An Inclusive Approach to Exams as a Response to the Pandemic

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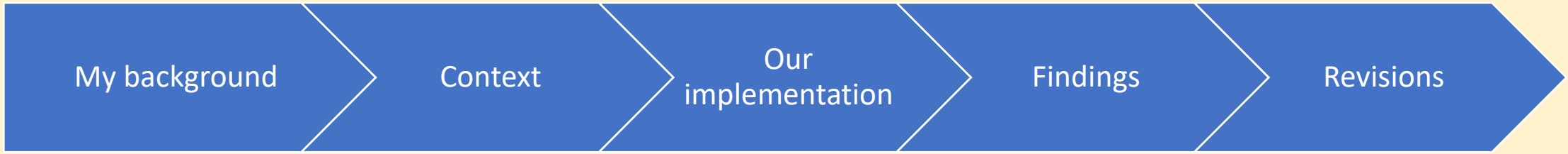
Objectives


My background
Context
Our implementation
Findings
Revisions

My Background

Accessibility Practice

Accessibility Research

Organisational leadership in Inclusion and Accessibility

Context

EXAMS

COMPUTING

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Context: Student needs

- Different time zones
- Share internet connections, computers and study spaces at homes.
- Care responsibilities
- Key workers
- Mental health issues as a result of the pandemic
- Disabilities (non-pandemic)

Implementation

- Window of 48hrs
- Three times the usual requirement
- Smaller components that could be started at any time
- Multiple choice: randomized questions and answers
- short answers: randomised
- Long questions: scan/take photo and upload evidence
- Vivas for randomly selected students (Separate from Academic Misconduct)

Managing Student Experience

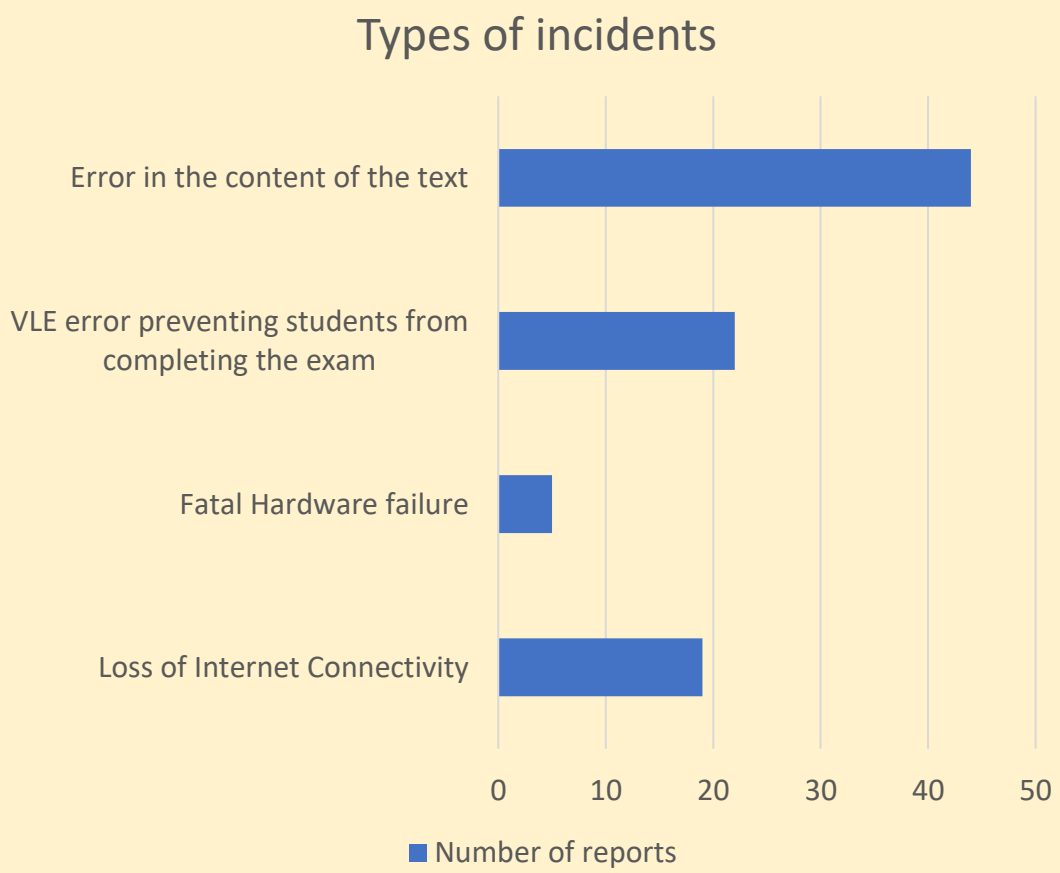
- Sample exam
- Student meetings
- Incident forms

Findings: Staff Experience

- Additional time to set up
- Automatic marking mitigated for it
- Learning to write Open Book style questions

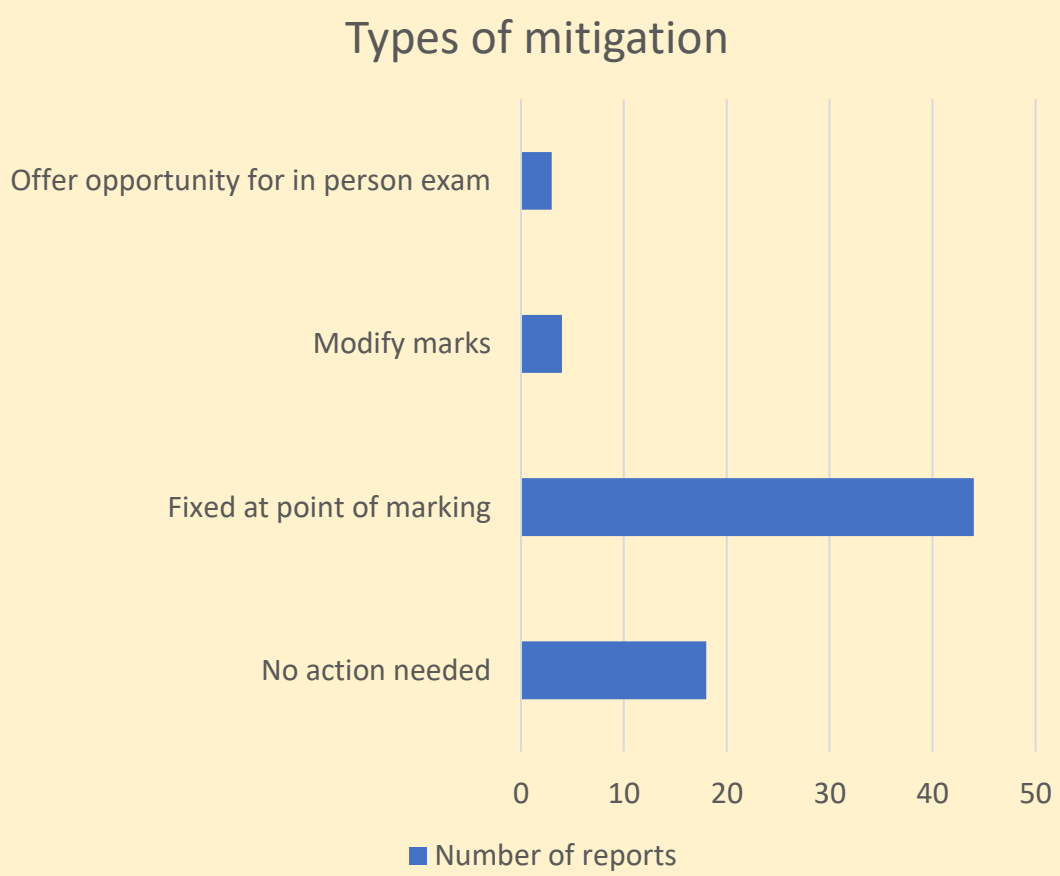
Findings: Incident Forms

- 15 modules with 15-200 students per exam
- Reported issues: 90
- Number of students: 67
- Types of issues:
  - Loss of internet connectivity - 19
  - Fatal Hardware failure - 5
  - VLE error preventing student from completing the exam - 22
  - Error in the content of the test - 44



Mitigations

- No action needed (18)
- Fixed at point of marking (44)
- Modify marks (4)
- Offer opportunity for in person exam (3)
- Mitigate attempt (1)



Revisions

- Time reduced to 36hrs
- External Examiner scrutiny
- Improved communication to students

Questions?