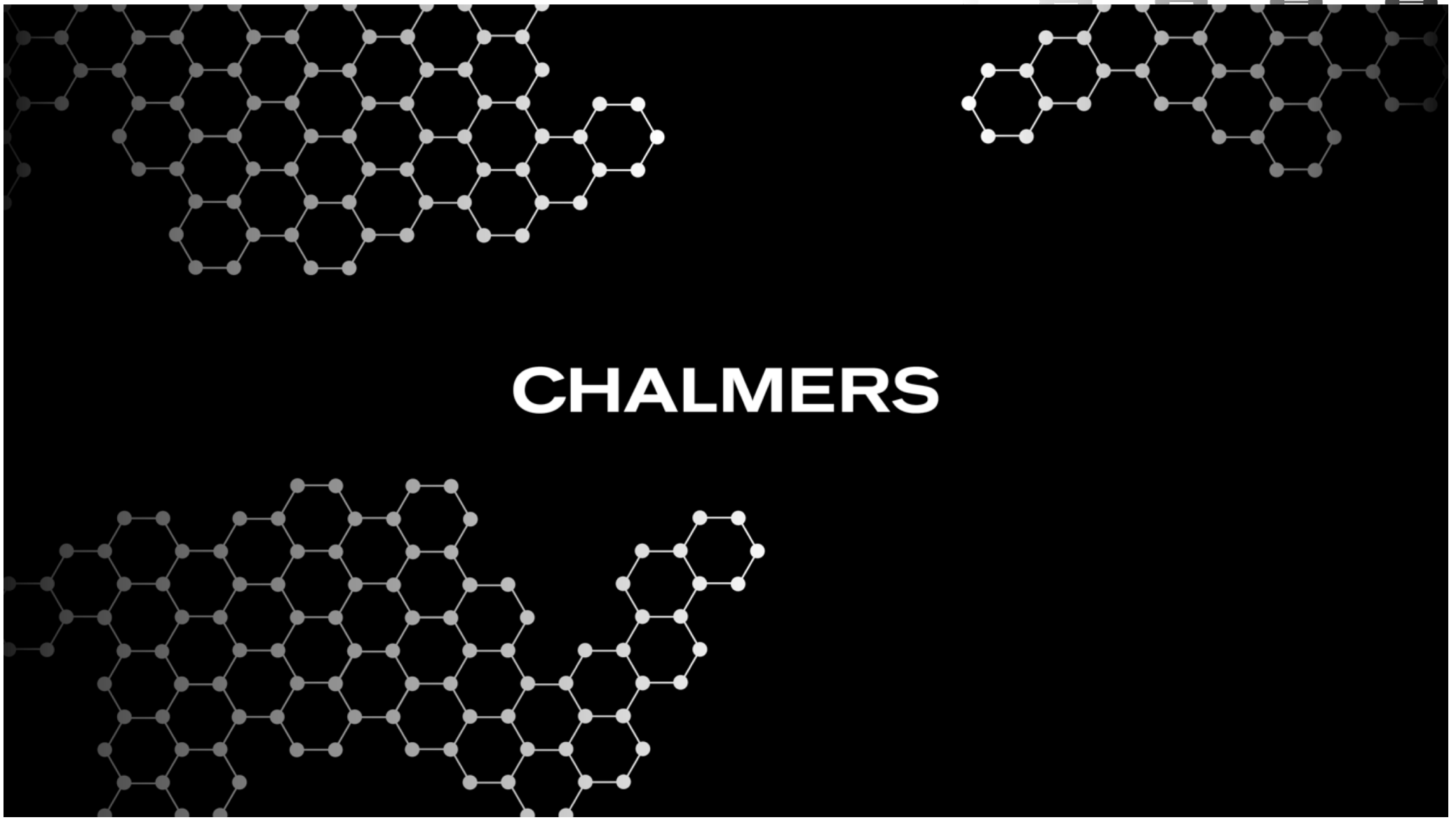
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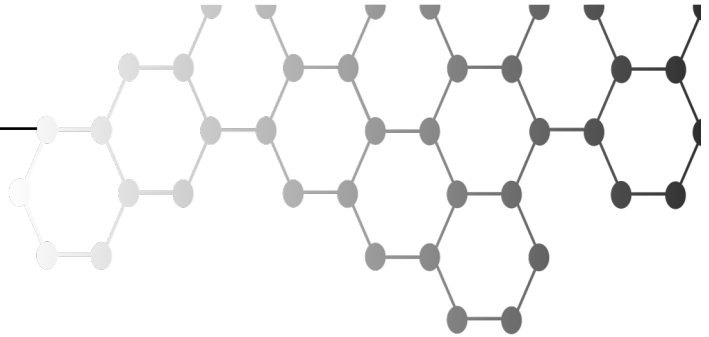

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THE INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL EXAMS – EXPERIENCES FROM A PILOT STUDY

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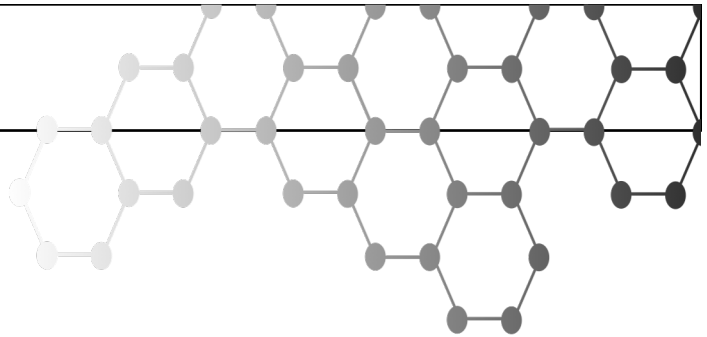
PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

Background

Digital examination pilot project

Observations

Recommendations



BACKGROUND

Driving forces – External

- New national quality assurance system
- Nationwide project – Digital Examination
- Denmark ahead – Norway similar – Finland similar

BACKGROUND

- Driving forces - Internal
  - Students expect to use their own computers/tablets during exams
  - Improve exams as learning opportunities
  - Quality assured administrative processes

DIGITAL EXAMINATION PILOT PROJECT

Three management courses, BSc level

Two different webbased examination systems

130 students and three teachers

Evaluation through questions during the exams, the regular course evaluation surveys, a workshop and individual interviews

OBSERVATIONS - STUDENTS

Generally very positive

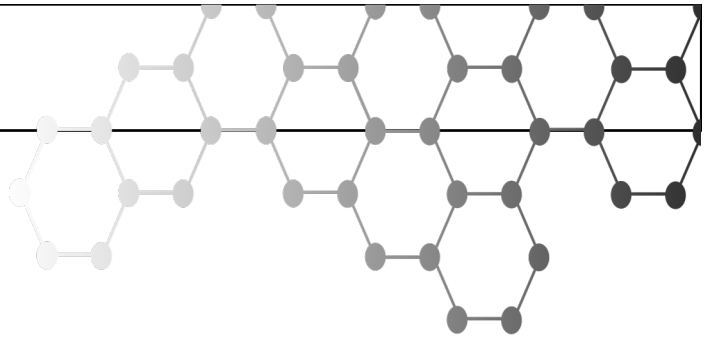
”Practicalities need improvement”

Demand equal conditions regardless of examination system used

Combination Computer – Paper wanted

OBSERVATIONS - STUDENTS

- Advantages
  - Own computer! ”We are not used to write with a pencil”
  - Editing their answers
  - Improves anonymity for exams
  - Better for the environment
  - Improved teacher feedback



OBSERVATIONS - STUDENTS

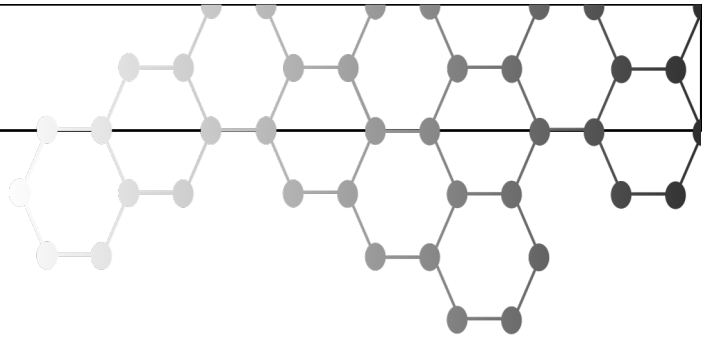
- Disadvantages
  - Tiring to sit in front of a screen for hours
  - Noisy
  - Worries about system failure

OBSERVATIONS - TEACHERS

Generally positive

Important to ensure that the examination tests the right things

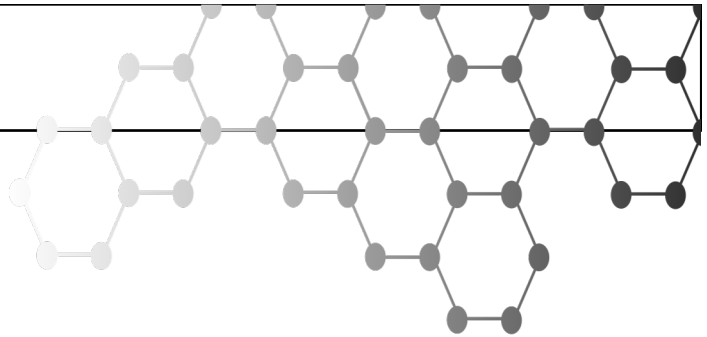
Dual systems (computer and paper) is complex



OBSERVATIONS - TEACHERS

Advantages

- Test bank development
- Automated grading possible
- The exam becomes a learning activity
- Grading can be done anytime and anywhere
- Grading takes less time (-33%)
- Enables the use of films/simulations during the exams



OBSERVATIONS - TEACHERS

Disadvantages

- Risk of simplicity before proper examination
- Old exam questions may be reused more often
- Extended student feedback takes time
- Perceived as ”easier to cheat”

OBSERVATIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative processes are facilitated

Routines important for everyone

Education needed

OBSERVATIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Advantages
  - Decreased use of paper
  - Simplifies the grading when multiple teachers are involved

OBSERVATIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Disadvantages
  - Current examination process cannot deal with the new situation

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS – ALL GROUPS

- Generally very positive / positive
- Saves time during grading
- Demands a resource demanding hands-on approach initially
- Education for all three groups necessary before implementation
- Facilities are not adapted for digital examination

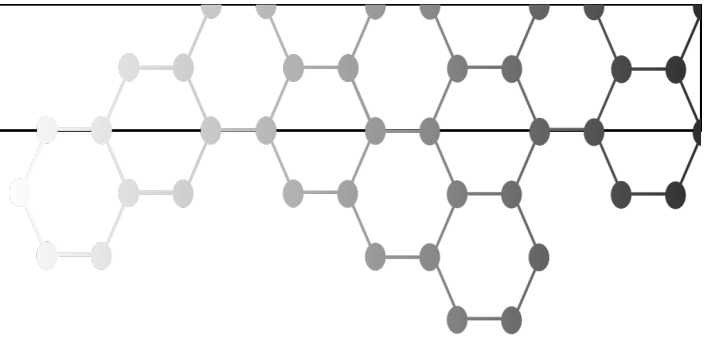
RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to implement – ”It will happen whether we like it or not”

Ensure that digital exams capture the desired knowledge

Products on the digital examination system market are immature

Support processes need to be adapted to digital examination



Thank you for your attention!

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