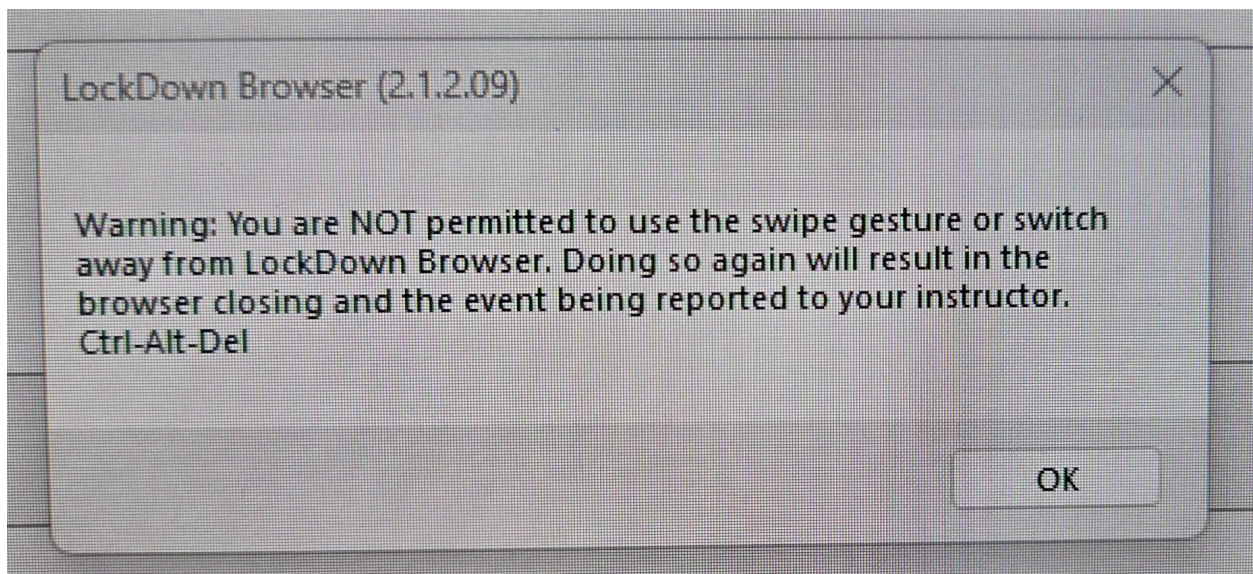# Overview and Testing Notes for Respondus LockDown Browser

Respondus LockDown Browser is a secure browser that restricts students' ability to navigate away from their quiz, thereby ensuring a focused and controlled testing environment within Canvas. The browser prevents students from opening other applications or accessing outside resources during an exam, supporting academic integrity.
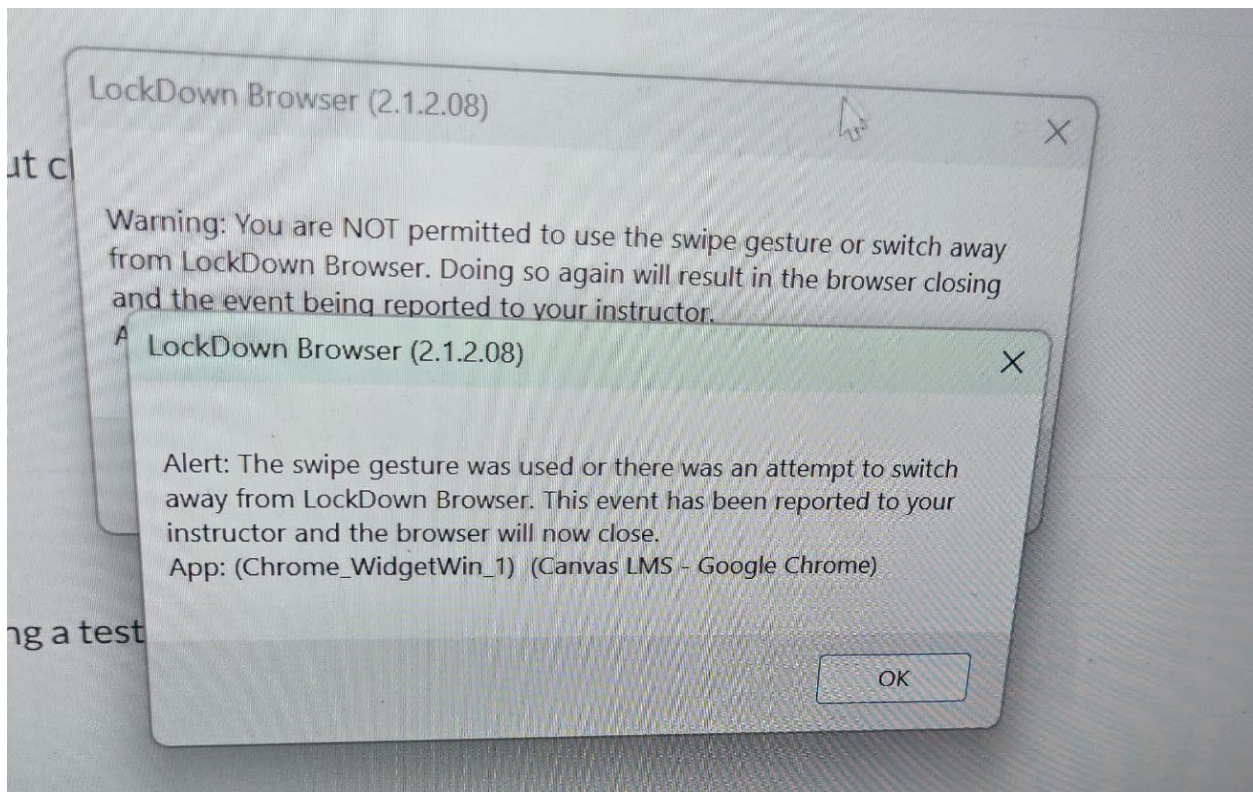
Respondus Swipe Action Workflow and Messaging

Respondus provides the following workflow guidance regarding students attempting to access outside applications while in LockDown Browser:

1. If a student attempts to swipe away from LockDown Browser, a warning pop-up from LockDown Browser appears, taking focus, and when the student clicks "OK" on the message, the external app is immediately closed, returning them to the quiz.
   a. The following message displays on the first attempt to leave LockDown Browser: "Warning: You are NOT permitted to use the swipe gesture or switch away from LockDown Browser. Doing so again will result in the browser closing and the event being reported to your instructor."

2. On a second swipe attempt, the LockDown Browser session is terminated. The student is logged out of the quiz, and the instructor receives a notification regarding the session termination.
    a. The following message is displayed on the second attempt: "Alert: The swipe gesture was used or there was an attempt to switch away from LockDown Browser. This event has been reported to your instructor and the browser will now close."

Students can restart LockDown Browser and log back in, assuming Canvas settings allow for re-entry. However, they risk losing any unsaved progress on the quiz if they are fully removed from the session.

Testing Findings

Our testing confirmed that the initial warning pop-up from LockDown Browser prevents students from viewing or interacting with any content on the external app they swiped to. The warning completely blocks their view and requires them to acknowledge it before they are redirected to the quiz. In cases where students swiped away a second time, they were immediately kicked out of the quiz, unable to return without restarting LockDown Browser. Faculty receive an alert indicating this forced log-out (screenshot available).

Faculty will be able to check if students navigated away. To do so, complete the following:
1. Access LockDown Browser in Canvas
2. Click on the dropdown menu next to the quiz/exam
3. Select **Review Early Exits**

Please note that if no students navigated away or left the exam early, this option will be greyed out.

We were not able to recreate this on Mac devices. Respondus has confirmed that the swipe away action only occurs on Windows devices.

Recommendations

As confirmed with testing, Respondus LockDown Browser prevents significant interaction with external applications, making it effective for secure testing. Therefore, we recommend continued use of LockDown Browser with monitoring both of exam submissions and of any attempts at early exits.

Respondus LockDown Browser is designed for use in a proctored environment. It will prevent students from accessing other material on their laptop or device, but cannot prevent them from viewing material on their smart devices (phone, watch, etc.)
As a result, we strongly recommend that students complete and submit their exams before leaving the classroom or Academic Testing Center. Faculty can monitor this by watching

the **Quiz Moderate** function in Canvas, which will indicate whether a student attempt is submitted or is currently in progress. In **New Quizzes,** access the **Moderate Quiz** function by:

1. Open your desired **New Quiz**
2. Click the **Build** button on the bottom left of the screen
3. On the **Quiz Builder screen**, select the **Moderate** tab at the top of the screen

In **Classic Quizzes**, access the **Moderate tab** by:
1. Open your desired **classic quiz**
2. Click on the **Moderate This Quiz** option under the **Related Items** section on the right of the screen

We also recommend that students show you their submitted screen before exiting the classroom as Canvas does not allow you to submit quizzes on their behalf. You can further secure your quiz by adding a **Close Date & Time.**