LockDown Browser

Respondus LockDown Browser is a client application that is installed to a local computer. It provides a custom interface for the Internet Explorer (Windows) or Safari (Mac) software that is already installed on the computer. It does not modify an existing copy of Internet Explorer or Safari, but rather, installs a separate program that will display the custom interface when it is started. Respondus LockDown Browser uses the same security features and service packs that are currently installed for Internet Explorer or Safari. Installing Respondus LockDown Browser won’t modify the current version of Internet Explorer or Safari in any way.

Respondus LockDown Browser is not intended to replace the browser used by faculty or students within Instructure Canvas. Respondus LockDown Browser is only intended for use by students while taking a quiz that are set for use with Respondus LockDown Browser. This browser has not been tested for use in other areas of Canvas.

What it does:

- Quizzes are displayed full-screen and cannot be minimized
- Quizzes cannot be exited until submitted by users for grading
- Task switching or access to other applications is prevented
- Printing functions are disabled
- Print Screen and capturing functions are disabled
- Copying and pasting anything to and from a quiz is prohibited
- Right-click menu options are disabled (Windows); key+click options are disabled (Mac)
- Browser menu and toolbar options are disabled except Back, Forward, Refresh and Stop
- Function keys (F1-F12) are disabled
- Source code for the HTML page cannot be viewed
- URLs cannot be typed by the user
- Hundreds of screen capture, messaging, screen-sharing and network monitoring applications are blocked from running
- The browser automatically starts at the institution’s login page for Canvas
- Links in questions that point to other servers don’t compromise the “locked” testing environment
- Pages from the quiz aren’t cached or stored in Internet Explorer’s history listing
How it works:
The functions and appearance of LockDown Browser are determined by the “server profile”, which would be set up in the Administrator Area (http://www.respondus.com/campus-portal/) Control Panel. Changes to the Control Panel are institution-wide and will appear immediately to faculty and students. For example, one setting in the server profile specifies our login page for Canvas. When LockDown Browser is started, it will automatically go to the Respondus web site to obtain this “Server profile” information.

We will be provided with a unique “Institution ID” which is displayed throughout the Administrator Area for Respondus LockDown Browser. The “Institution ID” is used to link a client installation of Respondus LockDown Browser to a particular institution.

Distribution and Installation
The extent to which the Respondus LockDown Browser software is distributed and installed is “largely up to us (assuming we have a campus-wide license for the software)”. 

The setup program or installer for Respondus LockDown Browser must be downloaded from a unique URL for our institution, which can be found in the Administrator area.

Student and Lab Editions
There are two types of installers available at the Administrator Area of Respondus LockDown Browser.

The “Student Edition” requires the user to have administrator rights in Windows to run the browser (except on Windows XP).

The “Lab Edition” of LockDown Browser, which is for Windows-based computer labs, doesn’t require users to have administrator rights in Windows to launch the browser. A separate Windows account should be used on the lab computers where the Task Manager and Fast User Switching are disabled. The “Lab Edition” of LockDown Browser should never be given to students since it would allow them to access the Task Manager and Fast User Switching during an exam.