The Top Open Source Learning Management Systems [2019 Update]

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Summary: You've done your research and you've come to the conclusion that an open source LMS is what your organization or educational institution needs to reach its eLearning goals. Then comes the question: 'What do I need this LMS to be able to do? How do I choose the right one?' Well, we have some ideas.

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The Top Open Source Learning Management Systems

A Learning Management System is an essential tool for eLearning professionals. It can also be a major expense, especially if you are looking for a robust, versatile LMS that can accommodate your eLearning development needs. Therefore, both L&D departments and education administrators tend to favor open source because it's a great solution for learning when having the end user in mind.

So, you just need to choose a specific open source LMS that is suitable to your needs. However, this process can become a bit tricky. Identifying your needs before choosing implies that you have to answer some questions:

- Does the LMS have a supportive online community?

- Is it compatible with third-party plug-ins offered by external developers?

- What's the quality of its user interface?

- Is the software mobile-friendly?

- What about eCommerce integration, reports, and analytics?

Fortunately, there are a variety of different Open Source Learning Management Systems (LMSs) that can offer you the dynamic and flexible eLearning platform you need without making you go over your eLearning budget.

What's the Best Learning Management System?

Let us help you find the best LMS Systems to stay efficient and productive. Explore user reviews and top features!

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collaborative learning.

Moodle Mobile

Access learning at a touch of a button even when offline, thanks to the Moodle Mobile app. Available for both Android and iOS.

Extend Moodle

Browse the extensive Moodle plugins directory for extra activities, blocks, themes, and more.

Support & Community Forums

Get support and share ideas, all in your own language. Experience how efficiently Moodle is globally supported and discover the value of an open, collaborative effort.

Plans And Pricing

Apart from the standard, free plan, there are premium options available, starting from $59 per year.

Achievements

Moodle holds the 19th place on The Best Learning Management Systems based on User Experience list and is 16th among the The Best Learning Management Systems based on Customer Experience.

For more information on Moodle, you can read the reviews here.

2. Chamilo

An open source LMS that's here to improve access to education. Backed up by the Chamilo Association, it aims at the maintenance of a clear communication channel and the building of a network of services providers and software contributors. Its

Full Of Support Options

To get support for Chamilo you can turn to the online community, the knowledge base, or one of the several one-on-one options available.

Customizable Interface

Intuitive language and media embedding settings are among the many options offered.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available. Ask the vendor for more information.

Achievements

Chamilo holds the 15th place on the list of The Best Learning Management Systems based on Customer Experience.

Here you can read eLearning Industry community members' reviews about Chamilo.

3. Open edX

The Open edX is a tool empowering learners to access course content, including videos and textbooks, while checking their progress in the course. The Open edX LMS has a discussion forum and a wiki that both learners and course team members can contribute to, whereas the latter can also use an instructor dashboard.

Open edX Studio

The tool for building your courses, creating structure and then adding content. You can also manage the course schedule and the course team, set grading policies, publish different parts of your course, and more.

Community Support

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Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

Achievements

Open edX is 5th on our list of The 20 Best Learning Management Systems (2018 Update) and 8th on the Best Learning Management Systems Based on User Experience list.

Read what other members in the eLearning Industry community say about Open edX.

4. Totara Learn

A corporate distribution of Moodle, Totara Learn delivers individual learning plans effectively and offers rich functionality which can be implemented quickly and with a significant cost reduction comparing to proprietary solutions. This award-winning open source learning platform is designed to help you develop, train, manage, and engage your staff.

Learning On The Move

Fully responsive by design, the user interface will adjust seamlessly depending on the device. Mobile apps are also available through the partner network and can be extended or fully-branded to be in harmony with the way your LMS looks and interacts.

Learning Plans

Learning plans through which learners can monitor their progress and directly access learning activities. You can manage the process with approval workflows, comment boxes, and notifications.

Flexible Authoring Options

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

Achievements

Totara Learn is in the 5 Top Open-Source Learning Management Systems in our list of [The 20 Best Learning Management Systems (2018 Update)](#) , no7 on the list of [The Best 20 Learning Management Systems Offering An LMS Demo](#), and no13 on the list of The [Top 20 Extended Enterprise Learning Management Systems](#). It also lands on the [13th position](#) among the Best Learning Management Systems based on User Experience and the [14th position](#) among the Best Learning Management Systems based on Customer Experience.

[If you want to find out what customers say about Totara Learn, take a look at the reviews here.](#)

5. Canvas

An open source LMS that is free for instructors. It makes teaching and learning easier in terms of implementation, adoption, customer support, and success. It is adaptable, reliable, and customizable. With interface and features crafted to save you time and effort, this open source LMS is designed to get out of your way and let you do your thing.

Powerful Community

Over 300,000 Canvas users are involved in sharing, collaborating, and shaping Canvas.

Easy To Use

This LMS does what learners and instructors need it to do. Simple mobile use and a time-saver that gets adopted in growing rates.

In-house Canvas experts are there to ensure the speediest, most frictionless interactions.

Plans And Pricing

You'll need to ask the vendor for a quote.

Achievements

Canves is on the 4th place among the 5 Top Open-Source Learning Management Systems in our list of The 20 Best Learning Management Systems (2018 Update).

Read Canvas reviews and discover how other eLearning Industry community members have experienced the software.

6. Forma

An open source, web-based, award-winning eLearning platform that grades high on managing and delivering online training courses. Forma's design focuses on corporate training and it is made to fit your company needs and processes. Easy integration with any intranet software allows you to extend functionalities with a wide range of plugins. Forma is developed by a network of companies and backed by a strong and active community.

Report System

Extensive reports can be exported through the built-in wizard in different formats and sent with the email scheduler.

Sell Courses Online

Native eCommerce functionalities with cart and PayPal integration.

API Integration

Check the latest reviews about Forma LMS.

7. Effectus

Focusing on the learner to improve engagement, mobility, and collaboration. The Effectus LMS is designed with you and your learners in mind, making it a comprehensive training management suite for business of all sizes. For the most part it has proven to be an incredibly simple and economical way to host, manage, and deliver training programs.

Gamify Learning

Effectus incorporates features such as scores, badges, and leaderboards.

Report Real-Time

Get access to rich data and customize reports to suit your very own analysis requirements – this way you measure the impact of training on your learners' performance.

Intuitive User Interface

An interface that is designed based on the latest research on User Interface (UI), User Experience (UX) and Interface Design for Learning (IDL) standards.
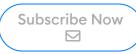
Plans And Pricing

Three options, starting from $129 per month and billed annually.

Achievements

Effectus holds the 17th place on our The Top 20 Extended Enterprise Learning Management Systems list.

Wondering how others are experiencing the software? Read Effectus LMS reviews here.

training and ensure the maximum level of customer influence in implementing the software, ILIAS excels in allowing users to create, manage, and track learning, doing so through supporting SCORM 1.2, SCORM 2004, and AICC standards.

Community Organization

Several ILIAS users have organized themselves in regional or national user groups to exchange experience and influence the further development of the LMS.

Customization

System styles may be customized, allowing to bypass the default system style of ILIAS. There are also multiple substyles which can be active for different branches of the repository. To generate a customized system style, first install the necessary tools to your server.

Getting Support

There are several ways and levels to get support and services for ILIAS: through the community forums, the feature wiki, the bug tracker, the direct email, and even the paid support by several companies.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available. Free of charge.

You can read reviews on the above features and the whole experience of using ILIAS LMS here.

9. OpenOLAT

A web-based learning platform for teaching, learning, assessments, and communication. OpenOLAT has caught the attention of the market with a sophisticated and innovative modular toolkit, the capability to extend the initial installation, its architecture, and its simple and intuitive operation. All these result in

Collaborative

Tools such as forums, chats (group or one-on-one), virtual classrooms, blogs, podcasts, etc. make for an enhanced learning experience. Collaborative techniques and a series of ideas for exchanging knowledge are at your disposal.

Powerful Course Editor

The people behind OpenOLAT take pride in the capabilities of this tool, which is not restricted to predefined structures. It has a preview feature, archive tool, decentralized user management, and many more to give you freedom in implementing any didactic concept.

Plans And Pricing

There two free and two paid packages, starting at $250 per month. These packages differ in the number of users and courses, disk space, data volume available, and other extras.

For a more comprehensive look, you can find reviews on OpenOLAT here.

10. Opigno

This open source eLearning platform allows you to manage your online training and efficiently ensure that your students', employees', and partners' skills are updated according to your needs. Opigno is designed for companies, corporations, and universities looking to become eLearning solutions that are flexible and easily scalable. This makes it possible for you to create engaging online training and thus manage in-house training and blended learning paths.

Module For eCommerce

This allows selling courses or subscriptions to classes. There is also time-based subscriptions management, meaning users can subscribe to one or several courses for one or several months, and renew the subscription at the expiration.

Become An Author

Collaborative Tools

Interactive chat with workspaces that allow to share asynchronous messages, files, and to-do lists. Capable as a live meeting solution with screen sharing, whiteboard, and recording capabilities.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

For a broader image of Opigno, check reviews here.

11. .LRN

This is a full-featured application for rapidly developing web-based learning communities. Capable of being customized to fit the needs of the individual learner, .LRN's LMS is a learning portal that suits you whether you are a corporation or a smaller education community, as it can be scaled to meet your learning needs.

Network Of Communities

.LRN's core are the communities, where everything is represented as a group or community, whether it's a class, sub-group within a class, or a community of interest.

Tools For eCommerce

Providing a framework to create the most diverse scenarios for today's online educational market.

Intuitive Customization Of User Interface

Options for customizing the layout, choosing the language, and setting the timezone for your class, as well as adding custom portlets, if desired. Individual users can personalize their own personal portal layout.

Plans And Pricing

12. ATutor

Free open source web-based LMS that develops and delivers online courses in minutes. ATutor's functionality is easily extended with feature modules. It helps educators in assembling, packaging, and redistributing standardized web-based instructional content. Users have created add-ons to ATutor LMS such as AContent, a content management system, and ATutor Social, a networking component.

Automated Installer & Upgrade

A fast and easy way to install or upgrade, as it doesn't require much technical knowledge. Even so, support is available through the website if you need help installing or upgrading.

Module Manager

Administrators can install, enable, and disable modules, define a default set, and create menu blocks for new courses. Among these, there are fully integrated feature extensions or third party add-on software.

Language Manager

Easily search through text to quickly find and customize interface, feedback, and module language. All languages are available in UTF-8 and courses can display multiple languages at the same time.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

This is where you can check for ATutor reviews.

13. Edu-Sharing

Collect and arrange content using a mobile device; in your browser, using the app, or while taking pictures.

Networking Infrastructures

Take advantage of the eLearning systems of your partners, as Edu-Sharing networks your infrastructures. It can be described as a cross-organizational exchange of content & tools, cloud storage, and tool integration, for both learning environments and authoring tools.

Integrate Quality Content

Connect sources with quality content to enable teachers to find objects from their own cloud storage and connected sources of content of Wikimedia, YouTube, or Serlo.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

This is where you can look up for reviews on Edu-Sharing.

14. LatitudeLearning

With the primary focus being set on training, engagement, and analytics, the LatitudeLearning LMS delivers effective training projects for the employees and associates of enterprises, channel networks, franchises, dealerships, and other affiliates. Latitude's suite of products is SCORM conformant, thus providing an easily accessible content library.

ClientCare

A program ensuring your training operates efficiently, with swift solutions to your concerns, check-ups, and updates being part of the schedule, plus administrative support to paying clients.

Group In Many Ways

An asset that makes it easy to manage training for individual groups, as well as tailor-made eLearning for users by location. The LMS Administrator can place students into individual groups based on any criteria you decide.

Plans And Pricing

Pricing options range from free to paid.

Achievements

LatitudeLearning also holds the 17th position on our Ultimate List Of Cloud-Based Learning Management Systems (2018 Update).

You can check for reviews on LatitudeLearning, here.

15. Nera

Taking the LMS concept far beyond providing digital training content, the Nera LMS uses the edX infrastructure supported and used by many international organizations such as MIT, Harvard, and Microsoft, and gets you to the next generation of eLearning. A cost-effective solution with a model that allows you to pay as much as you use, Nera also meets your needs for customization and software according to your requirements and demands.

Transparent And Trackable

With integrated analytic tools, Nera allows you to follow and report your digital education processes from overall, as it offers you a transparent training process.

Independent Of Time And Location

Reduce your company's digital training costs and resources with digital trainings that does not depend on location or timing.

Plans And Pricing

Read the latest reviews about the Nera LMS here.

16. NexusComply Solution

This is a ground-breaking compliance solution based on the market-leading Totara Learn. It allows your enterprise to deploy and manage risk assessments, policies, mandatory training, and supervisory frameworks such as appraisals and performance management. The NexusComply system also manages and automates compliance and can help measure behavioral change.

Reporting

A powerful report builder which enables administrators to modify a set of pre-built reports or quickly and easily build custom reports from scratch.

Integration

NexusComply integrates with systems already existent. Streamlined, with Single Sign On standards, it allows for an improved user experience and accommodates custom system integration through web services, using protocols such as REST, SOAP, XMLRPC, JSON, and AMF.

Custom eLearning

The concept of bespoke eLearning is to provide your learners with an authentic experience that is created just for them using your company culture, brand, and tone to deliver an engaging, interactive experience.

Plans And Pricing

Two cost effective LMS solutions are at offer: the Learning Nexus VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) which is a Moodle-based platform, or the sophisticated learning management platform.

Become An Author

OLAT's development focuses on the Tertiary Education sector; extensions, add-ons, and plug-ins are designed and implemented in close cooperation with the Swiss academic community at universities and higher education institutions.

Agile Methodology

Development and operations rely on adaptive planning and evolutionary engineering by a cross-functional DevOps team.

Group Registration

Relevant processes are optimized, with focus on reliability and safety in large installations.

Digital Assistance Of Assessments

EPIS 2.0 is developed for preparation and performing of assessments so that they can be easily organized, using data synchronization. On-site support is powered by a control system for admission and submission.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

This is where you can look up for reviews on OLAT LMS.

18. Opentute

Designed to help businesses create and share awesome learning experiences with staff and extended partners, Opentute is an open source, cloud-based social learning platform, inviting you to grow with it. Experience how better it is to learn with immersive collaboration tools and fully functional social media in your own private network.

Sell Courses

Community, Groups, And Channels

Grow your team and build groups and channels so that the whole learning process becomes collaborative.

Plans And Pricing

Tailor-made plans starting from $40/month.

This is where reviews on the performance of Opentute can be found.

19. Percolate

An award-winning Learning Management System, Percolate is a cloud-based learning platform with powerful features that caters to savvy entrepreneurs, small businesses, and mid-sized organizations. Along with its clean design, user-friendly interface, flexibility to customize, you'll appreciate the great customer service.

Mobile-Ready

If you want to reach your learners wherever they are, Percolate's fully responsive design allows you to offer training that can take place on any mobile, tablet, and desktop device.

Same Day Launch

How about customizing and launching training in minutes, not months? This feature allows you to quickly store, manage, and organize all your learners and important content with easy-to-use customization tags – or use your tags to instantly generate custom drill-down reports.

No Techy Skills Required

Author your own training, quizzes, and surveys with the built-in course creator. With percolate, you don't need to be tech-savvy to upload digital content and easily

20. Sakai

Following a fundamentally different approach, the direction and features of Sakai originate within Higher Education to address the dynamic needs of the global academic community. A structure that highly values the participation of its contributors, with educators and developers from various institutions working for the common cause of turning great ideas into reality for the entire community of Sakai adopters.

Interoperability

Sakai invested in open standards like IMS Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI). It's capable of seamlessly integrating unique, powerful new functionalities into the next generation of digital learning environments.

Rich Functionality

With a wide-ranging suite of features, Sakai provides all the necessary for instructors, students, research investigators, and project leaders to succeed in their online initiatives. Discussion capabilities, announcements, messaging, file management, assignment delivery, assessments, and more.

Responsive User Interface

Completely redesigned so that its powerful new capabilities can be provided through a clean, modern design, Sakai features a number of functional enhancements framed by a responsive, iFrame-less tool structure.

Plans And Pricing

No premium options available.

Check for reviews on Sakai in eLearning Industry's directory.

all of its features. In some cases, an open source LMS may come with a learning curve, but the cost-savings and design freedom may be well worth it in the end. If the open source Learning Management System features online tutorials or an active community, then don't hesitate to check it out before making your final decision.

Interested in learning more about how to choose the best Learning Management System for your corporate needs? Read the article 11 Tips For Choosing The Best Learning Management System to learn about more factors you may want to consider when searching for your best Learning Management System.

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Homebase

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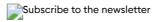
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