

Case Study – Learning Track

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Domain | e-learning | |
| | Version 1 | Version 2 |
| Technology | PHP, MySQL, Dreamweaver, Flash | J2EE, Struts, JSP, JBoss, MySQL, Log4j, Dreamweaver |
| Period of Project | October 2003 to April 2004 | June 2004 to May 2005 |
| Project Status | Completed | Completed |
| Total Effort | 8 person months | 40 person months |

Inika Design Studio has worked for this US client for maintenance and enhancement of the Learning Track (LT) in PHP/MySQL as well as for re-engineering of the second version of the product in J2EE technology.

Learning Track is an LMS system designed to meet the needs for managing course content created within the application as well as imported SCORM content. The application allows users and groups to be able to allocate/assign courses and execute courses. Reporting capability is available within the application and one can track the progress of users across the courses.

LT version 1 was enhanced to meet the SCORM 1.2 specification requirement at the highest RTE3 level (Run-time environment full compliance). We also helped the client interface with ADL (the certifying agency for SCORM specifications) to be able to go through the certification process for SCORM 1.2.

LT version 2 had all the features of version 1 and more features added for course management. Full support for SCORM 2004, the latest SCORM specification for e-learning, including sequencing and navigation support, was added in the product, while retaining support for SCORM 1.2. Other key features of the product included scheduling of courses through a calendar, support for ILT (Instructor Led Training) and WBT (Web Based Training), managing syllabus, assignments, grade-books, assessments, questions forming part of a quiz, webliography, FAQ and a message of the day. Besides this, the product implemented a discussion forum and a chat server by customizing the JForum discussion forum and the FreeCS chat server respectively, both open source tools.



The product supported different types of users with configurable access rights. Instructors were allowed to review student grades, post and review assignments, and schedule courses.

As part of the support arrangement for the client for both versions, we helped debug course content created by other vendors to check their SCORM compliance, apart from providing ongoing support for the applications.

Key challenges in the project included understanding the complex SCORM 2004 specifications that were published, but in a state of being accepted and evolved as vendors were implementing these specifications for products. Apart from this, customisation and implementation of the open source tools for discussion forum and chat server and working with an early release of JBoss application server were key achievements of the team working on the project.