Debriefing SCALE-UP/SWITCHengines

Dear members of the eduhub community,

Several of you have approached me in the breaks with questions about the "Scientific information" project SCALE-UP mandated by swissuniversities as well as how to use the now operational service SWITCHengines. (I will be using the term SWITCHengines, as a short form referring to the project and the service).

Here are the key findings of the "debate and open questions" session "Infrastructure-Components of eAssessments" (on Thursday 9th of February) also for those of you who could not participate due to the large choice of sessions:

- There is a need for a safe, reliable, well-managed infrastructure
- Many said that while services can run on their own infrastructure, it is ok for them to run them also on a remote infrastructure like SWITCHengines
- Many participants mentioned concerns about data protection and data security, which cannot be guaranteed with global providers like Amazon. This is especially important since universities are taking care of staff and student data.
- Also the ownership of the content needs to remain within the institution and SWITCHengines is built to support that.
- Many of the community are ready to run formative assessments on SWITCHengines. However for the (final) summative assessments there often are legal and operative questions and challenges within the organization that need to be solved first.
- Often people mentioned the wish for creating redundant systems outside their institutions. This is in line with the future planning for the SWITCHengines services.
- One institution mentioned the idea for a (mobile) iPad service that would need backbone servers / services to make them run. Recommendation: If this is an established need by institutions, then a critical mass of institutions can form a consortium to create a project proposal for the "Scientific information" program of swissuniversities.

The slides provide you with a short summary of SCALE-UP and SWITCHengines.

Also we are planning a webinar with more detailed information in April.

Sincerely,
Konrad Jaggi