



IMS Global Learning Consortium Announces SunGard Higher Education and Oracle will Support Industry-Wide Adoption of Open Technology Standards

IMS Learning Information Services Promotes Flexible Integration Across Enterprise Applications

LAKE MARY, Fla. – 04 November 2009 – The IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC) today announced that Oracle and SunGard Higher Education are leading a collaboration among IMS member organizations to establish an open standard for exchanging data pertaining to teaching and learning collaboration and learning outcomes.

The IMS Learning Information Services (LIS) open standards help enable flexible integration across a wide variety of enterprise applications. This includes student systems and learning/course management systems as well as hosted email/collaboration suites, communication platforms, web-hosted learning applications, web-hosted audio and video lecture platforms, classroom capture and homework systems, and other applications commonly used in teaching and learning.

The IMS LIS standards provide open specifications for services that enable the exchange of data in a consistent and reliable manner. Use of a services approach allows flexibility in how applications can be configured across the enterprise from a single authoritative database. Currently, enterprise integrations occur through numerous point-to-point integrations that are difficult to maintain and hinder upgrading to or inclusion of new applications.

“Our goal is to reduce the cost and complexity of supporting user provisioning to numerous applications across the enterprise,” said Curtiss Barnes, vice president, Industry Product Strategy, Education & Research, Oracle Corp. “When an institution puts LIS in place it can focus information technology resources on providing better information and service to institutional leaders instead of development and maintenance of an increasing proliferation of point-to-point integrations.”

“SunGard Higher Education is a strong supporter of open source and open standards,” said David Murray, vice president, SunGard Higher Education. “Interoperability is essential in our newly announced Open Digital Campus strategy, providing higher education institutions with more flexibility to shape how technology meets their evolving needs. Collaborating with IMS GLC, we aim to enable greater choice on behalf of instructors in the tools they use to enhance the learning process for their students.”

Jenzabar has also joined SunGard Higher Education and Oracle to support the LIS standard. Support from these three organizations means that LIS will be supported by suppliers that collectively comprise about two-thirds of the vendor-based, higher education student systems market in North America.

To provide software adapters, test software, and online forums to support institutions and application providers implementing LIS, IMS has established the LIS Alliance (<http://www.imsglobal.org/lis/alliance.html>). In addition, demonstrations of LIS application support will be featured at the IMS quarterly meeting to be held in Orlando February 8-11 and the annual IMS Learning Impact conference to be held in Long Beach May 17-20, 2010 (<http://www.imsglobal.org/learningimpact2010/agenda.html>).

About IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC)

IMS Global Learning is a nonprofit member organization that strives to enable the growth and impact of learning technology in higher education, K-12, and corporate education worldwide. IMS GLC members are leading corporations, higher education institutions, school districts and government organizations who are enabling the future of education by developing interoperability and adoption practice standards for educational and learning technology. IMS GLC sponsors Learning Impact: a global program and conference that recognizes the impact of learning and educational technology. For more information, visit <http://www.imsglobal.org>.

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