



*Innovation
Adoption
Learning*

IMS/GLC Announces: An Open Standard for Question and Test Interoperability (QTI)

The Testing Industry Today

The computer-based testing and test publishing industry has been around since the 1980s and is largely stuck in a slowly evolving environment of proprietary standards that discourage and stifle innovation. This has been demonstrated by the lack of middle market services such as rudimentary authoring, certification management, and item banking and delivery tools.

In this proprietary environment, customers are often locked in to certain vendors or solutions making it difficult to:

- Migrate to new item authoring/banking system
- Migrate to new delivery vendors
- Migrate to new certification management systems
- Manage technical conversion time and costs to do any of the above

The Solution: Open Standards

Open standards are publicly available specifications designed to achieve a specific objective. These are typically publicly available for wide distribution and use by any and all. Open standards such as those produced by the World Wide Web Consortium (HTML, XML, etc.) have contributed immensely to the advancement of Web-based communications and interaction.

At a macro level, open standards can grow an entire industry, leaving more room and more opportunity for everyone. They encourage better products, because rivals can compete only

through pricing and quality. Most importantly, open standards provide the clarity and stability necessary to create new forms of communication and exchange. They provide an elegant, transparent way for people to interact in a cooperative fashion.

In brief, industries should look to support the development and wide adoption of open standards to:

- Improve interoperability
- Increase the number of alternative solutions
- Speed up innovation
- Reduce costs

QTI: the leading open standard for defining exam questions, tests, and results

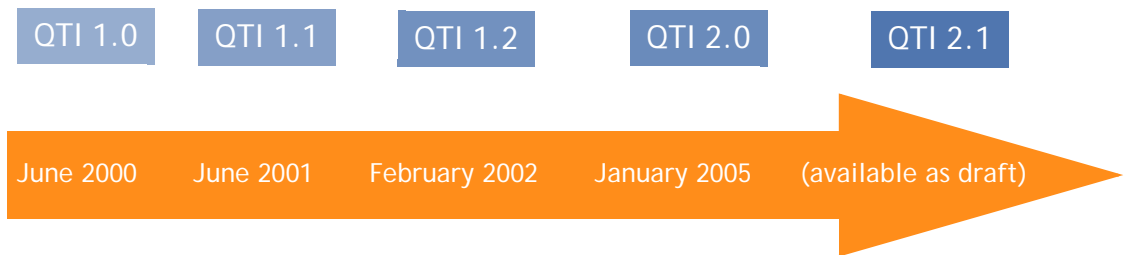
IMS Global Learning Consortium develops open specifications for a wide variety of learning systems that enable information and resource sharing between learning systems components, other business systems, and external systems and repositories.

For the testing and test publishing industry, IMS/GLC has created the Question and Test Interoperability (QTI) specification. QTI describes a data model for the representation of test questions, tests, and test results to enable the exchange of data with other critical applications and tools such as item banking, test authoring tools, test delivery systems, learning management systems, and data management systems.

The IMS QTI specification is XML-based and designed to support both interoperability and innovation through the provision of well-defined extension points for specialized or proprietary data.

The v1.0 QTI specification was published in June 2000, followed by a v1.1 update in March 2001 that introduced several new features. In February 2002, v1.2 added new structures and sophistication. After several years of adoption and use, IMS then developed QTI v2 in January 2005, focusing mostly on the individual assessment items. QTI v2.1, currently being developed, updates those parts of the specification that address the aggregation of items into sections and tests and the reporting of results.

The QTI v2.1 specification is available as a public draft. The project group is now collecting implementation experience before the specification reaches final specification status.



To learn more about QTI and to start using the specification, visit:

www.imsglobal.org/question

What is the IMS Global Learning Consortium?

In service to the community of organizations and individuals enhancing learning worldwide, IMS/GLC is a global, nonprofit, member organization that provides leadership in shaping and growing the learning industry through community development of standards, promotion of innovation, and research into best practices.

IMS/GLC began in 1997 as a project within the US National Learning Infrastructure Initiative of EDUCAUSE. Its focus has expanded to address international requirements in a wide range of learning contexts, including K-12 schools and corporate and government training. Today, IMS/GLC is known as the leading advocacy group encouraging the growth and impact of learning technology worldwide.