



PUBLIC DISPATCH

Keeping You Informed of Current and Upcoming Work inside IMS and the eLearning Community

February 2005

Send any comments and feedback to Lisa Mattson lisa@imglobal.org

Are you using IMS specifications, know of cool tools? Let us know. Send us an email at ims@imglobal.org

Welcome to the 1st edition of a new monthly newsletter from IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc.

Our goal is to provide you with information about what is happening inside IMS and around the eLearning Community. We welcome your comments and feedback.

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New Final Specifications Available

QTI v2 Item Final Specification

QTI v2 Item Final Specification was released to the public on the 15 February. The IMS QTI work specifically relates to content providers (that is, question and test authors and publishers), developers of authoring and content management tools, assessment delivery systems, and learning systems. The data model for representing question-based content is suitable for targeting users in learning, education, and training across all age ranges and national contexts.

The specification consists of 7 documents and includes:

- **Implementation Guide:** A document that takes you through the data model for assessment items by example. The best starting point for readers who are new to QTI and want to get an idea of what it can do.
- **Information Model:** The reference guide to the main data model for assessment items. The document provides detailed information about the model and specifies the requirements of delivery engines and authoring systems.
- **Meta-data and Usage Data:** A document that describes a profile of the IEEE Standard for Learning Object Metadata data model suitable for use with assessment items and a separate data model for representing usage data (i.e., item statistics). This document will be of particular interest to developers and managers of item banks and other content repositories, and to those who construct assessments from item banks.
- **Integration Guide:** A document that describes the relationship between this specification other related specifications such as IMS Content Packaging, IMS Simple Sequencing and IMS Learning Design.
- **XML Binding:** A document describing the way the data models have been bound to XML.

- **Conformance Guide:** A document that describes conformance requirements and provides a data model for the construction of QTI profiles including a predefined profile that replaces the QTI Lite specification released as part of version 1.
- **Migration Guide:** A document aimed at people familiar with version 1.x. It takes you through the main changes that have been made to the data model and includes an alphabetical listing of version 1 elements providing detailed information about how the same information is represented in version 2.

To view the specification visit: <http://www.imsglobal.org/question/index.html>

Post problems or suggestions to:

<http://www.imsglobal.org/problemtracking/index.cfm>

Learner Information Packaging v1.0.1 (LIP v1.0.1)

LIP v1.0.1 is a maintenance Learner Information Package, and is a collection of information about a Learner (individual or group learners) or a Producer of learning content (creators, providers or vendors). The IMS Learner Information Package (IMS LIP) specification addresses the interoperability of internet-based Learner Information systems with other systems that support the Internet learning environment.

To view the specification, visit: <http://www.imsglobal.org/profiles/index.html> 

IMS Content Packaging & Content Interoperability Call-for-Issues Announcement

IMS has just started a major review of the structure, functionality, and usage of the IMS Content Package specification. The aim of this review is to enable IMS to start two pieces of specification development:


- 1) A major revision of the IMS Content Packaging specification and to create v1.2 (v1.1.4 is the current version). This will include the provision of new functionality but ensure backwards compatibility with the 1.1 versions of the specification;
- 2) To create the IMS Packaging Service v1.0 specification that will enable the managed exchange of any content package-based data model using web services (including the usage of attachments to the SOAP messages). This will provide a service definition for the exchange of data models based upon any version of the IMS Content Package.

You Can Support This Activity By:

- Informing IMS of any new use-cases that you have for using Content Packaging and which currently require the creation of extensions to the Content Package;
- Informing IMS of any application profiles that you have created to support your usage of Content Packaging;
- Informing IMS of any novel best practice information;

- Informing IMS of any service-oriented architectural features that you would require in a service definition for manipulating and managing content packages;


Submit information at <http://www.imsglobal.org/problemtracking/index.cfm>

For more information about the announcement, visit <http://www.imsglobal.org/news.html> 

O.K.I. OSIDs and IMS/GLC

Several IMS/GLC members have asked whether the O.K.I.'s Open Service Interface Definitions (OSIDs) can be made available as part of the IMS/GLC suite of elearning interoperability specifications. They believe that facilitating the dissemination of the OSIDs to the IMS/GLC community not only will expose them to more extensive evaluation and use, but also will facilitate their use in conjunction with IMS and other specifications. Such actions would provide essential information for making a decision to adopt the OSIDs as IMS/GLC specifications.

The O.K.I. will provide the existing XML models for OSIDs to IMS/GLC for distribution to the public via the IMS Member and Public Websites. Java and PHP bindings exist, and work is progressing on a C# binding. These bindings also will be distributed via the IMS Website or by other means as appropriate.

Documentation, user forums, etc. also exist. Access to these experts and this information will be made available via the IMS Website or by other means. Reports of errors and omissions and suggestions for revision or improvement made via the IMS/GLC maintenance mechanism will be forwarded to the O. K. I. Please watch for further information regarding a SIG to track evaluation of the OSIDs and discuss the relationship of service interface definitions and the existing body of IMS/GLC and other specifications. 

Cool Tools


Looking for some cool tools? Check out some of the TELCERT items available at: <http://www.imsglobal.org/telcert.html>

For the horror buff - D09, a scary read on xml and uml-based modelling for testing

For the motor-sports buff - D07 design doc and D10 runtime tools and source code. Build your own kit-car and have a drive!

For the educated broadsheet reader - D03 an A-Z way-finders guide to e-Learning specifications, xml, uml and testing

For the kiddies - D2 Powerpoint presentation - a picture guide to TELCERT

For the home improvements enthusiast - D10 SchemaProf tool and D04 profiles - go on, you always wanted to build your own house! 

Workplan

Want to know what's happening in IMS?

Project Group	Description
General Web Services	General Web Services Public Draft will be available to the public in a few weeks.
ePortfolio	ePortfolio Final Specification will be going for vote by the IMS Technical Board. If approved, it will be released in mid-March.
Tools Interoperability	The objective of this work is to demonstrate that a selected tool can be connected to various Learning Management Systems for actual use by end users.

Special Interest Group	Description
Query Services	Query Services SIG is working on a white paper to: (1) Complete the "anatomy of a query" dissection. (2) Gather use cases and develop requirements. (3) Map existing technologies against the "anatomy of a query" and requirements.
Accessibility	The Accessibility SIG is supporting implementation of the IMS AccessForAll specifications, including collaborating with other groups internationally to ensure a unified approach to accessibility in several specifications and standards bodies. The SIG also coordinates responses to the needs of other IMS groups, including ePortfolios, Content Packaging, and Tools Interoperability, to assist those groups in using the AccessForAll specifications appropriately within other specification efforts. The SIG is contributing to the Implementation Committee's efforts for outreach and the conformance program.
Packaging	The two objectives for this work are: (1) A major revision of the IMS Content Packaging specification and to create v1.2 (v1.1.4 is the current version). This will include the provision of new functionality but ensure backwards compatibility with the 1.1 versions of the specification. (2) To create the IMS Packaging Service v1.0 specification that will enable the managed exchange of any content package-based data model using web services (including the usage of attachments to the SOAP messages). This will provide a service definition for the exchange of data models based upon any version of the IMS Content Package.

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