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Experiences of adopting and developing an e-assessment system

Day 1 – Parallel I (12.00-12.30)

The School of Mathematics, University of Leeds, has recently begun to pilot the Dewis system (developed at UWE) as an e-assessment system for use in the School. We have aimed to displace some traditional assessment and to enhance the students' assessment experience. So far, this has been done on some core first-year and second-year modules, including calculus, linear algebra, and differential equations. We report some of the developments in question design which have been implemented in the course of this pilot, including some apparently novel uses of the system's existing capabilities. We also report some preliminary indications of the system's effects. Based on the initial data, we conclude that there has been an increase in student engagement with the paper-based assignments, as well as a marked improvement in the examination performance. We examine the hypothesis that the increased engagement has been the principal driver of the improved module performance. Looking forward, we posit a mechanism by which some mal-rule detection can be carried out within the limits of the existing system, and describe some plans to carry this forward in the coming academic year. We also intend to roll Dewis out to some more niche areas of the Leeds curriculum, such as financial mathematics, and here describe some of the ways in which its capabilities can be pushed further in pursuit of this.