

Focus Lock Overview—from E-SESS Management

Focus Lock is an advanced proprietary feature integrated within the E-SESS assessment engine, designed to uphold the integrity and fairness of the testing process. This innovative browser detection tool is specifically developed to alert users in real-time if they navigate away from their test window, ensuring that the attention remains solely on the assessment at hand.

How Focus Lock Works

Real-Time Monitoring

Focus Lock continuously monitors the active window status of the user's browser to detect any attempts to navigate away from the test environment. This includes switching tabs, opening new browsers, or accessing other applications during the test.

User Alerts

Upon detecting a deviation from the test window, Focus Lock instantly triggers an alert to the user, indicating that a navigation away from the test has been detected. This system is designed to provide immediate feedback, reminding users to maintain focus on the test.

Warning System

To reinforce the importance of test integrity, Focus Lock employs a structured warning system comprising three alerts if a user navigates away from the test:

First Warning: The initial alert provides users with a 10-second window to acknowledge the warning and return their focus to the test.

Subsequent Warnings: If the behavior persists, two additional warnings are issued, each with a 5-second acknowledgment window.

Consequence of Ignoring Warnings: Ignoring these warnings or failing to acknowledge them within the specified time frame carries significant consequences:

After the third warning, or if any warning is not acknowledged within the allotted time, Focus Lock will automatically submit the user's test as is. This action serves as a deterrent against any attempt to compromise the test's integrity and ensures fairness for all participants.

Benefits of Focus Lock

Integrity Assurance: Focus Lock plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and credibility of the E-SESS assessment process by preventing unauthorized information access or distractions during tests.

Fairness and Equality: By enforcing strict adherence to test protocols, Focus Lock ensures a level playing field for all test takers, contributing to the overall fairness of the assessment.

Real-Time Intervention: The immediate feedback mechanism of Focus Lock assists users in correcting their course of action promptly, reducing the likelihood of inadvertent rule violations.

Automated Test Submission: The automatic submission feature acts as a strong deterrent against repeated distractions or attempts to navigate away, preserving the test's validity.

Common Unintentional Triggers

Automatic Updates: Software updates that initiate automatically in the background can cause the test window to lose focus, inadvertently triggering a Focus Lock alert.

Email Applications: Email clients running in the background that produce pop-up notifications or take focus for new messages can unintentionally cause Focus Lock to activate.

Music and Streaming Services: Applications for music or video streaming that generate notifications or interface pop-ups might inadvertently shift focus away from the test environment.

Calculator Apps: Utilizing calculator apps or other assistive tools, if permitted during the test, may sometimes be misinterpreted by Focus Lock as navigating away from the test.

Other:

- The users are explicitly acknowledging notifications of some sort.
- An app is stealing focus in the background.
- An unusual OS configuration is causing problems.

Mitigation Strategies

To minimize the impact of these unintentional triggers, several strategies can be employed:

Pre-Test Checklist: Encourage users to complete a pre-test checklist that includes disabling automatic updates, closing unnecessary applications, and turning off notifications that might interfere with the test. Enable do not disturb mode: It should cause the active app to remain front and center and suppress active on-screen notifications. Use the links to follow how to enable this setting.

- [Microsoft's instructions for Windows](#)
- [Apple's instructions for macOS](#)

User Guidelines: Provide clear guidelines for users on how to prepare their testing environment, including which applications should be closed and how to manage necessary ones to prevent unintended Focus Lock activations.

Technical Support: Technical support is available during the assessments to assist users who encounter unintended Focus Lock activations, helping them to quickly resolve the issue without affecting their test performance.

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