

Protecting Academic Integrity

Understanding the risks of Contract Cheating:
How to detect and combat it, and what is it costing us?



Paul Cowan

ITS Innovation & Technology Manager

paul.cowan@waikato.ac.nz

@10ThousandBears

Defining Contract Cheating



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An arrangement, usually for a fee, where a piece of assessment is completed by a third party instead of the enrolled student.

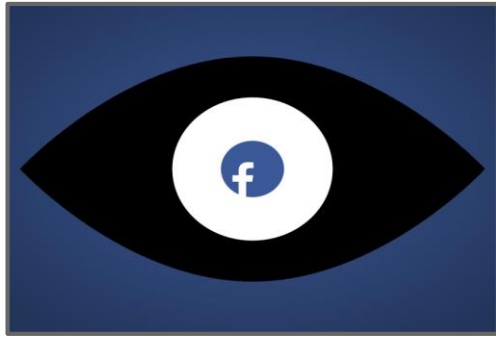
Usually the transactions and all communication takes place online.

Defining Contract Cheating

This type of cheating is different from plagiarism and traditional concepts of cheating.

- Payment to external third party
- No active engagement in learning
- Difficult to detect
- Consequences

Typical lifecycle of the process



Contract Cheating organizations and individuals use Social Media metadata to identify likely students or online groups likely to contain students.

Messages are sent via Social Media inviting the identified cohort to get in touch.



Typical lifecycle of the process



The price is negotiated. The requested grade affects the price along with length, technical complexity and scope. Some sites advertise an entire Thesis for a few thousand dollars.

The assessment is delivered and submitted by the students. The entire process is very difficult to detect with standard observation of University systems.



Examples of Online Contract Cheating Organizations



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Academic Writing

How Tutoring Services work

Geekly Lab provides a functionality whereby a User (a Student) may purchase Lesson Services provided by other Users (Tutors). Geekly Lab maintains and makes available messaging and

Geekly Lab acts solely as an interface to facilitate collaboration between Students and Tutors and collect payments from Students on behalf of Tutors.

Services. The role of Geekly Lab is to solely facilitate and maintain unceasingly the operation of the Platform. Geekly Lab does not act on behalf of and is not a representative (legal or other) of any User (Student or Tutor). Tutors are independent contractors and are not employees or agents of Geekly Lab.



Sylvester Cooper shared a Page.

October 2, 2016

If you need help with Masters or Bachelors level assignments we have been providing help in following areas for OVER 3 years since 2012. Inbox us anytime for any query

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school stuff
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Facebook group
your work for competitive rates.
ers from all you beautiful

The Consequences of Contract Cheating for our Students & Staff



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Staff	Students
Loss of personal and institutional reputation	Reduction in grade, failure or expulsion
Perceived quality of paper may be jeopardized	Potential legal and financial consequences
Intellectual property may enter the public domain	Inability to enrol in other institutions
Personal reputation for academic integrity threatened	

Contract Cheating at the UoW

Outcome	Students
Enrolment cancelled: not permitted to re-enrol in the future, with relevant papers disallowed	2
Suspended for Semesters B and T 2016, with relevant papers disallowed	3
Paper disallowed , with a grade of NC	5
Insufficient evidence to find misconduct	1

Potential Impact on QS Rating



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stuff

Lincoln tops list for most student cheats

By JO GILBERT • 17:12, Aug 19 2010

EMPLOYER
REPUTATION

TOP 100 IN THE WORLD
QS WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS

*“...this survey
asks active*

stuff

Chinese cheats rort NZ universities with fakes

MARTIN VAN BEYNEN, FRANCESCA LEE and ADAM DUDDING • 04:07, May 12 2013

FACULTY

20%

CITATIONS

stuff

Cheating on the rise at Massey

Lucy Townend • 03:03, Jun 18 2014

INT'L
STUDENTS

*universities in
their specialist
fields.”*

The most vulnerable?

Students **active** in **social media**

Students **without family** or **support network**

Students **unaware** of existing **support services** on offer

Students for whom **failure** carries **greater than normal consequences**

What does the law say? How do we respond to an incident?



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"...Illegal to advertise or provide third party assistance to cheat..."

1989 New Zealand Education Act

"Resources provided to students by the University are subject to copyright protection under the Copyright Act 1994... students are advised that uploading course materials and assignments to websites... will result in disciplinary action which can lead to the student's exclusion from the University."

2016 University of Waikato Paper Outline Template

Detection of Contract Cheating

Metadata on student online activity and login frequency can be used to warn student services about students who may be struggling or in crisis.

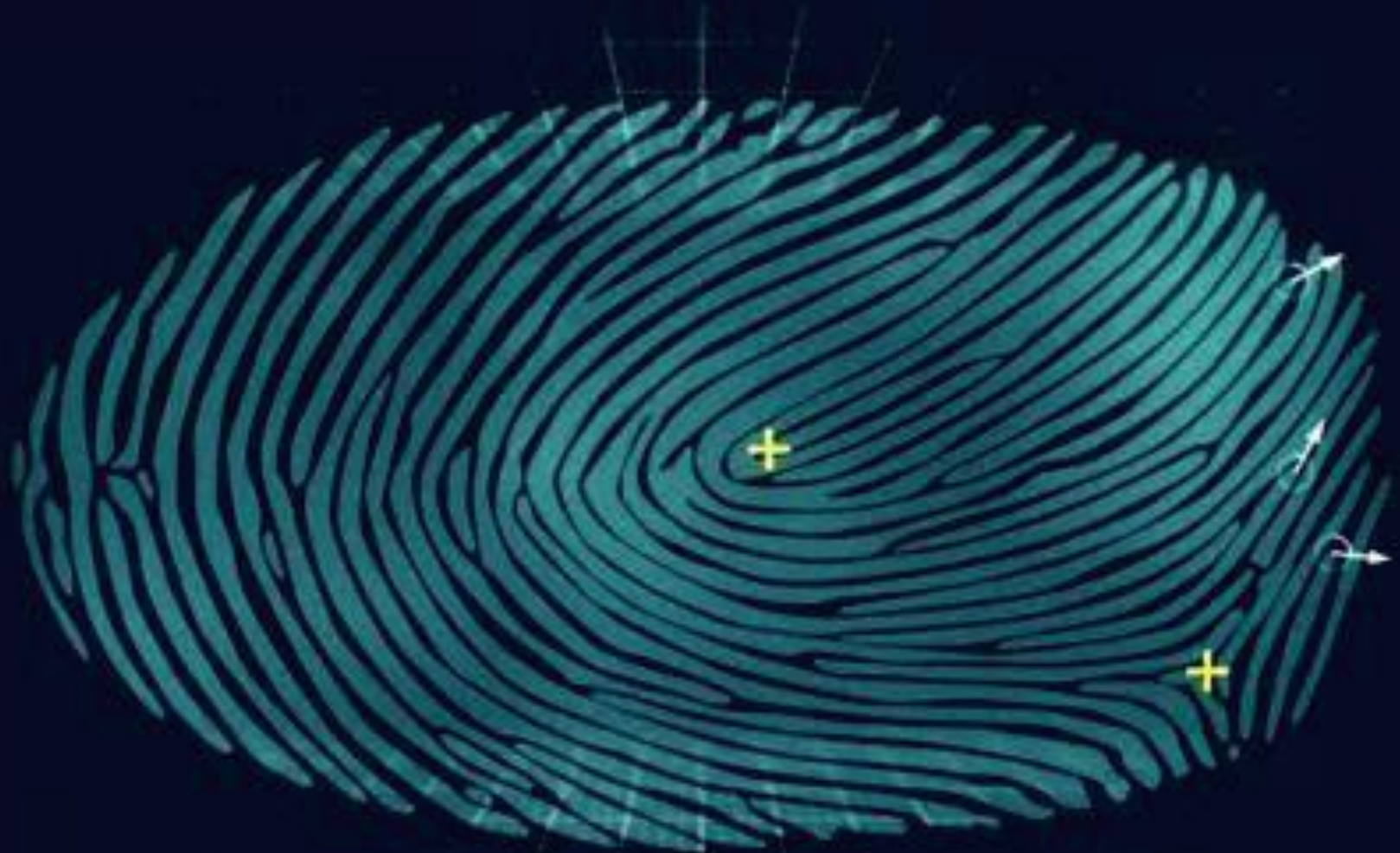
Provide online guides for our academic staff on the subtle details and identifying “fingerprints” that allow identification of assessments completed by a third party.

Is the TurnItIn score too low? A very low score can indicate a higher chance that a contract cheat has been employed.

An automated approach to detection



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Getting the communications right!

Inform and warn, but without threatening language



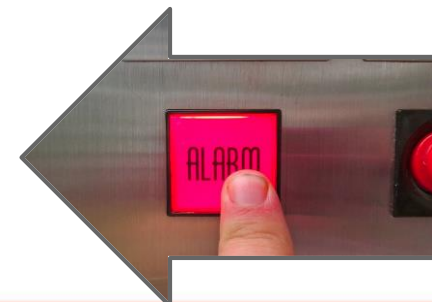
Don't exaggerate the scale of the issue

Avoid singling out any particular subject, cohort or demographic for special scrutiny



Provide information on legitimate support systems

Encourage reporting of all Contract Cheating solicitations and Social Media posts



Case Study: Deakin University



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Contract Cheating Awareness

Understand what Contract Cheating is
and the help services available

“
**All my friends
were doing it
and they didn't
get caught.**”

Contract Cheating is never acceptable.

Zero for assignment, zero for unit, and exclusion from course for 1-3 years.


Contract Cheating Breaches University Regulations. Don't purchase your assignment online, genuine academic help services are available to you.

Visit www.dusa.org.au/contractcheating for further academic information and assistance.

DUSA - ANTI-CHEATING UNIT | WWW.DUSA.ORG.AU | 1300 000 000 | 03 376 8000



Research & Collaboration Opportunities Exist



Michael J. Draper is Associate Professor in College of Law and Criminology, Swansea University; and Director of the Swansea Academy Inclusivity and Learner Success. He is also Chair of the University Regulations and Student Cases Board.

The University commits to creating a digital corpus of assessments that works in conjunction with the LMS.

Proactive use of communications systems as tools to educate and train all employees of the University.

Awareness campaigns that educate our students.

Periodic reviews of all official University and associated third party social media sites.

Spearhead longitudinal research projects in conjunction with other TEIs that enable identification, implementation and improvements to strategies and best practice.

Conclusion & Thanks

