E-course: what it is, what he knows and how to develop

This article is intended for those who are just starting their journey in distance learning and trying to understand what e-learning courses and how they are developed.

When it comes to distance online learning in an asynchronous format, i.e. not about the webinars, most often refers to or video tutorials (video courses), or electronic courses (mostly in formats like SCORM and stopping its execution). If video is somehow clear, with e-courses is a bit more complicated to first figure out what's what can be difficult. Let's try to break it down: what is an e-course that he knows, how it is created, and where and how to download.

1. What is an e-course.

E-course from a technical point of view, it is a web application, i.e. a set of files that store:

- course structure (in xml format);
- code, such as JavaScript, which is responsible for the interactivity, etc.;
- information about the tests and other activities.

All data is stored in a standard format (e.g., SCORM) that enables to transmit the results of the downloaded course in the distance learning System (Learning management system). Standard convenient because it allows you to load in a compliant LMS and to handle this using courses created by different authors means different developers, to build a unified statistics of passing one or more courses on user or user group.

At the moment there are 3 standards for the collection and storage of data on completion of the course:

1. SCORM.
2. AICC.
3. TinCan API (stopping its execution, CMI5).

At the moment SCORM is the most often used (despite the fact that the old format and allows you to get from the e-course only 3 parameters: the course is completed, course completed, received xxx points).

The new format is stopping its execution. It allows you to track much more parameters, for example, the user has started execution of the task, the user answered the question, etc. in addition, stopping its execution allows you to collect information about user activity, not only in your distance learning system, but also on other websites or even in social networks. However, the implementation of the SDS with the use of stopping its execution is somewhat more complicated and not all LMS support the standard.

Development tools

To create e-courses you can use tools embedded in the system of distance learning and special software. Using built-in tools, you can make only the most simple course: text, video, tests. Using the same specialized software will be able to produce more complex and interesting product.

At the moment the most famous and popular programs for the development of e-courses in SCORM formats and stopping its execution:

- Adobe Captivate
- Articulate Storyline
- ISpring Suite
- Trivantis Lectora Inspire
- Websoft Courselab

These programs paid cost from 500 to 2500 USD per 1 license.

There are online tools course development: Elucidat, Udutu, Adapt, etc.

What you do program to develop courses and do I need any knowledge for their development?

Editors of e-courses mostly grew out of PowerPoint, so the work often resembles the creation of presentations in this app, although the functionality of the author means of course development, of course, much wider.

So, what can the majority of the above mentioned programs:

- Create slides inserted with text, images, video, audio.
- Create interactive elements: pop-UPS, buttons, clickable areas, a simple animation of objects, drag'n'drop (drag and drop the object).
- Create tests (with one or multiple choice answers in the form of text or images); the job from the "insert the missing word", "enter the number"; jobs where you need to relate, to rank anything.
- To create the emulation software, when the software records your actions. Watch the example and then try to reproduce your actions. And

all this in the framework of the course (i.e., studying FOR just emulated).

It is very short and approximate list of possibilities of course development. With proper ingenuity, using built-in tools, you can create quite complex and rich courses. But if built-in tools is not enough, then you can use JavaScript and use it to achieve even more impressive results.

In order to start to develop e-learning courses don't need any special knowledge, don't need to know programming languages.

Regardless of what program you create the course, you get the file in zip format that contains all the necessary files and ready to download at the system of distance learning.

Remote training system

Distance learning system (in the narrow sense) is a kind of software platform (cloud or installed on the organization's server), which is designed to broadcast users of educational materials in a specific format, the assessment activities and data collection on the results of the pass user training.

System of distance learning in the above sense (or as they usually reduce RTS) abroad usually abbreviated LMS — Learning management system (learning management system).

There are many DLS, however, truly universal, suitable for corporate training is no more than a dozen. Generally, this issue is a lot of confusion, because the word LMS can you name any platform for learning, while SCORM standards are supported, and stopping its execution do my essay for me free units. At the moment the most popular in Russia following LMS supporting SCORM

- ISpring
- Moodle
- Webturor
- Mirapolis
- Diskurs LMS

So, e-course is a web-application (set of files) which is created using specialized software loaded on a compatible platform (LMS) and the passage of user training, the system transmits data in a standard format (SCORM or stopping its execution) that are stored in the database and can be used to build reports.

Have questions on implementing LMS and e-learning courses required advice on distance learning? Write: info@diskurs-rus.com