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Understanding Your Internal Stakeholders Needs: What to ask Technology Vendors about eLearning Standards

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What we will be talking about today

- How to ensure that the systems and content you procure will be compatible with your chosen standards.

- What information vendors should provide to show that their content or system is conformant to an eLearning standard.

- What to ask stakeholders and vendors.

- Where to find example acquisition guidance.

TLA, xAPI, and cmi5

" From a modernization perspective, the cmi5 specification and xAPI standard are among the many interdependent components of the Total Learning Architecture (TLA) needed to enable the future DoD-wide learning ecosystem. "

The importance of testing

Conformance brings compatibility with other systems

- To ensure interoperability, all content and systems vendors should provide documentation that their products have passed a conformance test suite.

- Test reports and documentation provided by the vendors will help procurement and acquisition professionals know that what they are buying will be compatible with that standard.

- Testing all the standards in your ecosystem, including legacy content.

Available test suites

cmi5

cmi5 Content Conformance Test Suite (CTS)
- Ask vendors to provide all applicable test reports

cmi5 LMS Test Suite (LTS)
- Ask vendors to provide JUnit XML file.

Open-Source from ADL

xAPI

Learning Record Store (LRS) Test Suite
- This tests that the LRS, a key component of xAPI, is conformant to the specification.
- Ask vendors to provides the conformance certificate.

Open-Source from ADL

When to acquire systems and content

- **Want to capture more detailed learning data.** cmi5 and xAPI provide more detailed data about what happens inside the course or learning activities beyond what the SCORM standards support.

- **Need to modernize your training per the DoDI 1322.26 fungible resources.** cmi5 anx xAPI are recommended paths toward replacing SCORM.

Navigating procurement

What to ask your stakeholders:

- Who will be impacted by this effort?
  (Learners, Administrators, Content Authors, Decision Makers, Executives)

- Are there existing relevant systems or data to consider that are compatible with your chosen standards?

- Which systems, tools and data are involved and who are those owners?
  Do all systems that need to share data use xAPI?

- What is the end in mind for data or visualizations?

- Are you buying an xAPI provider, a LRS, or an analytics tool?

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Navigating procurement

When to ask vendors about xAPI and cmi5:

- During product renewals.
- Contract conclusions.
- When outcomes matter…
- Your training team wants to implement advanced learning activities (simulations, AR/VR, games, etc.)

What to ask your vendors:

- What are the tools and platforms capable of?
- Are the tools conformant with your chosen standards?
- Can the data be exported or shared in a non-proprietary way?
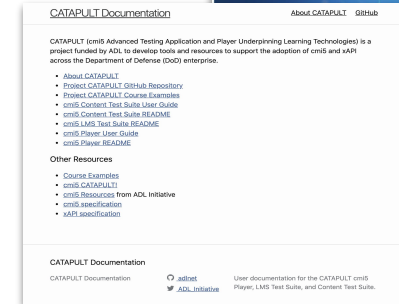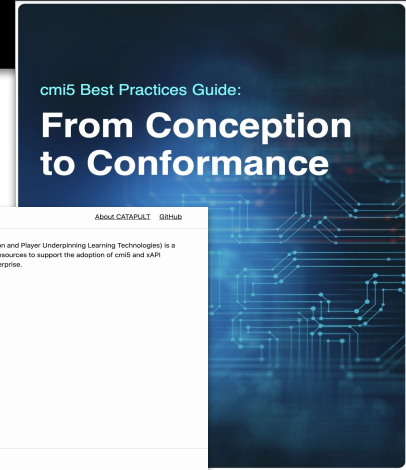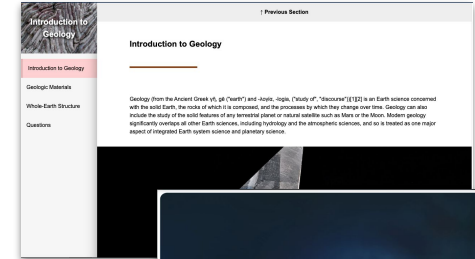- Does the vendor offer multiple tools intended to be integrated?

Avoid silos!

Where to find example acquisition guidance

cmi5 best practices guide:
https://adlnet.gov/projects/cmi5-specification/

ADL acquisition guidelines:

https://adlnet.gov/policy/fungible/

Have questions? Ask me anything!

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