

XStream Software

Learning Management System (LMS)

Powered by Microsoft SharePoint®

Technical Brief



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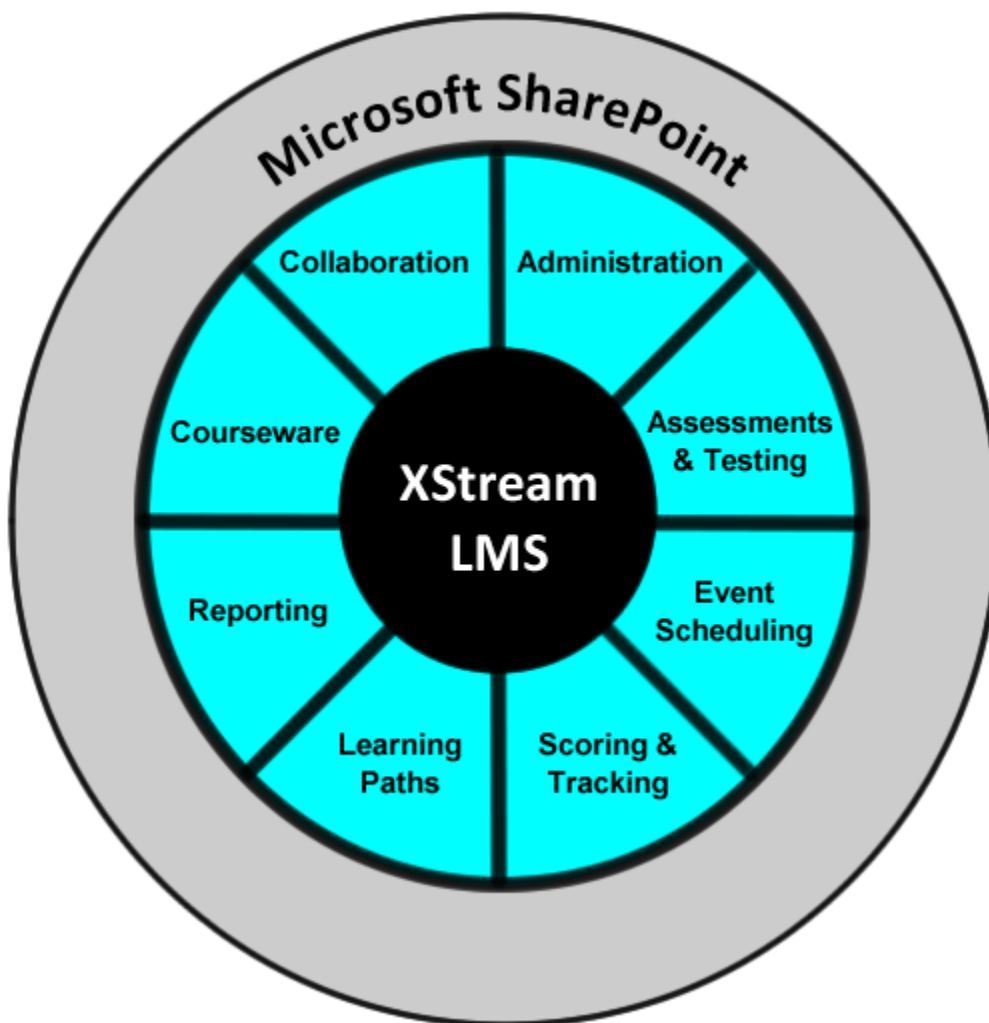
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Overview

XStream Software Learning Management System (LMS) is a full-featured LMS that runs on the Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 platform. While leveraging the underlying Microsoft IT environment for security, scalability and ease of management, it provides centralized learning management across the enterprise.

Any organization can use this SharePoint-based LMS to automate and manage a blended learning/training environment for employees, customers, and other learners. XStream LMS includes full capabilities for delivering, tracking, and managing a complete library of e-learning content (including courses, assessments, and SCORM-compliant content) as well as scheduling and tracking offline events such as instructor-led training sessions, classrooms, meetings, and conferences.



With XStream LMS, everyone within the organization can use the same secure system to perform administrative tasks, access assigned learning content, communicate and collaborate on any topic or project, and manage/access any type of content or files that may be used within the organization.

Because it is based on Microsoft SharePoint architecture, XStream LMS provides your user community with a familiar, comfortable learning environment to facilitate effective knowledge transfer. It is the ideal system for internal corporate training, online education programs, and other types of e-learning.

XStream LMS allows you to:

- Manage learners and learning groups, and control their access to content.
- Deploy and centrally manage an online library of e-learning content and training materials, including courseware, assessments/quizzes, documents/files (in any format), and web links.
- Fully track and report all scoring/progress data for each learner.
- Schedule classroom training sessions (as well as other types of events) and manage the participants.
- Create customized learning curriculums and track users' progress through them.
- Generate complete analytical reports on users, groups, and content matter.

Key Features

XStream LMS includes powerful features for truly effective learning management.

Leverage Built-in SharePoint Features

Because it is built on top of the SharePoint platform, XStream LMS allows you to capitalize on all the built-in features and benefits of SharePoint – flexibility, scalability, productivity tools, document management, file sharing, group collaboration, integration with other systems, add-on capabilities, and much more.

The functionality of the LMS can also be customized and extended by adding SharePoint Web Parts. The SharePoint foundation provides a collection of customizable web parts that can be added to the LMS, including Calendar, Announcements, and URL Links.

Courseware Deployment & Management

XStream LMS enables administrators to register various types of e-learning/courseware content in the system and assign the content to users and groups. When users subsequently access their assigned learning content, their progress and scoring data is completely tracked and recorded by the system. Administrators may generate a variety of reports based on the recorded data.

In addition to Title, ID, and Description, there are various other information types/settings that may be configured for each learning content matter. These include **Learning Objective** (information about the objective of the content matter), **Duration** (estimated length of time required to complete the content matter), **Enable Credits** (option to enable or disable the use of credits for the content matter), **Enable Fees** (option to enable or disable the use of fees for the content matter), and **Keywords** (option to specify additional descriptive keywords for search purposes).

Capabilities are also provided to optionally define a **Start Date** and **Expiry Date** for each learning content matter. The Start Date represents the date before which the content is not available. The Expiry Date represents the date after which the content is not available.

The following types of learning content may be uploaded and deployed in XStream LMS:

- **RapidBuilder-Developed Courses** – Lesson-based courses (in native or Flash format) created with RapidBuilder™ (desktop authoring tool from XStream Software).
- **RapidExam-Developed Exams** – Question-based exams/assessments (in native or XML format) created with RapidExam™ (desktop authoring tool from XStream Software).
- **Any SCORM-Compliant Learning Content** – Third-party course materials that comply with the Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM). Any SCORM-compliant course content may be uploaded and deployed within XStream LMS. Therefore, the LMS supports the importing and deployment of practically any e-learning content (created with modern SCORM-compliant development tools).

Event Scheduling

XStream LMS provides capabilities for registering, tracking, and reporting on **Scheduled Events**. A scheduled event can represent any type of offline event (such as instructor-led training sessions, classrooms, meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.).

When scheduling an event, an administrator is able to perform the following functions:

- a. Schedule one or more instances of the same event (e.g., same training session held in three different locations at the same time).
- b. Track the number of seats available for the scheduled event and enable registration and cancellation of registrations.
- c. Option to send an event registration URL (via email or document) to enable users to self-register for the event using the URL. This capability is useful for implementing e-mail campaigns to maximize the number of users registered for a scheduled event.

NOTE: If a user who receives an event registration URL is not already registered in the system, the user has the capability to self-register in the system (by creating his/her own account online). Once the user has created an account, the user may proceed to register for the scheduled event.

- d. Alternate event session offerings if the selected event for which the user wishes to register is full.
- e. Generate a roster for users to sign in and later track attendance of each user.
- f. Option to assign credits to each attendee.
- g. Capabilities for reopening a completed event in order to assign additional users (e.g., unexpected or last-minute attendees) to the scheduled session.

Analytical Reports

XStream LMS enables administrators to generate a wide variety of canned (predefined) reports on users, groups, and content matter in the LMS. The available LMS reports include:

- **Administration Reports** – Administrative and status reports, including reports on user/group details, memberships, assignments, etc.
- **History Reports** – History-related content matter reports, including reports detailing user progress and session history.
- **Statistical Reports** – Statistical data/scoring reports for exams.

Customized Learning Paths

XStream LMS supports the creation of **Learning Paths**. A learning path is a required learning curriculum containing a set of mandatory content matter that learners must complete.

An administrator can build and customize a learning path containing any combination of courses, exams, SCORM-compliant content, and/or scheduled events.

Content Matter Prerequisites

In XStream LMS, an administrator may establish **prerequisites** for each content matter (including conditions such as progress, time taken, score, and attendance at the content matter level).

By specifying prerequisites, the administrator can control the conditions that each user must satisfy before being able to access a particular course, exam, or learning path. For example, a user may be prevented from accessing “Course B” until he/she has first completed “Course A” and passed “Exam A”.

Manual Re-grading Capability

In XStream LMS, all user sessions are tracked and scored automatically. Each time a user accesses a learning content item, the LMS automatically tracks the user’s progress as a percentage value (in the case of a course or learning path) or scores/grades the user’s session (in the case of an exam/assessment).

However, in addition to the automatic tracking/scoring of user sessions by the system, an administrator also has the capability to manually re-grade user sessions for any course, learning path, or exam. The administrator may access and manually update the recorded progress or scoring data for any user session.

Offline Exams

In XStream LMS, any registered exam can also be saved as an **offline exam**, which is deployed locally (i.e., in a standalone environment independent of the LMS). This is especially useful for creating a proctored exam (i.e., a standalone exam that is taken in a classroom and monitored/supervised by a teacher or designated official).

When generating an offline exam, the administrator can also specify a proctor password for additional security (i.e., a special password that the teacher/official must enter – or convey to the user to enter – before the user can start the exam session).

When a user takes an offline exam, a .DAT file containing exam scoring results and progress information is generated locally (in the same folder as the exam file). This .DAT file, which is encrypted and cannot be viewed or edited by the exam participant, can be subsequently transferred to an LMS administrator (via e-mail or CD). The administrator can then upload the data from the .DAT file to the LMS for tracking/reporting purposes.

Self-Registration of New Users

XStream LMS includes self-registration capabilities. A user without an account is able to self-register in the system by creating his/her own account online.

NOTE: Although the LMS allows the self-registration of new members by default, an LMS administrator may turn this setting on or off at his/her discretion.

Key Benefits

Some benefits of using XStream LMS include:

- Cost effective and easy-to-use, web-based solution.
- Highly scalable and flexible platform.
- Leverage your SharePoint investment, and integrate more efficiently with your existing IT infrastructure and business management systems.
- Access built-in SharePoint features for group collaboration, file sharing, document management, and more.

- Customizable and extendable with SharePoint Web Parts.
- Easily organize, share, deploy, manage, and evaluate e-learning content.
- Import, deploy, and track any type of ADL SCORM-compliant content (created with 3rd-party tools).
- Bundle courses and learning materials together into customized learning curriculums.
- Comprehensive analytics functionality enables detailed tracking of learning progress, scoring trends, and other user metrics.

System Requirements

System requirements for XStream LMS include:

- Dual Pentium 4 (XEON recommended for optimal performance) Server class machine with Windows 2000 or 2003 Server
- Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0
- SQL Server 2005
- Minimum 512 MB RAM
- Minimum 500 MB free hard disk space

More Information

Contact us for more information on the XStream LMS solution.

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