

ADL Initiative Finalizes Latest Addition to E-Learning Specifications Key IMS Content Packaging Capability Expanded and Included in SCORM

PRESS RELEASE

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Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

The Advanced Distributed Learning Co-Laboratory (ADL Co-Lab) in Alexandria, Virginia announced today the release of the latest version of its Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM™), Version 1.2. This release adds the ability to package instructional material and meta-data for import and export. These XML-based specifications provide a crucial link between learning content repositories and learning management systems. The new SCORM version incorporates the IMS Global Learning Consortium's Content Packaging Specification and expands it to include additional course structure capabilities. The release marks the end of the test and evaluation period of the new specifications following the highly successful fourth "Plugfest" event held in June 2001.

ADL's SCORM is a collection of specifications adapted from multiple sources to provide a comprehensive suite of e-learning capabilities that enable interoperability, accessibility and reuse of Web-based learning content. First released in January 2000, the ADL Initiative continues to update and expand the scope of the specifications in cooperation with industry, government and academic participants. Further additions to SCORM are planned for early next year.

The SCORM specifications and related documents are available for download at www.adlnet.org. The ADL initiative expects to make conformance-test software for SCORM Version 1.2 available for free download in early November 2001. The ADL Technical Team is also collaborating with the IMS Global Learning Consortium's "Simple Sequencing" Work Group to develop more sophisticated capabilities for designing online learning experiences.

Supporting Statements

"This release heralds the global implementation of e-learning specifications and guidelines to provide learning content anywhere and anytime. This seminal effort flows from unprecedented cooperation between government, academia and the private sector, all working for a common solution to a common problem to increase the performance and capabilities of the workforce. The Department of Defense congratulates the participating members of the global learning community on their achievement."

Michael Parmentier
Director of Readiness and Training Policy and Programs
Office of the Secretary of Defense

"SCORM and the ADL Plugfests continue to be the primary focusing force for convergence and progress across the e-learning community. SCORM 1.2 makes IMS specifications that working groups produce 'add up' to a robust standards-based infrastructure. Delivering such mobility to end-users, content authors, instructors, learners, system developers and maintainers is at the heart of the collaboration between ADL and IMS. The next steps include specifying the sequencing of content in courses and articulating the architecture framework underlying the SCORM."

Dr. Edward C. T. Walker
Chief Executive Officer, IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc.

"Release, implement, test, revise and extend. With the public release of SCORM 1.2, the ADL Initiative and the e-learning community have completed another cycle in the ongoing evolution and improvement of specifications and practices for developing the anytime-anywhere distributed e-learning environment. SCORM 1.2 incorporates several key extensions and improvements from the ongoing specifications and standards work that have been implemented in products and proven in interoperability tests. The core 'books' of SCORM 1.2 provide the stable models needed for the community to go forward and produce interoperable content."

Dan Rehak
Technical Director, Learning Systems Architecture Lab, Carnegie Mellon University

The ADL and numerous other organizations are part of a global community that is creating and standardizing the pieces needed to enable scalable online learning, education and training. SCORM 1.2 is significant because it pulls together several efforts and will facilitate the dissemination and testing of a standard method for packaging online learning content, transporting it, unpacking it, delivering it and retrieving results from it. This is a big step along the way to even more exciting results. Congratulations, ADL!"

Robby Robson
Chairman, IEEE Learning Technology Standards Committee

To learn more about, or to download,
SCORM Version 1.2, visit the ADL Web site:

www.adlnet.org



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