
E-learning: A multi-tenant LMS approach for training organisations

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A multi-tenant LMS approach for training organisations

In a ever more demanding market place, training providers are now looking to create online learning (e-learning) courses that complement their traditional classroom based methods and not only save costs but act as a driver to extend their service offering to existing and new customers.

As a training specialist, you'll know that your ability to implement new training programmes with your clients will be constrained by a squeeze on training budgets. Prospective or existing corporate clients that submit their training RFP using procurement channels (e.g. OJEU or Buying Solutions) often request that providers must deliver a blended approach to training - i.e. programmes that comprise both classroom based sessions and e-learning courses.

Procuring an appropriate Learning Management System (LMS) is often the key to delivering this objective. Ideally, your LMS should

1. Deliver e-learning course content
2. Manage a classroom based training schedule for their clients and
3. Be capable of being sold or re-sold to your clients.

In terms of e-learning content, we've seen different models for development which include:-

a. The training organisation employs their own development team to build their own content with subject matter experts

Benefit - the training company owns the Intellectual property and therefore will not have to pay another vendor a license fee.

Cost - the training company must employ a content developer, or team of developers.

b. The training organisation partners with another organisation to build the content

Benefit - the training company chooses the right content at the right price and has its requirement developed quickly

Cost - the training company is locked into this vendor with this content - unless of course they own the IP which tends to make things more expensive

Making the switch to blended learning

So what is the multi - tenant LMS approach?

Architecture

Traditionally, LMS systems for multiple clients are based on multiple portals. An account portal was set up for each customer, with separate branding and rules. In a multi-tenant infrastructure, your LMS can host a large number of client organisations within a single instance of the LMS software. This architecture enables you (as the training organisation) to manage activity site wide, including reporting (across courses and clients) and setting up client organisations.



Groups of users can be assigned to their parent company and once the client logs into your LMS platform they can choose and access the courses that you have enrolled them on. Each client sees only their own courses within the LMS. The manager of each course (note - this can be > 1) can view the progress and attainment of individuals or groups of learners.

Interface

The template driven interface theme can be incorporate custom branding and text changes that your client requires, producing a welcome screen rather like the screen grab below, which uses the open source Moodle LMS to illustrate:-

[Admin User] You are logged in as Boots Learner (Logout)

Company 2




Home My Learning My Reports Find Courses Calendar


My Profile

Welcome

Get to the heart of your learning with Totara. Take a look at our featured courses or go straight to My learning for your training.



Featured course



In the right direction

For November, we are focusing on performance reviews. Find out about the process in [Performance delivered](#) e-learning module.

Get quick tips on [Great performance conversations](#).

Messages

No messages waiting
[Messages...](#)

Training Calendar

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Guides

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Totara LMS

a custom distribution of Moodle for corporates



Totara LMS is designed to meet the learning management needs of busy enterprises and to deliver the benefits of open source software. Totara is now available from Webanywhere, an appointed Totara Partner, and will be available from March 2011.

Additional modules and features

In addition to existing Moodle functionality, Totara delivers the following modules and/or enhancements for the corporate environment:-


- A competency structure to which you can link roles and learning resources and courses
- A management hierarchy allowing managers to review and manage their team's learning
- Individual development plans to manage staff performance and development
- Full classroom management and self-service
- Sophisticated reporting and a dashboard for management reporting
- A global site search facility
- Enhanced theme branding to ensure you can fully reflect any corporate brand

The standard Moodle homepage can be customised with additional Totara features such as RSS feeds to pull in relevant information, a training calendar, guidelines to using the system, forums and more. All screen grabs shown in this paper are from Totara LMS.

Site-wide control over KPIs

Using Totara functionality to set up multiple organisations, groups of users are assigned to their parent organisation. Once the client user logs into the LMS they can choose the courses that the site administrator has enrolled them on. Manager roles enable individual managers to view learners' progress and attainment. Site-wide, automated email reports can also be scheduled. The image below shows how the reporting screen can look:-

You are logged in as **Manager User** (Logout)



changing the way we learn

Home | My Learning | My Team | **My Reports** | Find Courses | Calendar

You are here: Home > My Reports

My Reports

- Courses Completed
- My Local Competency Evidence
- My Staff Course Completion
- My Staff Face to Face Sessions
- My Staff Site Logs
- My local face-to-face sessions

Scheduled Reports

Report Name	Saved Search	Format	Schedule	Options
Team Members	All data	Excel format	Daily at 12:00am	🔔 ✖
My Staff Course Completion	All data	Excel format	Weekly on Monday	🔔 ✖

Alerts



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Webanywhere Limited is a UK based web 2.0 technology solutions provider. We specialise in delivering online e-learning portals and content development using the Moodle Learning Management System used by Tesco, Apple, Marks & Spencer, the Open University, Nikon and many others.

Webanywhere is an official partner of Moodle, which gives us the rights to provide Moodle code development, training and consultancy. We are also partners of TotaraLMS, the custom distribution of Moodle for corporates.

UK Office: 0800 862 0131 | Web: <http://www.webanywhere.co.uk>

US Office: 866-713-0496 | Web: <http://www.webanywhere.us>

RSA Office: 0-800-982-170 | Web: <http://www.webanywhere.co.za>
