Evaluating the Computer Competency of Preservice and Inservice Educators

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We live in a world that is inundated with technology. Every time we turn around, it seems as if we see an Internet address. URLs (uniform resource locators) such as http://www... appear on our TV screens, monthly bank statements, billboards, in local newspapers, magazines, and even in local grocery store flyers. Federal and state agencies are mandating technology competence in educators in response to the demands of the information age. Many school districts and teacher education programs are grappling with two basic dilemmas: How do we determine what skills constitute technology competence, and how do we measure competency once we determine these skills? This demonstration focused on both issues by presenting a step-by-step account of the development of a computer competency test developed by the author for the College of Education at the University of Texas in Austin. Topics presented included: determining the objectives, preparing the test, field testing, and implementation.