



Questionmark Case Study

Donath Group Develops Pilot Tests For Global IT Group in Record Time

Background

Companies administering high-stakes exams are required to run pilot tests in order to gather the statistics they need to build reliable and valid exams. Typically, IT industry companies require test development on a very tight timeline. Test development consulting firm The Donath Group was approached by a major IT company that needed their exams in time for an upcoming conference.

The Donath Group had established a rapid test development approach to expedite the process, typically 12 weeks. However, because of the client's targeted release date, they had to consider approaches to complete the test development even faster.

Solution

The Donath Group received approval to prototype an innovative approach: hosting online Questionmark Perception tests in a non-proctored environment. By administering the beta tests with controls on all browser functions, the consultants were able to ensure that test items could not be copied, printed, or saved.

Candidates log on from any location within a narrow time frame and take the exam only once. Without proctors, it wasn't possible for people to get certified by passing the beta test. However, they would be able to anticipate the topics that would be covered in the final certification exam. Candidates benefited not only by learning their strengths and weaknesses, but they obtained discounted fees to take the final, published exam.

The Donath Group hosted the pilot tests and monitored them closely. Of the 400 people who registered for that exam, nearly all participated over a period of three days compared to two to four weeks. The number of participants was high and the breadth of global participation was much greater than normal.

The Donath Group facilitated implementation by establishing a beta registration process and developing a utility to help load and export test items into Perception. Given the importance of the beta test, they also maintained the integrity of the process by building multiple test forms to minimize test item exposure.

Results

The Donath Group met the deadline and the pilots ran very smoothly. They pulled in the test results and conducted an in-depth statistical analysis in order to build equated test forms. They also set the cut-score for the actual certification exam. The client was extremely pleased with the process, which reduced administrative costs and helped publish final certification exams far sooner. Now the company has asked The Donath Group to host more beta tests using Perception, using the Perception Secure Browser to further ensure the security of the pilot tests.

Benefits

IT professionals are very excited about the prospect of participating without having to make a special trip to take a beta exam. Administering pilot tests online offers a low-cost solution that makes it easier for people to participate. This solution makes pilot testing truly worldwide, a big help when it comes to analyzing data and ensuring that it is truly representative of the global certification audience.

More information

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