administering electronic tests. The system, which is domain independent, incorporates test building, delivery and tools that allow analyzing and reporting the results. In addition to a wide range of features and broad functionality, the system includes a built-in framework where students can collaborate with their colleagues while answering the test questions. For this purpose, a middleware layer has been placed over the basic SIETTE interface incorporating elements which facilitate the synchronization and collaboration among group members. This middleware also defines an interaction protocol where the test solving process is divided into different steps and the effect of collaboration can be easily measured.

Collaborative testing has previously been done based on paper and pencil and face to face interaction. To our knowledge, this is the first computer based testing environment, available on the web, which supports collaboration.

The SIETTE collaborative testing environment [2, 3] has been successfully used during the last two years for different subjects at the University of Malaga and the Polytechnical University of Madrid. Over 500 students have taken collaborative tests.

Attendees of the interactive event will take a test in small groups, using the SIETTE environment to explore how collaborative testing can reduce test anxiety, improve test results, and promote learning and at the same time accurate assessment standards will be obtained.

Participants should bring their own computers. No previous installation is needed but a web browser must have a Java plug-in enabled. Internet access is required.

The SIETTE system is available online at: http://www.siette.org. A demo video of the collaborative environment and the typical interaction process can be retrieved from: http://jupiter.lcc.uma.es/siette/doc/tutorial/collab

References

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[1] Corresponding Author. Email addresses: conejo@lcc.uma.es (R. Conejo), bbarros@lcc.uma.es (B. Barros), guzman@lcc.uma.es (E. Guzmán), jgalvez@lcc.uma.es (J. Galvez)