

Minutes

NELUG Meeting

May 25, 2016
4:00pm – 6:00pm

Facilitator: Laura Gillenwater, Chairperson
Host: Laura Gillenwater, Sun Life Financial
Minutetaker: Amy Bubel, Cayuga Medical Center

Attendees: Amy Gunning Bubel, Andra Serzans, Andy Whitaker, Daryl Fleary, Jeff Potocki, Laura Gillenwater, Lory Woods, Margaret Guillory, Paul Tarquinio, Sandra Sousa, Theresa Dickey, Tisha Radcliffe

Agenda Topics

5 min. Introductions All meeting members

Discussion:
Introductions were completed through chat. Members who attended 2016 LUC were identified.

5 min. NELUG Business Laura Gillenwater

Discussion:
There was no NELUG business which allowed for more introduction and “start-up” time.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

50 min.

The Power of Tin Can/xAPI for E-Learning

Andy Whitaker,
Rustici Software

Discussion:

Andy Whitaker, a self-described xAPI evangelist, presented to the group. He represents Rustici Software, a small software company, located in Nashville that focuses on LMS e-learning operability solutions. Mr. Whitaker reviewed SCORM as an e-learning standard, reminding us that it is currently one of most commonly used standards and making us aware of its origins with government. Use of Shareable content object reference model (SCORM) allows tracking of completion status, duration, score, and pass/fail status. Higher level data is becoming available.

SCORM has been in existence since 1998 and there have been no changes since 2009. A lot of money has been invested into SCORM conformant structures in the intervening years; however, there are some limitations.

- SCORM only tracks learning within an LMS which is not where all of the learning is happening within current systems.
- SCORM is not highly portable and does not mix learning data and business data easily. Kirkpatrick 3 and 4 level evaluations cannot be done without this mixture of learning and business/outcomes data.

To give some background, Mr. Whitaker shared how Rustici was part of a government research grant which resulted in project Tin Can. This brand became Tin Can api. The government renamed it the experienceAPI or xAPI. xAPI has new e-learning tracking specifications. It is able to share data between systems by creating a language for two systems to talk to each other about the things that people do/complete. This provides a consistent way to communicate between portals/LMS/etc.

xAPI is a modern web-service based approach to the intersystem communication, whereas SCORM was java script. xApi can communicate to a Learning Record Store (LRS) for reporting and sharing with other LRSs. It can be housed in an LMS or on its own. xAPI can now be integrated with other data to produce Learning Big Data. It can track beyond the LMS, have portable data created (moving from one LRS to another easily), and it can track and report on other business metrics.

xAPI content (content=activity providers) generate activity data in the form of a statement similar to “I did it/this”. The format includes a noun (user ID, email) a verb, an object (test, game, simulations), time stamp, and results (from test). E-learning classes, games, stimulations, mobile apps, and classroom training completions can all “talk” to LRS.

Who is using xAPI? Lots of tech based companies like Moodle, Grovo, and Articulate, for example. The future of e-learning is open source which works well with xAPI. In order to begin to transition there are xAPI test suites to help make organizations xAPI compliant.

Cmir5 is an offshoot related to authoring tools and will standardize statements produced by authoring tools.

Conclusions:

Members asked what is the cost of implementing xAPI? With Lectora, xAPI is included but more support might be needed. It would be best to check with your LMS provider and use to SCORM cloud (hosted solution for testing purposes).

25 min.

xAPI Functions in Lectora

Theresa Dickey,
EllieMae

Discussion:

Theresa set the stage for her presentation by describing the solution needed for a sales training course. Her organization wanted to track what users were selecting within the course. She set up a course that had questions that answered correctly, earn the user a badge.

The behind the scenes building included clicking object in Lectora and adding an xAPI statement as an action. In Lectora, the standard verbs are built in or authors can add their own (consider limiting verbs for simplicity). Once a user clicks on one of the course objects, it produces a statement. The reports of these statements show many interactions by a single user.

How is this different from variables? Variables don't capture as easily/cleanly. Also, Theresa wanted to be able to bring the collected data back into the course ie. displaying poll results for subsequent users to view when they took the course. Variables are internal to the course only. Variables will not report to LRS. Theresa wanted to be able to create a leaderboard for sales training which was better supported through use of xAPI.

This transition/investment was deemed to be worth it for Theresa's organization because they get much more learner data from it. They are using Expertus 1 and a SCORM cloud account as LMS/LRS because they only have to change the file in SCORM cloud and it doesn't have to enter the LMS.

An xAPI statement can be carried over multiple modules and makes interaction with activities trackable. Theresa pointed out how learning specialist spend a lot of time building interaction but we don't know what people like! xAPI can show is the interactions that people engage with while using our courses.

Trivantis/Lectora is working to decoupling AICC and SCORM in xAPI.

An xAPI course can be complete off-line and then once user re-connects, the xAPI statements are submitted to the LRS. This allows for greater mobility of users. One of the group members asked about firewalls and if they are a barrier to this. Theresa's company has not have had any trouble with this.

Conclusions:

Within Lectora, users can employ the standard publish function. xAPI is already an option, similar to publish to SCORM 1.2, simply choose publish and then xAPI. A useful resource for this process is available at: <http://community.trivantis.com/tag/xapi>

25 min.	Highlights from the 2016 Lectora User Conference	All meeting members who attended
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Discussion:

Theresa shared that she was able to collect business cards for presenters that might present for us as a group. One such presenter was Megan Odem who presented tips and tricks for minimizing development time and taught attendees “Don’t underestimate the value of change contents variable”.

The Keynote presentation was by Laura Overton who discussed the struggle of developers as a group.

Margaret shared about a presentation by the Swedish Army including how they complete training using Lectora.

There is an Inspiration Wednesday LUC recap about different ways that a user/learner could “break” your Lectora interaction and then guidance on how to problem solve the issue.

It is possible to grab and insert script into Lectora from jquery.com.

There are new features in Lectora 16. Lectora went from version 12 and then jumped to version 16 for 2016. Some members are still on version 11.3 because of issues with transitioning to version 12. Group members share that the upgrade to version 16 was much smoother than the 11 to 12 transition. It may be helpful to know the changes in each version to understand why some transitions were so much more difficult. In version 10-11, Trivantis changed the Lectora appearance. In version 12, they changed out the “engine”. From 12 to 16, there was only one maintenance release to respond to 3-4 bug issues. Daryl recommends getting onboard for 16 as 11.3 will soon not be supported any longer.

Daryl shared that starting with 12-16 transition, Trivantis implemented a new feature. Now if you change from version to version, when you open old title in new version, a backup version is created automatically. He and other member encourage users to consider side-by-side installation during transitions between versions.

Lectora Online is Lectora with collaboration and automated backup, etc.

Theresa is excited to have BranchTrack coming into Lectora since it allows robust branching scenarios to be built from text input. For more details you can visit: <https://www.branchtrack.com>

Conclusions:

Daryl shared with the group that Trivantis/Lectora collects materials, from willing presenters, to share after LUC. These materials should be available soon.

30 min.	Lectora Tips and Techniques	All meeting members
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Discussion:

No tips or tricks were shared at this time.