



# Dimensions

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## Exam Security

SMT considers security to be a critical component of all of our examination programs. In fact, SMT is known in the testing community for its expertise in security matters. Dr. Lee Schroeder, SMT President, co-authored Chapter 4 Examination Security of the *Certification: A NOCA Handbook*. According to the NOCA description of the handbook,

([www.noca.org/publications/books](http://www.noca.org/publications/books))

“This step-by-step guide to designing and implementing effective professional certification examinations was written by recognized experts with applied knowledge of practical experience.”

We have instituted stringent procedures in all areas of test development and test administration, including a vault (a secure contained printing, production and storage facility) and document tracking procedures, and background checks (reference, criminal, credit, drug) on all staff and outside consultants. SMT's security is referred to as a “system” because of the various elements that must

(please see “Security” on page 3)

## SMT Launches Test Center Network

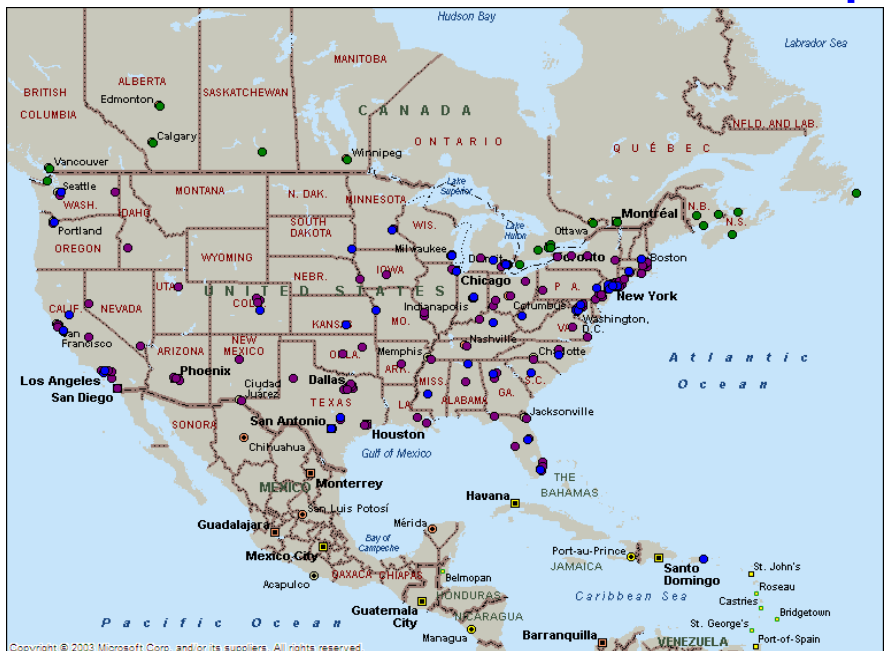
SMT is building on its eight years of experience delivering computer-based testing by launching our own test center network. Opening November 1, 2004 with at least 120 North American centers, SMT will add North American and International and sites will be added in 2005.

Working with CompUSA, Polar Bear Computer Training (Canada), and New Horizons, SMT's network offers reliable, web-based testing; consistent,

courteous service; and advanced technological capabilities, including computer-adaptive testing. Launched concurrently is SMT's web-based testing reservation system that allows U.S. candidates real-time confirmations. SMT clients can allow candidates to make their own reservations, make reservations on behalf of clients, or contract with SMT to provide full candidate service.

(please see SMT Network, page 3)

## SMT North American Test Center Map



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## SMT Network

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SMT operates its testing network on a testing session basis with sessions 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Examinations longer than four hours are scheduled in back-to-back sessions. Specific testing centers hours will be scheduled within these parameters based on the current and forecast demand. SMT is using the session model because we believe it is distracting for candidates if new candidates are being brought into the testing room during their examinations.

Client examinations are transmitted to SMT Test Centers by secure socket layer (SSL) via secure, high speed lines (mostly T1 lines). Items are not cached at test station computers. Each item is transmitted individually to the test station as the candidate proceeds through an examination. Hence, all client examinations are maintained only on SMT's secure server that is protected by a dual firewall. Candidate responses are recorded immediately on the SMT server. Examination status is automatically stored upon interruption due to power failure or other emergency permitting the candidate to resume at the point of interruption.

Exams are launched from a desktop shortcut that hides the testing URL and are displayed through a custom browser with all typical browser functions disabled. In addition to password protection at exam start-up, SMT's testing application checks the testing station IP address to ensure it is a valid test center.

The SMT testing engine is fully customizable to client look and feel. The engine supports weighted scoring, branching and adaptive testing, graphics and other support materials. The engine also disables other browser functions, preventing candidates from accessing other internet sites during testing. All examinations are electronically clocked.

Examination results are stored in SMT's secure database immediately following the end of each candidate's examination. No exam or candidate information is ever stored on the computers in the testing center.

The SMT testing network is fully compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA requests must be made in advance of testing. SMT coordinates ADA accommodations with the client, and then notifies the candidate. Such accommodations may include additional time, a reader-marker, special physical arrangements, etc. There is **no additional cost** for special accommodations unless it requires that a test center be closed to other candidates.

## Reed Castle to co-chair CLEAR Subcommittee

Dr. Reed Castle, SMT's Director of Research & Development, will co-chair the Credentialing & Exam Issues subcommittee of the Program Committee for the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) for 2004-2005.

## SMT Memberships

SMT maintains corporate and/or individual memberships in these organizations. SMT staff perform active and contributory roles within these organizations; serving on the executive boards, subcommittees, regularly appearing as speakers, and contributing to their publications.



Association of  
Test Publishers



National Organization for  
Competency Assurance



International  
Test Commission



Computer Technology  
Industry Association



Council on Licensure,  
Enforcement and  
Regulation



American Educational  
Research Association



## Security

(continued from page 1)

operate in harmony to ensure the kind of stable and secure environment required to conduct a testing business. This system was developed combining security concepts used by the Agency of Defense (to protect its top secret documents), other testing organizations and the experience of long-time testing experts.

## CLEAR Conference



SMT staff and colleagues attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual CLEAR Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. CLEAR's 2005 annual conference will be held September 15-17 in Phoenix. More information is available at [www.clearhq.org](http://www.clearhq.org).

## NOCA Casino Cruise

SMT is hosting a very special **casino cruise** aboard the *Casino Princesa* on November 18 at the NOCA conference in Miami. If you did not receive your invitation postcard, call Amy Ackerman at (302) 737-2138.

## Welcome New SMT Clients

**ABNN** American Board of Neuroscience Nursing

The American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) has selected SMT as its new testing vendor for the Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN). Working with the ABNN staff and exam committee, SMT will create two annual forms of the CNRN exam, print booklets, score answer sheets, and provide exam reporting services. More information about ABNN is available at their website: [www.aann.org/credential/](http://www.aann.org/credential/)



SMT will be performing a role delineation study for the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN). More information about ASPEN is available at [www.clinnutr.org](http://www.clinnutr.org).

**AOA** Association of Otolaryngology Administrations

The Association of Otolaryngology Administrations has selected SMT to review existing exam items; create exam forms; print, scan, and score exams; and provide statistical information to ensure the continued validity of the AOA's Certification in Practice Management program. More info at [www.entlink.net](http://www.entlink.net).

## SMT Calendar

### National Organization for Competency Assurance

Annual Educational Conference, November 17-20, 2004, Loews Miami South Beach..

### Washington Certification Network, December 8, 2004.

**International Association of Association Management Companies**, February 10-12, 2005, Tucson, Arizona.

**Association of Test Publishers** annual conference, February 28 - March 2, 2005, Scottsdale, Arizona.

**American Board of Nursing Specialties** Spring Assembly, March 5-6, 2005, San Diego, California.

## SMT to Host Washington Certification Network Meeting

SMT will host the December 8, 2004 meeting of the Washington Certification Network meeting. The session, entitled *Lost in Translation*, will discuss various issues related to language translations and international testing. Guest speakers will include SMT President Lee Schroeder.

Be sure to contact the group at <http://www.communicators.com/washington/index.cfm> to join the group and reserve your spot! Location, AARP Headquarters, Washington, DC.