e-Learning without limits™
Scalable Innovation for Collaborative Education

At Viaro Networks, we believe in e-learning without limits by using .LRN because it provides:

» Constant Innovation
» Collaborative Applications
» Robust, Flexible and Scalable Technology
» Enterprise Class Software
» Professional Support with Viaro Networks
» No Cost Per User
» Total Freedom

LRN is a complete open source LMS with a sophisticated portal system that integrates tools for course and content administration and collaborative tools.

Portal System
The portals enhance the interaction among users and the system, allowing aggregated information views in one single place with the facility for each user to have their own private portal with access to their own classes. The portals provide a full customization using information blocks and templates.

Collaboration
The essence of .LRN is within the collaboration. All the applications are centered in effective collaboration and communication, providing for intuitive ways, directed or spontaneous, to interact among the participants of the educational process.

Groups, Classes, and Communities
The .LRN core are the communities, where everything is represented as a group or community, whether it is a class, sub group within a class, or a community of interest.

International Standards and Specifications
.LRN supports many different standards and specifications including IMS-CP, IMS-MD, IMS-QTI, IMS-LD, SCORM, IMS Enterprise, achieving an easy path for system interoperability.

Content, E-commerce, others...
A set of tools provides a very diverse group of functionalities to administer content, courses, and their versions. Additionally, the course catalog and the commerce tools provide a framework to create the most diverse scenarios for today’s online educational market.
Constant Innovation in the learning world

Being able to have a flexible and scalable, modular and solid platform has allowed constant innovation at .LRN. This is combined with the scientific, academic, and corporate community that works continuously for the enhancement of the platform.

Recent .LRN Innovations:

IMS Learning Design (IMS-LD)

The IMS Learning Design specification supports the use of a wide range of pedagogies in online learning. Rather than attempting to capture the specifics of many pedagogies, it does this by providing a generic and flexible language. This language is designed to enable many different pedagogies to be expressed. The approach has the advantage in that only one set of learning design and runtime tools then need to be implemented in order to support the desired wide range of pedagogies.

.LRN has a player that supports IMS-LD at the A, B, & C levels. It has an interface to import a course in IMS-LD format and then to deploy it in the platform, including its integration with tools like forums, file storage, assessment, and learning objects.

Accessibility

Web accessibility means that the people with functional diversity or in contexts where the interaction with the Web is limited can use the Web according to their preferences of interaction, and can perceive, understand, navigate, interact and contribute to the Web.

.LRN complies with the AA level of the WCAG 1.0 defined by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the W3C. In addition, it has been validated the US section 508.

Benefits:

- Accessibility for everybody: voice or keyboard browsing, text mode, etc.
- Mobile Gadgets and easier transition and access to mobile gadgets like PDA or mobile phones.
- Law Fulfillment: there are diverse laws related to the accessibility of the Web sites that includes the use of an LMS. This is why accessibility becomes an important feature when deciding to implement an LMS.
- It offers greater usability of all the services and facilities for the adaptation based on the user needs.
- It facilitates the use of the technical assistance that a student with functional diversity (Braille, magnifying of screen, touch screens of graphs, etc.) needs, as well as the integration of sign language, subtitles and support to symbols.

"With the .LRN IMS-LD implementation, once again this platform demonstrates being in the most advanced innovation e-learning frontier. Thanks to the robust technology behind .LRN has been possible to easily implement the C level (the higher at IMS-LD) before any other platform with similar characteristics, integrating perfectly this specification with all the supported services by this LMS."

Prof. PhD. Carlos Delgado Kloos

Dep. Information Engineering

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

"LRN is the first VLE to provide support for IMS LD, levels A, B & C."

(quoted from IMS-LD progress and prospects http://www.imsglobal.org/ldsummit/4.%20Dai%20Griffiths_LD-summit_08nov06_post.pdf)

Scalability

.LRN is one of today’s most scalable LMS. With many big production sites (+100,000 users), it provides proven professional and capable platform to confront institutional growth.

Who uses .LRN?

.UNESCO

AIESEC

Pharmaceutical International Network

Massachusetts General Hospital, U.S.A.

Young American Business Trust, U.S.A.

Partners Healthcare, U.S.A.

University of Bergen, Sweden

UCLA Health Sciences - David Geffen School of Medicine, U.S.A.

Harvard JFK School of Government - E-Government Executive Education Project, U.S.A.

University of Heidelberg, Germany

University of Mannheim, Germany

MIT Sloan School of Management, U.S.A.

Universidad de Valencia, Spain

Universidad de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Spain

Source: www.dotlrn.org
Web 2.0 & AJAX
LRN can integrate and use characteristics of Web 2.0, allowing the utilization of Ajax libraries on any place on the platform.

Templating
LRN allows the easy integration of templates through the platform. This provides the flexibility to use a different theme in each group or course created inside the platform.

International Standards
IMS-MD, IMS-CP, SCORM, IMS-QTI, IMS-LD, IMS Enterprise.

Internationalization (i18n)
LRN has been internationalized to support multiple languages, dialects, and time zones. It gives the flexibility of having the platform in 20 different languages. Additional languages can be added through a very simple interface.

Applications
A comprehensive suite of collaboration tools, a flexible toolset for innovation, and an enterprise-class infrastructure for scalable deployment.

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News
Provides an easy “push” mechanism for one-way communication between group administrators and group members. News items can include HTML, and the CA sets the release and expiration dates for each news item.

Forums
The software includes highly configurable support for discussion forums. Forums may be threaded or flat (by date), moderated or unmoderated, or open, closed, or configured, so only instructors can create new threads (topics). Posts can be plain text or html and can include urls and attached files. Email support is extensive. Users can receive notifications instantly or batched hourly or daily or disable email notification. The system can be configured to allow users to post replies to the forums by email. Students can view all posts by other students in the class. Guests without forum privileges can be added. Teams, communities, and subgroups can have their own forums.

File Storage
All users have access to personal file storage and can upload private files or public files that are shared with other registered users. Instructors and group administrators can upload files into class/community file storage for distribution to students or community members. Instructors can then upload comments on these files that are accessible only to that student. All files are versioned, allowing users to upload new versions without losing the old one. Integration via WebDAV is possible.

Calendar
Instructors can post events and announcements in the online course calendar. Students can keep track of all their assignments, deadlines, and due dates in their personal online calendars. The calendar supports repeating events, attachments to events, and associated readings with class dates. The calendar package also supports basic synchronization with Outlook, Palm desktop, and other PIMs through the interface.

Email/Bulk Mail
Email is used to send a message to several users at the same time. Bulk emails can be sent to all members of a group or to administrators only. An instructor/group administrator can determine if this is available only to administrators or to students/regular members. Email can be sent using HTML or plain text immediately or at a specific time in the future.

ECOMMERCE
Full e-commerce support that integrates payment processing with course registration.

Course Catalog
A categorized list of courses associated with a portal course and the possibility of integration with e-commerce.

Learning Object Repository Management System (IMS/SCORM)
Allows the import, export, management, and delivery of IMS Content Packages, IMS Metadata, and SCORM compliant packages.

Assessment—Questionnaires
Provides the capabilities to conduct surveys, tests, and dynamic information gathering in general. Allows to create different types of assessments like surveys, revisions, quizzes, exams, etc., set the time required to complete an assessment and the number of tries allowed; reuse sections and questions; set the number of questions displayed on each page; display questions by order of entry, randomly, or alphabetically; set up an action in order to execute a transaction into the system, called triggers; export user responses to csv file; send email to people who already complete the assessment; and import a QTI zip file to create an assessment or export an assessment into a QTI zip file.

Grade Book/Evaluation
With the evaluation system, students submit completed tasks online, and they can see their grades at any given time. The instructor can create tasks, assign ratios to the tasks, and post grades.

Blogger
Allows a student to have personal blogs as well as weblogs for classes, subgroups, and communities. These can be used for individual or group note taking. This blogging function includes full RSS support, blogger API support, and formatted text entry.

Frequently Asked Questions—FAQ
Handles frequently asked questions and its presentations.

Chat
Allows interaction between current online users and opens the possibility of using two interfaces (Java or Ajax).

Staff List
Participants list with their roles and contact information.

Wiki
Wiki is based on a test editor. It combines the wiki aspects (easy page creation) with aspects of the content management system (revisions, resource reutilization, multiple languages). Allows the users to make comments on the pages, tags like delicious, and folksonomies. It uses the MediaWiki system.

Rich Text Editor (WYSIWYG)
A friendly, easy-to-use editor for content creation in HTML format. It is integrated through all the platform, which gives the flexibility to add formatted text on any part of the system.
Viaro Learning Suite™

Viaro Learning Suite™ is an exclusive distribution of .LRN; it is certified, tested, and fully supported by Viaro Networks. As a result, you get the open source innovation with enterprise class support.

Who needs Viaro Learning Suite?
Corporations, NGO, Government, and Academic Institutions interested in:
- Installing, configuring, and professionally maintaining an LMS
- Outsourcing of deployment of an LMS
- Using an open source LMS with Enterprise Class Support
- Obtaining peace of mind on your mission-critical applications

For more details and prices, ask our sales representatives about the Viaro Learning Suite packages. Call or email info@viaro.net.

Viaro Learning Suite includes:
- Installation and configuration
- Basic customization including its own template design
- A stable and tested version of the .LRN open source base project
- Periodic upgrades on new releases as they become available (two-four per year), fully tested and administered
- Keep the open source license that allows you to view and modify your files as you need
- No licenses of any type (number of users, processors, etc.)
- Continuous monitoring and trouble support
- Administrative training
- End user manuals
- Enhancements and corrections when you need them
- Fully guaranteed and supported by Viaro Networks
- Oracle or Postgres database (Oracle must be licensed separately)
- All the open source freedom!
Viaro Networks is a globally distributed company with eight years of experience in software projects and delivering custom e-learning projects. Using .LRN, Viaro Networks has been able to provide reliable solutions that are scalable, modular, expandable, and fully customizable. While using .LRN as our base LMS, we contribute actively to the open source project.

Viaro Networks has its production offices in Guatemala and branches in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. and London, UK. Continually growing and forming partnerships worldwide, Viaro Networks is the right solution for your e-learning initiative at competitive prices with expert consultants and highly technical skilled personnel.

Our wide experience in e-learning includes various deployments in Europe, the United States, and Latin America to consolidate more than 100,000 users in our installations across several countries.

Contact our sales representatives for further information and questions regarding our services.

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**E-Learning Course Development**

Viaro Networks has a group of expert professionals and consultants for the design of e-learning courses.

**Services**

**E-Activities**
Models for creating relevant online activities within the defined learning goals.

**Interactive Learning Objects**
Interactive learning activities using flash, audio, video, images, and other resources to enhance the learning process.

**Pedagogical Consultancy**
Apply educational and pedagogical models for content development.

**Instructional Design**
Apply all the phases of the instructional design, curricular design, etc.

**E-Moderation**
Apply online interaction and moderation concepts to obtain a better performance of the learning process.

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**Services**

**Technical Services**
- .LRN installation and configuration
- Custom development and application extensions
- .LRN integration with third party systems
- .LRN upgrades
- Applying enhancements and corrections to .LRN
- .LRN hosting and full management
- .LRN development training

**Template Design and Customization**

**E-Learning Consulting**
- Project Planning
- Deployment Strategies
- Training

**Content Development**
- Pedagogy and methodology
- Custom e-learning courses development
- Small and large learning programs
- Learning Objects Development (html, interactive and animated flash, video, audio, others)

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- Apply online interaction and moderation concepts to obtain a better performance of the learning process.
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