What’s Behind the Curtain

How MIT is approaching the challenges of managing course-related materials

Background and Progress to Date

MIT’s Office of Digital Learning has been developing service models that can be used to support and manage these kinds of educational content. We have been prototyping applications (for users) and content-related services (for applications) that implement these service models. We are calling this combination of applications and content-related services Backstage.

Our vision is to support the design and development of digital learning content regardless of where it is delivered. We are developing a set of tools and services, that exist alongside existing delivery environments, to enable universities to manage the development of course content, assessments, videos, and other resources.

Want to learn more?
Would you be interested in participating in a working meeting on August 14-15 in Cambridge, MA after the Learning with MOOCs Practitioner’s Workshop? Contact Jeff Merriman, merriman@mit.edu and Brandon Muramatsu, mura@mit.edu in MIT’s Office of Digital Learning.

Producer

Producer is a flagship application in MIT’s educational content management strategy. It will provide for authoring, search, and reuse of MITx & MITr content and resources, as well as export to http://edX & OCW formats for course delivery. Producer includes plug-in architecture for service integration and export schemas (e.g., IMS Common Cartridge—used by Canvas, etc).

Video Concept Browser (VCB)

The Video Concept Browser allows learners and faculty to navigate video assets by concept or learning outcome. It uses traditional lecture video and provides tools to enable faculty to assign concepts/learning outcomes to specific timepoints.

Embedded Assessment

Embedded Assessment provides faculty and course developers the ability to embed formative assessment in any web accessible content. We believe that by making it easy to embed assessment directly in content anywhere and everywhere, we have the potential to dramatically increase learning effectiveness.

PRISM

PRISM provides educators the ability to author and catalog the topics and learning outcomes presented within a given curriculum, describe the interrelationships between these ideas, and link them to any variety of supporting materials from anywhere on the Web—videos, simulations, articles, or quizzes.

MIToces

MIToces will document, group and connect learning outcomes across the undergraduate curriculum at MIT beginning with the undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. MIToces developers are exploring effective ways to display the information graphically and for exploiting shared resources related to learning outcomes.