IMS Learning Design in TENCompetence

TENCompetence is committed to the use of interoperability specifications, and the use of IMS Learning Design (IMS-LD) has been identified as an element in the delivery of courses. IMS-LD provides a highly flexible environment with which collaborative Units of Learning (UOLs) can be authored and run. A major barrier to adoption of the specification has been the limitations of the applications available to teachers, learners and support staff. Consequently, a key activity for the TENCompetence project has been to extend and improve the Open Source infrastructure for working with IMS-LD.

Running Units of Learning

The problem: A major challenge for IMS Learning Design has been the problem of providing online services which are rich and varied, but also interoperable.

The solution: TENCompetence has developed the Wookie widget server based on the W3C Widget Specification, and extended to handle web-deployed widgets with collaboration features. This has been integrated with the SLeD player, and is distributed as part of the TENCompetence server software. Wookie can also be used with other platforms, and has been integrated into Moodle, Elgg and Wordpress. The system is distributed with widgets for chat, forum, vote, and Google maps, and more are currently in production.

The SLeD player has been upgraded, and it is planned to produce an entirely new player in the final phase of the project.

Further information and links to papers: http://www.tencompetence.org/ldruntime/
Authoring Units of Learning with ReCourse

The problem: IMS-LD is extensive and complex, and there have not been effective and easy to use tools available which teachers can use to produce Units of Learning which are compliant with the specification.

The solution: TENCompetence has developed the Wookie widget server based on the W3C Widget Specification, and extended to handle web-deployed widgets with collaboration features. This has been integrated with the SLeD player, and is distributed as part of the TENCompetence server software. Wookie can also be used with other platforms, and has been integrated into Moodle, Elgg and Wordpress. The system is distributed with widgets for chat, forum, vote, and Googlemaps, and more are currently in production.

Highlights include:
A simplified authoring interface. Authors can create the main structure of the Unit of Learning from a single learning flow grid.
Support for authors’ workflow. A plug-in architecture has been provided which can link the authoring activity with other tasks.
UOLs can now be published and populated with learners directly from the ReCourse editor. A single click launches the published UOL in a browser. Users can also register themselves on UOLs, if they have permission.
Access to repositories has been integrated, so that authors can find and store the UOLs that they are working on.
Further integration with the Personal Competence Manager 2.0 is currently underway, enabling authors to align UOLs with a competence framework.
Integration with the runtime system enables users to author services.

Further information is available from http://www.tencompetence.org/ldauthor/