Understanding Key Tracking

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We report specific key presses during online assessments to prevent and detect potential cheating, ensuring a secure and controlled environment that maintains the validity and fairness of the process, especially in unsupervised, remote settings. For users relying on screen readers, this feature is disabled as most screen reader commands utilize the ALT and CTRL keys.

Key Presses Monitored

ALT: Often used to access alternate command functions in software, which might be used to switch windows or open menus that could lead to unauthorized access to information.

CTRL: Commonly used for shortcuts, such as copying and pasting text, which could be used to copy answers from unauthorized sources.

Escape: Typically used to close or exit windows, which could be used to exit screen-locking or monitoring tools during an assessment.

Meta: Known as the **Windows key** on Windows keyboards and the **Command key** on Macs. It's used for system-level commands and can open start menus or other applications. Reported both with and without SHIFT key pressed.

LaunchApplication1/LaunchApplication2: Special keys that might not be on all keyboards. They can launch specific applications quickly, possibly used to open unauthorized software or tools. Their exact function can vary depending on user configuration.

Insert: Used to toggle between insert and overwrite modes in text editors, which could be manipulated to alter inputs stealthily.

ContextMenu: Opens contextual menus that are often used with mouse right-click functions; could potentially be used to access additional functions or external devices. We do not trap and report Context Menu clicks though we DO prevent the context menu from appearing in most cases.

Potential Innocent Uses

All keys serve legitimate, non-malicious functions essential for standard computing. If a candidate's key usage triggers a flag, there may be innocent explanations for this activity. Please use this information to aid further investigation and inform your decision-making process.

- ALT and CTRL are frequently used in accessibility tools, like screen readers, which are essential for users with disabilities.
- Escape can be used to stop a video or exit a pop-up window that could interfere with the assessment interface.
- Meta, LaunchApplication1, and LaunchApplication2 might be used inadvertently by users unfamiliar with their functions.
- ContextMenu and Insert might be used for non-malicious purposes, such as adjusting settings or correcting text during essay responses.