

The Death of the RNG
iGaming Business Magazine: July / August – 2009

With the rise of live-dealer webcast gaming in the industry today, you may be thinking that you've found the answer to your problems – but think again! While live-dealer games are a great option, either on their own or in addition to your existing offering, they also come with their own assortment of security and integrity concerns.

Many operators are moving towards live-dealer games to cater to players that might not trust a traditional Random Number Generator (RNG) to determine their game outcomes. Naturally, where an RNG is designed and implemented properly, there's no reason not to trust it. That's all good and true, but these assurances mean nothing to some players who will simply never be convinced.

To appease those sceptical players, now there's live-dealer gaming to turn to. But wait! Whether your games are driven by an RNG, or whether they're instead directed by a team of expert dealers being webcast over the Internet, you still need to take care of business. Either approach can bankrupt you if you're not careful.

After spending so many years testing all types of games, including both RNG and live-dealer, any Accredited Testing Facility (ATF) worth their salt will tell you that there is no such thing as fool-proof gaming system. No matter where you turn, there is always pitfall waiting to trip you, or an attacker lurking in the shadows.

Naturally, with live-dealer games, you don't have to worry about any of the problems traditionally associated with improperly designed RNGs. Issues like algorithm patterns, which can result in card biases and game outcome predictability, just don't apply. Also, you don't need to keep your RNG software safe and secure, away from meddling hands that might gain from tampering with it.

On the other hand, with live-dealer games, your worries are altogether different.

You'll instead need strict and comprehensive procedures for selecting, training and monitoring your dealers. This goes well beyond the monitoring provided by the webcast video cameras, and requires ongoing detailed human resource controls and stringent security policies.

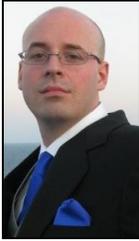
A complete operating environment and supervisory system must also be built around your dealers, ensuring that no interruptions impact the continuity of the gaming operations.

Even with live dealers running the games, there remains a great deal of software needed to process the game outcomes, determine the payouts, and maintain the balances and player accounts. Any problems with this gaming software could result in costly and embarrassing exposures.

Protecting the security and integrity of your games is crucial for your business operations. Whether your games use an RNG to determine the outcomes, or whether live-dealers and cameras are your preference, careful and appropriate controls can mean the difference between healthy profits and catastrophic failure.

So no matter how you offer your games to your players, design your solution carefully, build and implement it right, and get it tested to make sure that it works!

Bio



Mr. Noah Turner is the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of Technical Systems Testing (TST), an internationally recognized Accredited Testing Facility (ATF) offering evaluation and consultation services for both the land-based (traditional / terrestrial) and Interactive gaming, lottery and Information Technology (IT) industries.

Office: +1 (604) 873-5833

Email: nturner@tstglobal.com

OFFICES:

Vancouver – Suite #420, 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6H 4A7 // **O:** +1 (604) 873-5833 // **F:** +1 (604) 873-1075

London – Swan Centre, Fishers Lane, Chiswick, London, England, United Kingdom, W4 1RX // **O:** +44 (0)2087 474 956 // **F:** +44 (0)2087 427 967

Sydney – Suite #305 / 306, 30 – 40 Harcourt Parade, Rosebery, New South Wales, Australia, 2018 // **O:** +61(2) 9700 7023 // **F:** +61(2) 9700 7024

Melbourne – Level 28, 303 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3000 // **O:** +61 (3) 9678 9095 // **F:** +61 (2) 9700 7024

Macau – Macau Number 39, 17F Central Plaza, 61 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, Macau, China // **O:** +853 8291 3992 // **F:** +853 8291 3889