

SAFE for Ph.D. Interview-Screening Tests at IITB

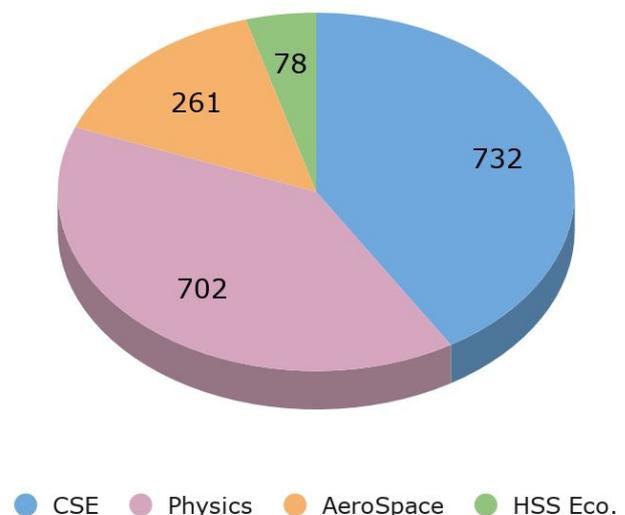
With restrictions implemented due to the spread of covid, it was very challenging to conduct pre-interview screening tests for Ph.D. applicants. What was needed was a safe and secure solution that was also robust and easy to use. With SAFE we were able to effectively address this need. SAFE has a lightweight app and a simple instructor interface to create quizzes in no time. It was easy to use for both the exam conducting authority as well as the candidates. A big plus was that it was designed and time-tested to be robust to network disconnections, a common occurrence in many situations.

Overall, across 5 departments, a total of over 1700 candidates completed their pre-interview screening exam through SAFE (see graphic alongside).

This was achieved through a few simple steps

1. Instructors were able to create quizzes by using one of various formats supported by SAFE (csv, odt, docx, html)
2. Students were enrolled from the backend to speed up the process.
3. Mock tests were conducted to familiarize students with how to use the app and go through the quizzes.
4. A Pre-quiz checklist was provided to students to avoid any unintentional mishaps during the quiz.
5. Several secondary issues like bad network and even network disconnections were mitigated by SAFE's capability to run the exam uninterrupted even in the presence of such disruptions.

IITB PhD Entrance 2020



Testimonial

"We had about 600 candidates from different parts of India. We did 2 mocks and with the first mock itself almost all problems got sorted out. Here again, most of the problems were related to google meet proctoring and about SAFE. The final exam was almost event-free. Overall, a great experience. I would like to add that we got immediate and correct answers to all our queries throughout." -- **Prof. Suresh (HOD, Physics Dept. IITB)**.

"I find SAFE to be a very useful platform to conduct online quizzes. It is very easy to use, ideal to receive responses from students and best to get the evaluations done in a short span of time. The best part of it is its usability in courses with large numbers of students and automated submissions, where the internet connectivity could be a serious issue in the length and breadth of the country [from where the students join to take the test]." -- **Prof. Krishnan Narayanan (HSS Dept. IITB)**.

Highlights

- Instructors were able to run the quiz cheat free, this was achieved by observing the quiz through the Live Dashboard screen. Here we could see students' actions on the phone in realtime.
- Students were able to effectively attempt subjective questions by writing the answers on paper and capturing/uploading the images from within the app.
- SAFE enabled the participation of students from remote locations with inconsistent connectivity as the app doesn't need high-speed internet all the time. It lets you attempt the quiz, save the answers on the phone and the submission will be uploaded when the connectivity is available.