

# ADL FACT SHEET

## About the ADL Initiative

The Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative is a collaborative effort to harness the power of information technologies to modernize structured learning. It sets forth a new paradigm to provide access to the highest quality education and training that can be tailored to individual needs and delivered cost-effectively, whenever and wherever it is required. Importantly, the Initiative's underpinnings and applications are germane not only to the Department of Defense (DoD), but to other government organizations, academia and the private sector, as well. The ADL Initiative, therefore, employs a structured, adaptive, collaborative effort between the public and private sectors to develop the standards, tools and learning content for the future learning environment.

## Focus Areas



### Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM®)

SCORM at a high-level is a collection of specifications and standards. It applies the current developments in training technology through use of a specific content model to ensure consistent implementation of training across the e-learning community. The ADL Initiative evolves through research, development and implementation of e-learning specifications and guidelines including SCORM. By building upon existing Web standards and infrastructures, e-learning developers are free to focus on effective learning strategies.



### Federated Registries

The ADL Registry (ADL-R) is an implementation of the Content Object Repository Discovery and Registration Architecture (CORDRA™) sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to support DoD's education and training

communities. CORDRA is a "light weight" framework designed to support a federation of independently managed repositories with content that is not presently discoverable or searchable. As a registry, the ADL-R allows content search, discovery and identification using metadata.



### Global Collaboration

Through the establishment of the ADL Co-Laboratory (ADL Co-Lab) Network, ADL Co-Labs and Technology Centers within the Academic, Military and Industry sectors can work together to share research, subject matter expertise and

common tools. They facilitate an open, collaborative environment for sharing learning technology research, development and assessments. ADL extends its reach through the formation of ADL Partnership Labs, giving the DoD a view of how ADL is embraced around the globe.



### Events

ADL Plugfests bring together e-learning stakeholders to share lessons learned in becoming conformant to ADL technologies such as SCORM and CORDRA, demonstrate the interoperability and reusability of their ADL products and tools, and to suggest ways and opportunities to refine and update the SCORM and CORDRA suite of documents.

Implementation Fests, hosted by the Joint ADL Co-Lab, focuses on the application of ADL technology to military training. Implementation Fests explore current, emerging and future technology areas as well as lessons learned from past experiences.

The ADL Job Performance Technology Center (JPTC) holds Performance Fest to discuss the SI000D specification efforts to standardize technical data. These events are held domestically and abroad. Members of the ADL Initiative also participate in many events held through Academia, Industry and Military.



For more information about the ADL Initiative, visit [www.ADLNet.gov](http://www.ADLNet.gov).

## ADL Vision

Provide access to the highest quality learning and performance aiding that can be tailored to individual needs and delivered cost-effectively, anytime and anywhere.

## Base of Operations

ADL Co-Laboratory Hub  
1901 N. Beauregard Street Suite 600  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311  
Phone +1 703-575-2000  
Fax +1 703-575-4370  
[www.ADLNet.gov](http://www.ADLNet.gov)

## Founded

January 1998

## Other Operations Areas

Academic ADL Co-Lab, Madison, Wisconsin  
Joint ADL Co-Lab, Orlando, Florida  
Workforce ADL Co-Lab, Memphis, Tennessee  
ADL JPTC, Alexandria, Virginia  
ADL Technology Center, Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
The ADL Co-Lab Network also includes several ADL Partnership Labs created outside of the United States. Further information on the ADL Co-Lab Network, including a list of ADL Partnership Labs, can be found on [ADLNet.gov](http://ADLNet.gov).

## ADL Leadership

Dr. Robert Wisher, OSD, Director, ADL Initiative  
Paul Jesukiewicz, OSD, Deputy Director, ADL Initiative

## ADL Co-Lab Directors

Paul Jesukiewicz, ADL Co-Lab Hub  
David Wirth, Acting Director, Academic ADL Co-Lab  
Jean Burmester, Joint ADL Co-Lab  
Dr. Xiangen Hu, Co-Director, Workforce ADL Co-Lab  
Dr. Daniel Rehak, Co-Director, Workforce ADL Co-Lab  
Tim Tate, ADL Job Performance Technology Center  
Kirk E. Johnson, ADL Technology Center



from left: Paul Jesukiewicz, OSD, Deputy Director, ADL Initiative; Dr. Paul Mayberry, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness); and Dr. Robert Wisher, OSD, Director, ADL Initiative.



## ADL Milestones

November 1997

ADL Initiative Kick-Off Meeting held

January 1998

ADL Co-Lab Hub established

January 1999

Executive Order 13111 signed by the President

April 1999

ADL Strategic Plan submitted to Congress

November 1999

Joint ADL Co-Lab established

January 2000

Academic ADL Co-Lab established

SCORM Version 1.0 released

May 2000

ADL Implementation Plan submitted to Congress

June 2000

Plugfest 1, Alexandria, Virginia

August 2000

Plugfest 2, Madison, Wisconsin

November 2000

Plugfest 3, Orlando, Florida

January 2001

SCORM Version 1.1 released

May 2001

Plugfest 4, Alexandria, Virginia

October 2001

SCORM Version 1.2 released

November 2001

Plugfest 5, Orlando, Florida

April 2002

U.K. ADL Partnership Lab established

July 2002

Plugfest 6, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

December 2002

Plugfest 7, Orlando, Florida

October 2003

Plugfest 8, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

January 2004

SCORM 2004 released

January 2004

Canada ADL Partnership Lab established

February 2004

International Plugfest I, Zurich, Switzerland

July 2004

SCORM 2004 2nd Edition released

February 2005

Plugfest 9, Gaithersburg, Maryland

January 2006

International Plugfest II, Taipei, Taiwan

May 2006

Australia ADL Partnership Lab established

October 2006

SCORM 2004 3rd Edition released

## ADL Services

### ADL Certification for SCORM

ADL Certification is independent testing that provides consumers of Learning Management Systems (LMSs) and content with the assurance that certified products have successfully implemented SCORM. The ADL Certification Testing Centers use the latest SCORM Conformance Test Suite software as the primary basis of certification. ADL Certification testing is performed by the Wisconsin Testing Organization, Madison, Wisconsin, and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport, Keyport, Washington.

### SCORM Documentation and Software

ADL provides the SCORM documentation suite and Conformance Test Suite software as free resources for download from ADLNet.gov. The SCORM Conformance Test Suite provides organizations with the ability to perform self-testing on learning management systems, content packages and Sharable Content Objects (SCOs).

### Workshops/Demonstrations

ADL offers tutorials and demonstrations to assist e-learning professionals and organizations in implementing SCORM and advancing the state-of-the-art in e-learning technologies. These may be held independently or as part of Plugfests or other e-learning events. ADL offers technical assistance through Ask the Experts on ADLNet.gov.

### DOD Policies/Acquisitions

The DoD signed a policy requiring all systems acquired or developed for the DoD must conform to the latest version of SCORM 2004. In support of DoD Instruction 1322.26, Development, Management, and Delivery of Distributed Learning, the ADL-R was developed to provide a DoD-wide means and infrastructure to search, discover and expose learning content.

The Joint ADL Co-Lab developed the ADL Acquisition Guidance document to discuss topics in light of the appropriate acquisition phases: relevant policy from DoD 1322.26, points to consider when implementing ADL technology, a description of reviews and conferences, and products used in the ADL acquisition effort.

### Adoption

Implementing SCORM requires collaboration within the DoD and the federal government at large as well as collaboration with industry, academia, state and local entities. Many university and business training organizations have similar interests. ADL partnerships between the federal government, private-sector technology suppliers, and the broader education and training community will be the means for formulating voluntary guidelines that will address common needs.

### Support

ADL offers support to the community in understanding and adhering to the requirements of DoD Instruction 1322.26. Currently ADL offers a support toolkit designed to assist clients across the Services, including Joint, in the planning, development and acquisition of ADL. The toolkit includes resources about getting started, SCORM, CORDRA/ADL-R, ADL acquisition, DoD Policy, instructional analysis, design, development and evaluation.

ADL also assists the DoD Components in writing ADL policy, establish a traveling tiger team, and most importantly assist the acquisition community in procuring SCORM conformant ADL content and systems.