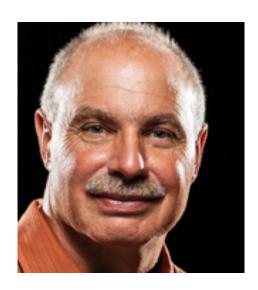
Using Calculated Multichoice Questions (CMQs)

Dr. Rick Jerz
The University of Iowa



Objectives

- What are calculated multichoice questions?
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Provide an illustration
- Share a "real" example
- Summary and some notes

What are calculated multichoice questions?

- Multiple choice
 - Easy to grade. Automatic by Moodle.
 - Saves the time grading. Improves productivity.
 - Randomized re-attempts easily implemented.
 - One exact answer. No student data entry errors.
 - Students typically explore wrong answers, too.
- Calculated multichoice
 - Uses variables in question and in answers.
 - "Algorithmically" generated questions.
 - Easily provides many versions of the question.
 - Avoids students sharing answers (cheating).
 - Variables can be synchronized across multiple questions

Calculated MultiChoice Characteristics

- Advantages
 - Can create the "correct" answer
 - Can have "constant" answers
 - Can have "text" answers, like "none of these"
 - Can create calculated incorrect answers
 - Can include words, after or before
 - Can have many choices (many more than 4)
 - Many functions are available
 - Can include "bogus" variables
 - Multiple questions can "share" variables!!!
- Disadvantages
 - More complex to set up

An Example – Geometry Area and Perimeter of Rectangle

Two variables: length (x) and width (y)

Two problems:

- 1. Calculate the area of a rectangle
- 2. Calculate the perimeter of a rectangle
 - Purposely use the same x and y letters
 - To demonstrate private and shared datasets

Let's get started!

- 1. Create a quiz (framework)
- 2. Create a quiz category
- 3. Create the first question (use most defaults)
 - Variables in curly brackets {=...}
- 4. Create a second question (using defaults)
- 5. Add the questions to the quiz
- 6. Observe via previews

Add the Second Question

- If it makes sense, just duplicate the first question
- Synchronized Questions, three conditions:
 - 1. The questions are kept in the SAME question bank category
 - 2. The questions must have the same number of versions
 - 3. We have to instruct Moodle to synchronize the datasets

My Course Quiz Example

- Course: Business Analytics
- Exam Topic: Descriptive Statistics
 - Mean, Mean Deviation, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation, Range, Minimum, Maximum, Variance
- 40-45 Students
- Unique "Dataset"

Summary

- CMQs are a powerful question type
- CMQs are a bit complex
- CMQs take time to learn and master
- CMQs are great for avoiding "cheating"
- CMQs do not exist in other LMSs, giving Moodle a powerful question type

Limitations and Notes

- This is not Excel. More functions are needed.
- Going backwards between setup screens is tricky. Start at beginning and step forward.
- Removing one specific "set" is difficult.
- It would be nice to be able to use a "Description" question type with variables.
- Better documentation is needed.
- Requires experimentation and practice.

The End

- I hang out in the Moodle.org forums, if you need me.
- For more support, including this video, go to

www.rjerz.com

