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A spell checking feature for **exerquiz**  
Acro $\TeX$  Blog

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## 1. Introduction

A text fill-in type question, which has been a part of `exerquiz` for many years, is implemented through the `\RespBoxTxt` and `\RespBoxTxtPC` commands. In this article, familiarity with these two commands is assumed.

In response to a question, a student enters the response in a text field; it may be the student has answered the question correctly, *except for a misspelling or two*. (Of course, the student should know how to spell, but that is for another class.) In the version of `exerquiz` dated 2020/11/11, the command `\SpellCheck` is provided to help the student identify and correct misspellings, that is good of us, we are good people, yes, we are.

The syntax for `\SpellCheck` is very simple:

```
\SpellCheck[options]
```

where *options* are key-value pairs for passing properties to the underlying form field. The placement is anywhere *after* the text response box it targets. The action of `\SpellCheck`, a push button, is to call `checkTheSpelling()`, a JavaScript function defined at the document level. The function returns `sp1Errors` the number of misspelled words. There is a special command `\afterSp1ChkActn`, illustrated in problem 1 below where you can pass

additional JavaScript code following the execution of `checkTheSpelling()`. A verbatim listing of `\SpellCheck` in problem 1 is,

```
\SpellCheck[\cmd{\afterSplChkActn{console.show();\r
  console.println("Number of errors: "+splErrors);}]]
```

The `\afterSplChkActn` command, the syntax of which is given below,

```
\afterSplChkActn{JavaScript-code}
```

can appear outside a group and be applied to all `\SpellCheck` fields, or locally, by passing it through the optional argument of `\SpellCheck` as the argument of the `\cmd` command. This latter case is illustrate in problem 1.

Two helper commands are defined, these are,

```
\newcommand{\splChkCA}{Check}
\newcommand{\splChkTU}{Check spelling}
```

These may be redefined as desired.

## 2. An Illustrative quiz

The following quiz has three questions, each using the `\RespBoxTxtPC` command. The first question uses `\afterSplChkActn` to display the number of spell check errors detected. *Problem 1 reports the number of misspelled words in the console. In problem 2, the student's score is reduced by .5 pt for any spelling error.* The third problem uses the `mathGrp` environment, while the fourth question demonstrates spell checking for an `\RespBoxEssay`-type question.

**Quiz 1** Respond to each of the questions. Passing is 100%. Deliberately misspell some words. When you misspell, you make a good approximation of the word. Based on your spelling, AR/AA offers alternatives for you to choose from. If your misspelled word is not close enough to the correct spelling, the correct word spelling may not be listed. If this is so, do a better job at spelling.

1. (2<sup>pts</sup>) Who flew the airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903?
2. (2<sup>pts</sup>) Who was the first President of the United States?

3. (8<sup>pts</sup>) Write a short paragraph (in complete sentences) on the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte by the Seventh Coalition. Include the name of the famous battle, the country in which the battle occurred, the year of the battle, and the name of the commander of the Anglo-Allied army.

The next question uses the `mathGrp` environment; the three responses are individually graded, The final score for this problem is the sum of the scores for the three responses.

4. (6<sup>pts</sup>) Name the first three presidents of the United States.

1.

2.

3.

This final question is an essay question, it is not evaluated and marked by JavaScript, it must be hand graded; however, the responder can perform a spell checking your the response. Placing a `\RespBoxEssay`, by the way, within an `mathGrp` environment is *not supported*.

5. (5<sup>pts</sup>) Write a short history of AcroT<sub>E</sub>X.

## Solutions to Quizzes

**Quiz 1: Question 1.** Orville<sup>1pt</sup> Wright<sup>1pt</sup>. His brother Wilber<sup>.5pt</sup> did not fly the plane on that day. ■

**Quiz 1: Question 2.** One response to this question is


President<sup>0.5pt</sup> (or Pres. or General or Gen.) George<sup>0.5pt</sup> (or  
Geo.) Washington<sup>1pt</sup>





**Quiz 1: Question 3.** One such paragraph is

Napoleon<sup>1pt</sup> (or Bonaparte) was defeated<sup>0.5pt</sup> at the Battle<sup>0.5pt</sup> of Waterloo<sup>2pt</sup>, Belgium<sup>1pt</sup>, in 1815<sup>1pt</sup>, by the Duke of Wellington<sup>2pt</sup> (or Arthur Wellesley).



**Quiz 1: Question 4.** George<sup>1pt</sup> (or Geo.) Washington<sup>1pt</sup> was the first president. ■

**Quiz 1: Question 4.** John<sup>1pt</sup> Adams<sup>1pt</sup> was the second president. 

**Quiz 1: Question 4.** Thomas<sup>1pt</sup> (or Tom) Jefferson<sup>1pt</sup> was the third president. ■

**Quiz 1: Question 5.** It all started in the garage of D. P. Story...

