

## **Tactical Considerations Prior to Deploying Computers in Language Testing**

What can we learn from a sunken Swedish ship, the Gartner Hype Cycle and the Technician Adoption Lifecycle when moving to program-wide computer-based testing?

If you haven't planned for failures along the way, you have failed to plan adequately.

There will always be difficulties when transitioning to new technologies with chasms and troughs along the way, but the journey can still be made. It just requires proceeding slowly and deliberately. Attached is a list of questions to ask yourself as you go through the decision-making process.

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Start slowly and implement changes incrementally as teams first with small groups such as individual classes. Having your team work on the tests together may take more time initially, but it will result in both training and redundancy that should make implementation smoother. With these small groups, the inevitable failures that arise will have fewer and smaller repercussions on the program as a whole.

But only if, you and your team learn from the failures and have improved your processes. Then when it is time to fully transition to program-wide computer-based testing, you will have minimized the inherent problems that occur when adopting new technologies.

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