Extended Transcript Phase II

Achievements Records Standard and SkillsCenter Search™
Building Digital Bridges

Employers

Skills, Competencies
Courses
Co-curricular activities
Internships and volunteerism
21st Century Employment Skills

Validating Organizations
Accreditors
Credentials Registry
Regulators
Endorsers

Learning Organizations
Higher and K12 Education
Training organizations
Employers
Non-traditional Learning Orgs

Learner
Job Candidates
The Problem

Skill gaps and mismatches are resulting in missed employment opportunities for learners young and old.

Institutions’ competency-based learning programs are increasingly designed to focus on the needed skills.

But scalable digital communication of a learner’s verified knowledge, skills and abilities remains a problem to be solved.
An Extended Transcript

IMS members, collaborating with members of the Competency-Based Education Network, the American Association of Registrars and Academic Officers and National Association of Student Personnel Administrators designed a new digital achievements record called eT, for extended transcript.

The eT achievement record complements credentialing validation efforts such as the Credentials Engine (c) while filling a critical need for learning organization data standards.
What is eT?

eT is a common format for storing the variety of learner achievements in a consistent digital structure, ideal for web display, web search and other data-based activities. eT supports:

- Competencies
- Courses
- Co-curricular activities
- Internships and volunteerism
- 21st Century Employment Skills
## Three eT Project Phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Phase II</th>
<th>Phase III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Design an eT achievements record</td>
<td>• Connect achievements with employers through secure, anonymized candidate search SkillsCenter™</td>
<td>• Provide learner with their own portable Personal Achievement Record in a secure, open form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Share with learners through engaging web displays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
eT Phase I Was a Big Success

FRAMEWORK FOR EXTENDED TRANSCRIPTS: PILOT IMPLEMENTATION & RESULTS (APRIL 2017)

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At University of Maryland University College, the focus is on building a student’s competence through connections between learning and experience. UMUC’s Graduate School programs, including Cybersecurity programs, are designed to use the learning model, UMUC realized that the current transcript system needed to change as well. The Extended Transcript Pilot was designed to help learners and employers share the story effectively. For young people, universally issued student transcripts are insufficient in proving evidence that their potential fit for an organization. The Pilot was designed to allow for an Extended Transcript learner record for all students.

EXTENDED TRANSCRIPT PILOT

43% of users in the pilot accessed the Extended Transcript

70% of users surveyed found the Extended Transcript content useful

84% recommended an Extended Transcript learner record for all students

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**Phase 1** of eT produced a standard file that supports courses, competencies and co-curricular achievements displayed to learners via a rich, engaging web experience with ‘clickable’ access to evidence of learning.

*Images used by permission of IMS members University of Maryland University College and University of Wisconsin Extension.*
Fictional student UW Extension used the eT pilot to design their next generation student portal which will be implemented in the fall of 2017.

Note that UMUC presents a competency-based form while UWEX is course based, supported with the same eT record design.

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Lessons Learned in Phase I

The benefits of an extended transcript (eT) are obvious to learners. 84% of survey respondents recommended eT for all students.

However, administratively, organizing the eT data was a challenge. In most institutions, no one system contains all of the necessary data to produce eT. A new institutional strategy is needed for achievements management in learning organizations.
Specific Issues

- Student information systems (SIS) do not supporting competency based curricula, but do support course based achievements
- Competencies are stored in separate systems or spreadsheets
- Records of mastery and evidence of learning emit from a learning management system (LMS) and assessment tools
- Separate or external systems manage internships, volunteerism and co-curricular activities

The varied sources of achievements data must be organized in a strategic institutional **system of record for achievements**
eT Achievements Record Standard

Knowledge, skills and achievements earned by students represent **valuable assets** that the learners want to share with the outside world. **Data is buried** in proprietary databases and other sources which cannot support a scalable ecosystem of credentials. **These systems need to interoperate**, each to contribute to a learner’s achievement record.
eT Achievements Record Store

Data is collected from a wide variety of systems sources. The output of this process is a data store of eT standard achievement records reflecting a learner’s knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The eT ARS is the organization’s system of record for credentials and skills-searching activities.

Phase III will provide a secure, digital Personal Achievements Record to the Learner.

Including badging systems, ePortfolios, internship systems, and external sources.

Achievement records are not limited to formal education providers. Employers can host eT achievement stores.

IMS is providing an open source API to publish eT records.

Through the use of linked data (json-ld), supporting documents and evidence of learning can be readily associated.

**eT Achievements Record Store**

*Knowledge, Skills and Achievements in Standardized, Searchable Form*

- Courses, Competencies
- Co-curricular achievements
- Internships, Volunteerships
- Certificates, Micro-credentials
- Diplomas

**Evidence Files**

**Assessments**
Web-based employer recruiting platforms are granted controlled access to the institution’s SkillsCenter via an endpoint (URL), making eT-based achievement records searchable. Students opt-in to the program. Personally identifiable Information is blocked from access until the student accepts with recruiter’s contact request.

Issued credentials can also be recorded in a permanent ledger using BlockCerts™ and subsequently verified for validity and trust, critical for high stakes credentials.

The eT SkillsCenter spec and APIs are free and support each institution’s mission to help their students find employment using secure, 21st century methods.
Frequently Asked Questions
Is the Achievement Records Store Limited to Educational Institutions?

No, the issue of achievement records creation and management is present in learning organizations of all kinds including employers. HRIS and corporate training systems are expected to provide inputs to an employers’ ARS
How does eT relate to Credentials Engine?

IMS is an active supporter of the Credential Engine and is represented on the CE technical advisory committee.

Credential Engine\(^{(c)}\) is a registry of organizations’ offered credentials, a bachelor of arts degree, or certificate, or even an open badge class - essentially a ‘catalog’ of available credentials.

eT is a data standard for an institution’s learner achievements records. When institutions register the related credentials in the CE, the learners’ achievement records will automatically link to the central registry.
Is the eT Achievement Records Store a Centralized Repository?

No, the envisioned model is totally decentralized, with each organization maintaining independent record stores.

Of course, organizations may use commercial products or services to host their ARS (and that is the expected path to scalability and adoptions).

When the standard achieves final status, open source API’s are made available from IMS for free use by all.
What is IMS’ Role?

IMS is a non-profit organization committed to improving education through technology. A member-funded consortium, IMS members volunteer their time to advance important projects for the education community.

Once an IMS standard is final, it is released as open source for free use by all. To achieve final status, proposed standards must first go through real life trials such as this project.

Not a member?

[Click here](#) to find out how to join.
Phase III

Personal Achievement Records
Personal Achievement Records

Learners need unencumbered access to their digital credentials (badges, micro-credentials and eTranscripts) to store in a personal "folio".

No controlling system should be required to collect, store and secure a copies of one’s credentials.

Systems to allow custom presentation and sharing will continue to develop in the market.
Personal Achievements Folio

Manage Digital Credentials
- Badges
- Micro-Credentials
- eTranscripts

PAF - A simple, lightweight specification supporting owner's identity and security

Folio Management Platforms will support self-curation, employment search and discovery

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Extended Transcript
Achievements Record Store Standard