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Glitch let Maricopa college students change grades

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by *Mary Beth Faller* - Sept. 29, 2012 07:45 PM
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A software glitch during maintenance allowed students who take online classes at nine Maricopa Community Colleges to change their grades during a two-hour period a few weeks ago.

The system on Sept. 11 allowed some students to access their grades as if they were a teacher, according to Devin Knighton, director of public relations for Instructure Canvas, which runs the online-class platform for all Maricopa Community Colleges except Rio Salado.

Knighton said that of 15,165 students who logged in during the glitch, 163 were logged in with teacher rights.

Nine students changed a total of 15 grades. Two scores were changed back.

"The others who didn't may have thought they were playing with the Canvas feature that allows students to calculate hypothetical grades," Knighton said.

Tom Gariepy, spokesman for the Maricopa Community College district office, said the affected teachers were notified.

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