BioMedical Computing

Pico Educational Systems Ltd
QuickScreen Dyslexia Test

"Our requirements for developing this test were complex and BioMedical came up with the creativity and flair that was needed to bring this about. They promised they would keep working with us until we were satisfied with the result. We are pleased to say we are more than satisfied and are confident that this test will help people with a wide range of abilities to identify dyslexia and other learning needs."

Dr D Walker
Test Author and
Dyslexia Consultant

The Brief

Many organisations have been using Pico's StudyScan dyslexia testing suite since it was introduced in 1997. However, modern advances in computing technologies meant that a new version was required that would be compatible with 64 bit computers and tablets. If the new test could be online, then a new charging model would make it more accessible.

The Solution

We immediately saw the benefits of StudyScan and realised that it could reach a far larger audience as an online service with PayPal integration for instant payment processing. Being browser based would open the product up to work on practically any device.

The new test is considerably shorter than the old one, using the knowledge gained from the StudyScan usage and results enabled us to build a test using the most effective elements of the old system. It has been named QuickScreen and is based around 6 individual tests: verbal skills, visual skills, vocabulary, memory, sequencing and processing. The candidate can complete these tests in any order and in multiple sittings if they wish. Once all are complete, the system calculates scores for each test then combines them to give a level of indications of dyslexia, literacy capability and general speed of processing. The candidate is presented with a report containing a detailed analysis of their results and recommendations for future action.

During development, a new feature was requested: the ability for some organisations to host their own copy of the system and use it under license. We therefore added a licensing system that allows administrators to track usage and licensing of organisations using either the main install or their own copy.

The Conclusion

QuickScreen has recently undergone trials with candidates from participating universities and individuals registered with the British Dyslexic Association which have proved very positive.

The licensing system has made it flexible enough that it can be used by individuals, organisations or resellers.

Being online, the system can be updated and maintained remotely to keep it compatible with new browsers and devices, enabling the test to remain useful for years to come.