



Exploring Online Course Platforms & Features

Discussion Points

Online Course Platforms: Definition, need and importance

Types of Online Course Platforms

Features of Online Course Platforms

Different Roles in Online Course Platforms

Different Online Course Platforms

Criteria for selecting a Criteria for selecting a Platform

Learning Management Systems

Conventional Classroom- Digital Classroom





Online Courses: The Need for Integrated Platforms



Centralized E-Content
All e-content is located in one place.

Integrated Teaching & Learning
Teaching-learning processes integrated at one portal to engage learners.

Unified Evaluation & Reporting
Evaluation and reporting integrated in one platform.

This requirement creates the necessity for a well-designed Online Course Platform.



Online Course Platforms: Meaning

Web based interactive platforms which have ability to

- Host and deliver the e-content as per well planned instructional design
- Enable the all the activities of an online courses

Online Course Platforms: Meaning



provide a web-enabled interface to the teacher & the learner to deliver and access the e-content.



provide the opportunity for web based synchronous & asynchronous interactions to the teaching learning community.

The Need for an Online Course Platform



Online Course Platforms: Need

- Help the learners to access the e-learning resources at one place as per their own place and pace.
- Help teachers to deliver the content at one place and enable them to monitor the progress of the learners

Online Course Platforms: Need

- Advantage of flexible learning without limitations of time and space
- Advantage to include new teaching tools, e-content and automate scoring activities

Online Course Platforms: Need

To create a comprehensive educational experience similar to real life classroom experiences

- Easy registration and Course joining process
- Content navigation and content access
- Communication channels
- Automated Assessments, Evaluation and Certification
- Flexible learning for diverse learners

Category of Online Course Platforms

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Free platforms – DIKSHA, NROER, SWAYAM

Freemium – Google Classroom, MS Teams

Paid platforms –Udemy

Learning Destination Sites – Coursera, Udacity

Institutional LMS – Moodle, Canvas



Category of Online Course Platforms

Free and paid platforms

Some platforms offer courses for completely free like DIKSHA, Colcommons, on other hand some platform offer paid courses.

There are one more category where the course content access is provided for free however there are charges to be paid for getting the certificates.

Category of Online Course Platforms

Learning Destination Sites

Considered as an aggregator of online courses offered by various course providers.

Facilitate the course offering institute to create their courses using a LMS or through an e-content authoring tool, then upload or connect them to the site.

Facilitate learner registration, course navigation and eCommerce processes for the course offering institution. Examples: Coursera and Udacity.

Category of Online Course Platforms

Learning Management Ecosystems

This is an advanced and institution-specific type of online course platform. In this model of online course platform, the online course offering institute develops integrated online learning ecosystem as per the processes and requirements of the organization and demand of their courses.

This type of online course platform incorporates all the advanced learning solutions, learning analytics tools, e-content management software, e-commerce provisions in one ecosystem, making it a robust platform with a customised user interface.

Features of Online Course Platforms

An illustration showing a laptop and a tablet displaying various user interface elements like checkmarks, progress bars, and document icons.

Features related to the user interface

An illustration of server racks, a folder, and a padlock, symbolizing secure content storage and hosting.

Content Hosting

An illustration of a laptop with a play button icon and a document with a right-pointing arrow, representing content delivery.

Content Delivery

An illustration of a clipboard with a checklist, a shield with a padlock, and gears, representing security and administrative features.

Security Features

An illustration of a folder containing a bar chart, a document with a checkmark, and a shield with a padlock, representing administrative and reporting features.

Features related to Administration and Reporting

AI-Generated Image



Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to user interface

Customisation of the user interface as per specific learning need/ course/ institutional requirements.

Cater the diverse group of the learners

Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Content Hosting

- Compliance with international e-content standards SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference Model) or xAPI (experience API).
- Organized storage and logical sequencing
- Multiple mapping of the content
- Compatible with different types/ formats/ Multilingual
- Capturing and managing Learners' profiles
- Records about their coursework, test scores, certifications

Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Content Hosting

- Ability to produce generated content followed by features for sharing of such content and files in different format
- Different types of communication channels
- Generation of authenticable digital certificates.

Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Content Delivery

- Multiple device access
- Support synchronous activities and virtual learning
- Support automated learning path and personalised learning environment
- Gamification, Interactivity
- Automated evaluation, instant grading and feedback
- Automated Certification



Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Administration and Reporting

Role-specific dashboard to generate reports related to

- portal traffic, access patterns
- utilisation of learning resources,
- learners' engagement time and pattern,
- learning progress and
- evaluation reports of the learner.

Analytical tools

Customised reports generation

Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Security

- Relevant IT Security Arrangements
- Authenticated Login
- Disaster Recovery Plan And Data Backup Plan

Features of Online Course Platforms

Features related to Security (School specific)

- Child data protection
- Security of personal information
- Safe login practices
- Using institutional IDs
- Privacy settings in LMS/ Course page



Different User roles in Online Course Platforms

Administrator Role:

- The highest level of user rights in the online course platform.
- The administrator creates the course and assigns different user roles within the course.
- Can monitor all the activities across the platform inside each course.

Different User roles in Online Course Platforms

Manager Role:

- Managing a particular course or managing group of online courses under the platform.
- Managing administrative activities like user registration, announcements, release of automated tests and test scores.
- Generating various reports related to learner engagement and learner progress.



Different User roles in Online Course Platforms

Teacher Role:

- Online teaching activities, course design, assigning learning modules to the relevant courses/ learners.
- Creating and assigning assessments, quizzes
- Designing and assigning the activities to the learner groups
- Monitoring learners' performance

Different User roles in Online Course Platforms

Learner Role:

- Course registration and content access
- Submission of assessment, quizzes and tests
- Generating and replying to the discussion threads
- Learners' can view their progress or scores and
- Download score card/ certificates.



Different Online Course Platforms

Name of the Platform	Web link of the Platform
Coursera	https://in.coursera.org/
Colcommons.org	https://colcommons.org/
openlearning.unesco.org	https://openlearning.unesco.org/about
SWAYAM	https://swayam.gov.in/
DIKSHA	https://diksha.gov.in/
edX Courses	https://www.edx.org/
Canvas Network	https://www.canvas.net
FutureLearn	https://www.futurelearn.com
Khan Academy	https://www.khanacademy.org
Open Education Resource universitas	https://oeru.org
OpenLearn	http://www.open.edu/openlearn/
OpenLearning	https://www.openlearning.com
Udacity	https://www.udacity.com



Criteria for Selecting Online Course Platform





Learning Management System (LMS)

- LMS is a software application which help the users to create, design, and deliver the e-content through eLearning platforms.
- The LMS includes components related to e-content, teaching and learning, evaluation and analytics.
- LMS can also be explained as web or cloud-based software which provides a complete automated learning path, beginning from user registration, course completion, evaluation followed by generation of certificates.
- LMS also provides features of synchronous and asynchronous communication to the learners.



Online course platforms are

Integration of LMS

and

other web-based tools

(to enable virtual classroom and administrative features)

to offer online courses



User Interface



Online Course Offering Platform

LMS

**Tools for Course
Registration,
Payment**

**Tools for
Communicati
on**

**Tools for
Evaluation**

Other Tools as per Online Course Requirement

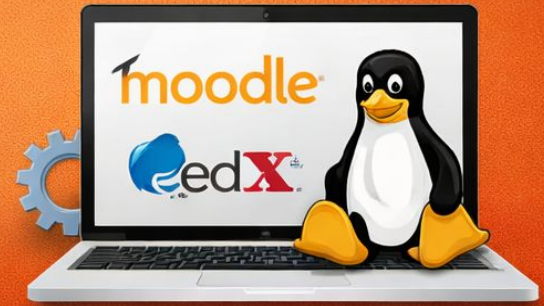
Types of LMS



Proprietary LMS



Freemium LMS



FOSS LMS



LMS Benefits



Streamlined Content Management

Central Hub, Accessibility



Skill-Based Learning

Customized Pathways,
Adaptive Learning



Interactive Learning Tools

Multimedia Support,
Real-World Simulations



Assessment and Feedback

Continuous Evaluation,
Immediate Feedback



Skill Documentation

Skill Documentation,
Career Tools



Flexibility and Accessibility

Remote Access,
Lifelong Learning

AI-Generated Image

New Trends in Online Course Platforms





◆ AI Integration

Auto-generated quizzes
AI tutors, Automated feedback



◆ Gamification Tools

Badges, Ranks
Leaderboards, Points system

The New Trends



◆ Learning Analytics Dashboards

Engagement tracking
At-risk learner identification



◆ Microlearning

Short modular videos
Bite-sized lessons
Daily learning tasks

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INTERACTIVE TEXT, AUDIO AND INTERACTIVE VIDEOS

VIRTUAL LABS, AR, VR, SIMULATION, INDUSTRY SPECIFIC TOOLS, ChatBot

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E-PORTFOLIO, SKILL BASED ASSESSMENTS

SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS COLLABORATIONS, PLAGIARISM

S

CREDIT ACCUMULATION: ACADEMIC AND INDUSTRIAL

BLOCKCHAIN CERTIFICATE GENERATION

The Take away...

- online learning platforms are essential for offering online courses.
- They include essential components and tools to provide the real and stimulating classroom environment to the learners.
- Online course platforms provide a comprehensive educational experience with easy registration and content navigation to motivate learners.
- There are many online course platforms available like free and paid platforms. Some platforms act as course aggregators (Learning Destination Platforms).
- The platforms developed by online course offering institutes are called integrated online learning ecosystems.





The Take away...

- The online course platforms contain many useful features related to content hosting, content delivery, dashboard and security which make them indispensable to offer online courses.
- The online course platforms have role-based login for various roles including teacher and learner.
- There are many online course platforms available and some of the popular platforms include DIKSHA, SWAYAM, Coursera and Colcommons.
- There are various criteria for selecting an appropriate course platform to offer an online course like cost, number of users, security etc.
- LMS are in integral component of any online course help the users to create, design, and deliver the e-content through eLearning platforms.

THE RECAP..

