
**Information technology for learning,
education and training — Learning
analytics interoperability —**

**Part 3:
Guidelines for data interoperability**



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Contents

Page

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Foreword | iv |
| Introduction | v |
| 1 Scope | 1 |
| 2 Normative references | 1 |
| 3 Terms and definitions | 1 |
| 4 Abbreviated terms | 2 |
| 5 Introduction to data APIs for LET purposes | 3 |
| 5.1 General..... | 3 |
| 5.2 Experience API (xAPI)..... | 3 |
| 5.3 IMS Caliper..... | 4 |
| 5.4 Brief comparison of xAPI and IMS Caliper..... | 4 |
| 5.4.1 Context for the comparison..... | 4 |
| 5.4.2 Detailed comparison..... | 6 |
| 6 Summary of use cases for data interoperability | 9 |
| 6.1 General..... | 9 |
| 6.2 Mapping rules for xAPI and IMS Caliper..... | 9 |
| 6.3 Customized profiles for each specification..... | 9 |
| 6.4 xAPI for non-specified data (non-profiled data)..... | 10 |
| 6.5 Necessary for guideline to use both specifications..... | 10 |
| 7 Guideline for data interoperability | 10 |
| 7.1 Understanding data flows for learning analytics and data collection process..... | 10 |
| 7.2 Preparation for data interoperability..... | 12 |
| 7.2.1 General..... | 12 |
| 7.2.2 xAPI statements and relationship with its profiles..... | 12 |
| 7.2.3 IMS Caliper information model and relationship with its profiles..... | 14 |
| 7.3 Design guide for the mapping rules for xAPI and IMS Caliper..... | 17 |
| Annex A (informative) Use cases and practices for data interoperability | 20 |
| Bibliography | 41 |

Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 20748 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The increasing amount of data being generated from learning environments provides new opportunities to support learning, education and training (LET) in a number of new ways through learning analytics. Learning analytics is terminology that is used to refer to both an emerging field of discourse and an emerging technology. It spans the use of diverse sub-technologies, workflows and practices and is applied to a wide range of different purposes. For instance, learning analytics are being used to collect, explore and analyse diverse types and interrelationships of data, such as: learner interaction data related to usage of digital resources; teaching and learning activity logs; learning outcomes and structured data about programmes; curriculum and associated competencies.

As an emerging technology, learning analytics address a diverse group of stakeholders and cover a wide range of applications. Learning analytics raise new interoperability challenges related to data sharing; privacy, trust and control of data; quality of service, etc. The following issues are identified as general requirements for learning analytics applications.

For the learner:

- tracking learning activities and progression;
- tracking emotion, motivation and learning-readiness;
- early detection of learner's personal needs and preferences;
- improved feedback from analysing activities and assessments;
- early detection of learner non-performance (mobilizing remediation);
- personalized learning path and/or resources (recommendation).

For the teacher:

- tracking learners/group activities and progression;
- adaptive teacher response to observed learners' needs and behaviour;
- early detection of learner disengagement (mobilizing relevant support actions);
- increasing the range of activities that can be used for assessing performance;
- visualization of learning outcomes and activities for individuals and groups;
- providing evidence to help teacher improve the design of the learning experience and resources.

For the institution:

- tracking class/group activities and results;
- quality assurance monitoring;
- providing evidence to support the design of the learning environment;
- providing evidence to support improved retention strategies;
- support for course planning.

In addition, learning analytics practice can build upon prior work in LET standardization and innovation but there are several factors that require special attention. These factors include:

- requirements arising from the analytical process;
- data items required to drive operational LET systems are not always the same as desired for learning analytics;

- volume, velocity and variety of the data collected for analytics indicate different IT architectures, which imply different interoperability requirements;
- use of learner data for analytics introduces a range of ethical and other socio-cultural issues beyond those which arise from exchanging data between operational systems.

Therefore, this document gives a conceptual description of the behaviour of components related to learning analytics interoperability. In particular, this document specifies learning activity data interoperability which focuses on xAPI and IMS Caliper for the learning analytics process and interoperability.

Use cases will be collected to discover problems that arise in data transition points between heterogeneous learning data in schools, higher education and the workplace.

Information technology for learning, education and training — Learning analytics interoperability —

Part 3: Guidelines for data interoperability

1 Scope

This document specifies guidelines for mapping between different learning analytics data representations. Using xAPI and IMS Caliper as reference specifications, this document introduces data API regarding learning analytics as well as guidelines to use the APIs, which can be generalized to other contexts. Both syntactic and semantic mappings are in scope.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

assessment

means of measuring or evaluating learner understanding or competency

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TR 20748-1:2016, 3.2]

3.2

dashboard

user interface based on predetermined reports, indicators and data fields, upon which the end user can apply filters and graphical display methods to answer predetermined business questions and which is suited to regular use with minimal training

[SOURCE: ISO TS 29585:2010, 3.3]

3.3

data analysis

systematic investigation of the data and their flow in a real or planned system

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 2382:2015, 2122686]

3.4

data collection

process of bringing data together from one or more points for use in a computer

EXAMPLE To collect transactions generated at branch offices by a data network for use at a computer centre.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 2382:2015, 2122166]