



The Connected Learning Newsletter - Issue 10 Leveraging the Value of Learning Tools Interoperability®

A newsletter produced for educators, developers, technologists, and parties interested in establishing connected learning architectures and policies to promote education app interoperability.

The 3rd Annual App Challenge is Coming Soon!

One of our most popular events is the annual App Challenge in which developers ranging from multi-person teams at commercial organizations - to small groups or even single people at higher education institutions submit their LTI conformant apps for evaluation to a panel of educators and education technologists. In our first year we focused mainly on commercial app developers, while the second year we focused our attention on developers from higher education institutions. This third year, we will be opening the Challenge up to everyone, and we'll have two different categories for submissions: Commercial and Higher Education/Non-Profit.

Keep watching this space for the official announcement to come!

Getting involved with CASA

The Community App Store Architecture (CASA) is a framework for the sharing of LTI conformant apps as well as mobile applications. It provides a model for publishing and sharing LTI apps along with metadata about features and functions, and it includes mechanisms for filtering and transforming this data as it is published and shared. Getting to know about CASA is useful (essential!) if you plan on offering multiple apps to your particular academic community, and especially if you want your community members to select and install apps at their own convenience.

The CASA Task Force meets every two weeks via webinar (and phone) on Monday afternoons at 3 pm Eastern for one hour. The Task Force calls cover a variety of news items, technology issues, and various other concerns. IMS Contributing Members interested in CASA are invited to attend the sessions. This is the group that is directing CASA forward, so you have reason to get in on the "ground floor." If you would like an invitation with the webinar dial-in information, please send a note to haziz@imsqglobal.org.

For more information regarding CASA, you may want to start by taking a look at this whitepaper: <http://www.imsqglobal.org/IMSCASA.pdf>. And after that, subscribing to the CASA mailing list would be helpful: <http://www.imsqglobal.org/casa/>

"What is an LTI Tool and how do I add one to my domain?"

It's always an interesting experience to survey the Internet to see what information is "floating around" regarding the LTI standards. In a recent

Connected Learning Institutional Advocates



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exploration, this explanation of LTI from Haiku Learning bubbled up:

"**LTI** (or Learning Tools Interoperability) is a standard developed by the [IMS Global Learning Consortium](#) that allows for the easy and seamless connection of web-based learning content and tools."

While this was a part of an answer on how to add an LTI tool in the Haiku Learning environment, the LTI description is a meaningful no matter what the learning platform.

IT Software Acquisition Policy: Considering LTI Conformance

There has been a lot of activity recently on a number of higher education discussion forums regarding the acquisition and implementation of learning ecosystem software--LMS products as well as the applications that enhance LMS functionality. Some of the conversations have been focused around the development of sound policy to help guide purchasing decisions, while other conversations have been about the criteria of good policy making, such as rules for software review and the requirement that certain standards (such as LTI conformance) are to be met by any piece of candidate software.

We invite you to join the conversation at our forum discussion area:
<http://goo.gl/q8v4Ki>.

Speaking of Policy...

The discussions around both LTI and CASA policy making at an institutional level is critically important as institutions begin exploring options for decentralized authority around education technology implementation and integration. We are looking for several education technology leaders within higher education institutions who are willing to help drive this conversation forward, offering guidance (and a little bit of wisdom) in understanding the new ed tech landscape. Please feel free to reach out to Hap Aziz at haziz@imsqlobal.org for more information.

Participate in the Connected Learning Innovation Community

At over 1100 members, the Connected Learning Innovation Community continues to grow. Members and non-members alike can participate in a number of ways in show of support for the community and for the LTI standards we are advocating worldwide. If you haven't already, join the discussion forum (above) and sign the petition (below).

Sign the Petition

Signing the Connected Learning Innovation Community petition is an easy, free first step to help your college, university, system, school district or school begin to move towards an open academic enterprise. Signing signifies institutional willingness to move towards a new educational enterprise based on open standards to make technology experiences more seamless and productive for teachers and students, reduce the time and cost of integration, and reduce barriers to entry for new suppliers. Upon receipt of your petition, IMS will provide you with the Connected Learning Innovation Community toolkit to help your institution begin to incorporate adoption of IMS standards enable highly personalized connected learning. You can view the petition here: www.imsqlobal.org/connectedlearning/petition.cfm

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Connected Learning: Coming Up

[You can always find the latest details online.](#)

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