Thin Common Cartridge™ (Thin CC) Checklist & RFP Language

An IMS Thin Common Cartridge™ (Thin CC™) is a standard way to enable an evolution to digital curriculum in which the digital curriculum is hosted on a secure web server while being searchable and accessible at a granular level by a learning platform, LOR, or any district system that supports the standard. This is accomplished by the learning platform ingesting the Thin CC, which is an index of learning objects or other direct entry points to the web hosted content. Each index entry in the Thin CC consists of a link to a specific entry point to the web-hosted content (a learning object) with associated curriculum standards, and other descriptive metadata. The links are either Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI®)-enabled links or open web links. LTI-enabled links automatically handle secure sign-on behind the scenes as well as enabling passing of other information between the hosted content and the learning platform (see http://developers.imsglobal.org/ for more information on IMS LTI). Open web links are just links to open content on the worldwide web. After a one-time ingest and confirmation by the administrator at the district, provider resources can be manipulated within (searched, relocated) and launched directly from the district learning system. Thus, Thin CC enables granular access to and manipulation of hosted learning resources without changing how the resources are organized on the secure web site and without requiring downloading and ingesting of the resources into the learning platform. Thus, Thin CC is especially useful for content that requires special organization or sequencing that via its secure web interface (such as adaptive learning or assessment systems). But, it is also useful for all content in that it minimizes the need to package up, export and ingest content into a learning platform. Another huge benefit of the Thin CC is that the content provider has full version control over the content and can respond quickly to changes and updates to the content without having to engage an update process with the district.

When requesting a Thin CC it is important to understand the functionality of your target system as well as how the Thin CC is structured to realize the benefits it will accrue to the end-users. For instance, if you are ingesting into an LMS versus a LOR you may want to want a cartridge that is structured in a way that works best for your target system. In the case of an LMS, you may be interested in having a structure of a lesson (scope and sequence) with links to all of the resources. In the case of a LOR, you may be interested in a collection of objects aligned to curriculum standards that is searchable in your repository. The Thin CC specification supports both of the above instances and it is up to the provider of the cartridge and the consuming Tool (LMS or LOR) to implement proper support for these scenarios.

When procuring content:

● If you already have an IMS Conformance Certified Platform, determine what version your conformant learning platform supports by looking it up in the IMS conformance table or by verifying its conformance registration number. Make sure to review the details of the conformance for the specific product version by selecting the detail view from the table.
● Click on the product name in the listing to see if your conformant learning platform has any approved exceptions.

- Ask your content supplier(s) to provide Thin CC conformant content in the same version that your platform supports. Only cartridges with verifiable conformance registration numbers are IMS conformant.
- You may also wish to require specific features of the Thin Common Cartridge are used in content you procure. If so, specify which features from the table below you desire. Note that your platform may not support all features.

Suggested RFP Language [target: content providers]

The district is requesting IMS Thin Common Cartridge Compliant Cartridges certified at Thin CC Version 1.3 or higher. Please provide the Conformance Certification number along with a detailed list of support features in the Thin Common Cartridge(s). Please refer to the table below to determine features supported by the cartridge(s).

Thin Common Cartridge - Checklist [content providers]

Name	Description
Thin CC Version	Version Number 1.0
Thin CC Conformance #	IMS Assigned Conformance Certification Number
Weblinks	Will you be providing Web Links? [Open Links]
LTI Links	Will you be providing LTI Links?
Curriculum Standards	Will you be providing Curriculum Standards and alignment?
Inline Manifest	Will you be providing a manifest file with inline resources?
Scope & Sequence	Will you be providing a scope and sequence structure?
Metadata	Please provide a list of metadata elements to be included. Please review metadata section 4.5 of the Thin CC Implementation guide: http://www.imsglobal.org/cc/CCv1p0thin/ims_thinCC_impl-v1p0.html

Suggested RFP Language [target: Tool providers - i.e. LMS, LOR]

The district is requesting support for ingesting IMS THIN Common Cartridge Compliant Cartridges certified at Thin CC Version 1.0 or higher. Please provide the Conformance Certification number along with a detailed list of support features in the Thin Common Cartridge(s). Please refer to the table below to determine features supported by the cartridge(s).

Thin Common Cartridge - Checklist [target: Tool providers - i.e. LMS, LOR]

Name	Description
Thin CC Version	Version Number 1.0
Thin CC Conformance #	IMS Assigned Conformance Certification Number
Curriculum Standards	Will your platform support ingesting Curriculum Standards and alignment?
Inline Manifest	Will your platform support a manifest file with inline resources?
Scope & Sequence	Will your platform support a scope and sequence structure?
Metadata	Please provide a list of Metadata elements your platform will support. Please review metadata section 4.5 of the Thin CC Implementation guide: http://www.imsglobal.org/cc/CCv1p0thin/ims_thinCC_impl-v1p0.html
Import/Export	Will your platform support import and export functionality at Thin CC Version 1.0?