

LearnITy™ EkSathe

The development of the Web has allowed for the creation of online communities. Communities may be defined as “the set of people who occupy a given structural location in an institution or society...most communities engage in some degree of collective cognition—the interactions through which they learn from one another’s experiences, set common strategies, develop a shared vocabulary, and evolve a distinctive way of thinking.” The web takes this notion a step further enabling people to “congregate in virtual places” and develop new ways of sharing their common interests and pursuits, thereby forming or participating in a “community of practice.” The LearnITy EkSathe is an innovative Collaboration Server that provides the necessary collaboration environment for an eLearning System.

Features

- ❖ **Purely web-based** – The product is built from scratch to be purely web-based and generates pure HTML 4 plus JavaScript. No special plug-ins are required for using the EkSathe
- ❖ **Platform independence** – Developed using Java and hence works on all server platforms (Windows, Linux, Solaris, etc.)
- ❖ **A single point of entry for the entire collaboration function**– The product provides components for all the necessary collaboration functions, both asynchronous as well as synchronous.
- ❖ **Collaborate via Threaded Discussion Groups**– A threaded discussion group or Forum is an online service that people can use to exchange information and ideas on various topics. When you open the main threaded discussion page, you will see a list of discussion topics, or boards, which you can click on to view, post, and/or respond to messages submitted by others. If you like, you can generate a search to view only those messages posted during a specific timeframe, containing certain keywords, or submitted by a particular individual.

- ❖ **Use attachments with TDGs for collaborative design or authoring**– The facility for attaching files with message posts and replies permits a group of people to collaboratively build up a design or author a course or any such collaborative creative activity.



- ❖ **Collaborate via Online Notice Boards** – An online notice board or bulletin board system (BBS) is an application dedicated to the sharing or exchange of messages or other files on a network. The application is available for use by all learners, faculty, support staff, etc. for quick posting of messages and announcements. Support for file attachment make it possible to share documents such as application forms, schedules, etc.



- ❖ **Collaborate via Shared Calendars** – View calendars the way you like them: Daily, weekly, or monthly. Schedule an event for a group and it appears on each member's calendar. Want a reminder of an upcoming event? No problem, EkSathe will pop-up an alarm message to notify you ahead of time.
- ❖ **Collaborate via Instant Messaging** Instant messaging (sometimes called IM or IMing) is the ability to easily see whether a chosen friend or co-worker is connected to the

Internet and, if they are, to exchange messages with them. EkSathe provides IM facilities to collaborate with fellow learners or faculty members who may be logged on to the LearnITy system.

- ❖ **Collaborate via Chat Rooms** – A chat room is a web-based application that provides a venue for communities of users with a common interest to communicate in real time. Chat room users register for the chat room of their choice, choose a user name and password, and log into a particular room. Inside the chat room, generally there is a list of the people currently online, who also are alerted that another person has entered the chat room. To chat, users type a message into a text box. The message is almost immediately visible in the larger communal message area and other users respond.
- ❖ **Integrate Collaboration with Content Delivery** – EkSathe comes bundled with integration with the LearnITy Content Delivery Engine. Thus learners while accessing a learning unit may collaborate with fellow learners who are also concurrently accessing the same unit via Instant Messaging or Chat Room, and with other learners who may not be logged in at the same time but are registered for the same unit via Threaded Discussion Group, or a Shared Calendar.



- ❖ **Internationalisation support** – The tool provides adequate support for international users through the facilities of Java language as well as the CSS generation mentioned above.
- ❖ **Highly Scalable and Fault Tolerant** – The EkSathe Server is developed using Java Servlets and its architecture is based on the J2EE standard. As a result of these

development and deployment choices, LearnITy is well equipped to address issues of scalability and availability. Clustering techniques may be employed for supporting load balancing, multilayer switches, and SANs.

System Requirements

- Any Operating System with support for JDK 1.5 (Any flavour of Windows, Linux, Solaris, etc.)
- Any Servlet API 2.3 compliant servlet engine.
- Any SQL compliant RDBMS with JDBC 1.4.0 support
- Any XML:DB compliant native XML database
- 512 MB of RAM (based on number of concurrent users additional memory may be required)
- 50 MB Hard Disk for the EkSathe itself; additional disk space requirement will depend on the amount of courseware and the no. of users to be managed

Licensing

The LearnITy™ EkSathe is sold as a component of the LearnITy LMS that comes in various packages (Lite, Workgroup, Enterprise, etc.)

Other Products in the LearnITy™ Suite

- ❖ LearnITy™ Assessor
- ❖ LearnITy™ Virtual Classroom
- ❖ LearnITy™ Course Management System
- ❖ LearnITy™ Digital Knowledge Library
- ❖ LearnITy™ Training Management System



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