



Featured Article

All About CAT: The Future of Assessment

FastTEST Web is the only web-based testing system that offers Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT). CAT has many benefits including more accuracy in measuring examinee knowledge, increased efficiency in test taking, and the ability to have a different test for each examinee based on their abilities. This issue covers CAT benefits and the basic requirements of CAT.

Please see page 2 for more information on CAT.

this issue

Welcome	pg. 1
FTW Mission and Overview	pg. 1
All About CAT	pg. 2
New features on FTW	pg. 3
Timeline for new features	pg. 3
Upcoming events	pg. 4

FastTEST Web's Mission

FastTEST Web's mission is to provide a cost-effective solution for web-based test development and delivery at a professional level, namely with full support for item response theory (IRT) and computerized adaptive testing (CAT).

FTW Offers

- Collaborative item banking and workflow tracking
- Test assembly and form management
- IRT and classical test theory
- Secure-lockdown online test delivery
- Computerized adaptive testing (CAT) at no extra cost
- Powerful and customizable reporting
- Detailed psychometric analysis
- Control security with roles and content access
- Geographic independence
- Flexible and easy to use interface

Welcome

FastTEST Web celebrated its one-year anniversary on May 5, 2011. Since its debut in the spring of 2010, FTW has grown in functionality. Some of these accomplishments include redesigning the test delivery interface, sub-scoring capabilities, importing responses from paper-and-pencil tests, and easier item entry.

In this issue of FTW, Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) will be discussed, describing benefits of FTW both from the test developer and the examinee perspective, and how FTW's PH.D. psychometricians can help you! I invite you to check out *FastTEST Web* at www.fasttestweb.com and sign up for a free 30-day trial to review all of *FastTEST Web's* capabilities. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for bi-weekly updates.

Thank you

Kimberly

Kimberly Bennett, Director of Sales & Marketing, *FastTEST Web*

All About CAT: The Future of Assessment

Computerized Adaptive Testing

FTW is the only web-based testing system that allows anyone to develop their own CAT!

Known as CAT, computerized adaptive testing is a dynamic method of test administration where items are selected one at a time to match item difficulty and candidate ability as closely as possible. This helps prevent candidates being presented with items that are too difficult or too easy for them, which has multiple benefits. Often, the test takes less than half as many items to obtain a similar level of accuracy to conventional form-based tests.

Please visit <http://www.fasttestweb.com/adaptive-testing.php> to learn more about how CAT can improve your tests!

Benefits of CAT

- Greater score precision
- Increased test security
- Immediate score reporting
- Examinee-determined pace of the test
- Increased examinee motivation and better experience
- Decreased test length, translating to a 50% or greater reduction of test time, examinee fatigue, and item exposure

Basic Requirements of CAT

- Items (questions) must be scored objectively correct or incorrect
- The ability to develop large banks of items, at least three times your intended test length
- A pilot sample of at least 200-500 examinees for each test (depends on the IRT model used)
- Expertise from a Ph.D. psychometrician to perform complex item response theory (IRT) analysis and appropriate CAT research
- An item banking system capable of storing IRT parameters and designing CATs
- A test delivery system capable of fully adaptive testing based on IRT

FTW can help you leverage the benefits of CAT: We have an item banking and test delivery system that is unparalleled in the industry, in addition to internationally recognized Ph.D. psychometricians with decades of experience in CAT. Contact us today (sales@fasttestweb.com) to learn how FTW can make your testing process more powerful and efficient.



FTW is jointly owned and operated by Assessment Systems Corporation & 4ROI

About ASC

ASC brings over 30 years of experience and the expertise of four Ph.D. psychometricians.

ASC also provides software tools for a full range of psychometric procedures and processes, empowering organizations to produce more reliable tests while also streamlining the business and operations of test development and psychometrics. The full catalog of software is available in the ASC web store at www.assess.com.

About 4ROI

4ROI is a leader in the development and administration of efficient internet-based assessments and accredited certification tools. 4ROI builds assessment tools for clients to use as their own or to sell to others, as well as offering a range of brand assessments. 4ROI supports business, educational, and governmental service providers by conceptualizing, implementing, and commercializing online assessment systems and certification programs. 4ROI has built over 500 assessment systems for clients ranging from Fortune 100 organizations to single-person consulting firms, and delivers these assessments throughout the United States as well as internationally. To learn more about 4ROI, please visit www.4ROI.com.



New Features on *FastTEST Web*

These features will be available by May 14, 2011

- A complete redesign of the Item Editor to be more intuitive and WYSIWYG, making the item writing process even more efficient
- Two new item types: essay (with own RTE) and short answer; real-time scoring to be developed
- Unscored items in CAT for pilot/pretesting new items
- More complete item versioning and history access
- Multiple emails; keep proctor/instructor and examinee emails separate for security
- Enhanced calendars

The features below are scheduled to be released by June 1, 2011

- A "Ratings" tab in the item editor for assigning Angoff rating or other types of ratings during the expert review process
- Japanese translation of the FTW application; we can also translate to your language – just contact us! (Items can be in any language)
- Tracking of paper-based examinees
- Additional item types, including Likert-style items

Why FastTEST Web?

For the Test Developers

- *Internet based for easy access
- *Ease of item entry and test assembly
- *Statistical analysis and database management
- *Immediate reporting
- *Security and roles
- *Online or paper-and-pencil delivery
- *Flexible online delivery options
- *Ability to import responses
- *Customization is available to suit your needs
- *Simple examinee registration

For the Examinees or Students

- *Internet based
- *Ease of navigation
- *Immediate results
- *On demand testing

Services

- *Psychometric expertise
- *Assistance/Customization/API
- *Free training
- ***Free 30-day Trial**

Q: What types of reports are available in FTW?

FTW currently offers a large number of reports, both for individual results and for group results. These reports include examinee test overview, examinee's actual answers against the key, and reports based on items and item bank strength.

Please contact FTW if you do not see a report to fit your needs and a custom solution can be provided for you.

FastTEST Web Uniqueness:

FTW has several Ph.D. psychometricians to assist in your test development needs.

Leverage the experience of our Ph.D. psychometricians to ensure sound practices for any phase of the test development cycle. Combine our expertise in psychometrics and test development with the sophistication of *FastTEST Web* for a complete end-to-end solution, from the initial idea of a testing program, through development and publication. Some of the essential components we provide are.

- Job (practice) analysis
- Standard setting studies
- Blueprints and item writing
- Automated test assembly
- Test and item statistical analysis (including NCCA reports)
- Linking and equating across years/forms
- Adaptive testing research
- Item response theory (IRT)



Free FTW Trial

Want to find out more about how FTW is your complete online testing solution? Sign up for a free trial at www.fasttestweb.com.

**FastTEST Web Newsletter
ISSUE 02 May 2011**

Upcoming Events

ASC is conducting two open workshops on item response theory (IRT) and computerized adaptive testing (CAT) in 2011. One was held May at Jiaxing University, China, and the second will be held in July, at the University of Brasilia, Brazil. These workshops include training in cutting-edge IRT and CAT software. To learn more, or to register, visit www.assess.com/training.php.

Spring/Summer 2011 Conferences

Association for Institutional Research, May 21-25 <http://forum.airweb.org/2011>

Council of Chief State School Officers, June 19-22 <http://www.ccsso.org>

Pacific Rim Objective Measurement Symposium, July 13-15 <http://proms2011.nie.edu.sg/>

76th Annual Psychometric Society Conference, July 18-22 <http://www.psychometricsociety.org>

119th APA Annual Convention, Aug. 4-7 <http://www.apa.org/convention/index.aspx>

EARLI Conference, Aug. 30- Sept. 3 <http://www.earli.org>

European Conference on Psychological Assessment, Aug. 31-Sept. 3 <http://www.ecpa11.lu.lv>

CLEAR, Sept. 8-10 <http://www.clearhq.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=460809>

FastTEST Web

2233 University Ave, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114

Phone: 612.520.1478
Fax: 651.47.0412

www.fasttestweb.com
sales@fasttestweb.com

