



OLAT - Open Source LMS

<http://www.olat.org> - 10.2006 v1.0

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OLAT - Open Source LMS



Welcome to OLAT (Online Learning And Training), the web-based open-source *Learning Management System (LMS)* ¹ based on Java and completely free of charge.

The development of OLAT started in 1999 at the [University of Zurich](#), Switzerland, where it is the strategic learning management system and deployed on the [main OLAT server](#). The University of Zurich leads the further development and has a [team](#) of 12 developers pushing OLAT to the next level.

See the OLAT feature list or the documentation section to get more information about OLAT. For a first impression see OLAT in action using the demo server and the list of known installations.

If you want to join the open-source community subscribe to our mailing lists and browse the developers' section.

Official support for OLAT for Swiss university members is available at the [Multimedia & E-Learning Services](#). Commercial support is available through [frentix GmbH](#) and in Germany for universities, academic institutions and other associations also through [BPS GmbH](#).

First international OLAT conference 2008

(26.11.2007) We are very happy to announce the first international OLAT conference from March 26th to 28th 2008 in Zurich, Switzerland



Die erste OLAT Benutzer- und Entwicklerkonferenz

Datum 27./28. März 2008
 Ort Teleteaching-Hörsaal Irchel (Y35F51), Universität Zürich
 Call for Abstracts Einreichen möglich bis 7. Januar 2008
 Anmeldung Bis 29. Februar 2008 (bis 31.12.07 reduzierte Gebühr)
 Inhalt Workshops und Präsentationen zu OLAT (Online Learning And Training) dem Open Source Learning Management System
 Weitere Informationen <http://www.olat.org/conference>

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OLAT Calendar

We publish our release dates, conference participations and other important dates regarding OLAT in our [OLAT calendar](#). You can subscribe to that calendar--and integrate it into your own calendar--via the [OLAT Calendar iCal Link!](#)

Vote for OLAT

Do you like OLAT? [Vote for OLAT](#) at UNESCO.org or see [the voting results](#)

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [link]

Donation

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [link]

Who visits OLAT.org?

We would like to welcome speakers from all over the world. If you

1. More Information About OLAT

Why should I use OLAT?

Thanks for your interest in OLAT

- It is open-source and therefore free of charge
- The Java based framework can handle over 700 students simultaneously on [one standard Linux server](#)
- Thanks to its simple and intuitive web frontend, users will learn how to work with OLAT in no time
- OLAT uses cutting edge AJAX/Web 2.0 technology
- It is multilingual (UTF8) and offers translations for [over 15 languages](#)
- OLAT supports eLearning standards such as SCORM, IMS Content Packaging or QTI

See the [feature list](#) for more details.



The user's home portal with configurable portlets

1.1. OLAT Feature List and Some Screenshots

Click on the screenshots to get a full-size view!

General Overview

- Open Source ([Apache 2 License](#))
- Java based framework, HTML based frontend GUI
- AJAX/Web 2.0 enabled
- Entirely multilingual, UTF8 supported, online translation tool
- Supports standards such as IMS CP, SCORM, QTI etc.
- **Server requirements:** With OLAT, there is no need for a high-end server!

Users & Groups

- Unlimited number of accounts
- Different roles
- Various authentication methods
- Administrators can add, modify or delete users
- Personalized authoring and learning environment
- Manage your files via HTTP or WebDAV
- Configure your personal home portal
- Calendar (per course, per group and combined personal calendar)
- Be up-to-date as regards news and changes via e-mail or RSS feed
- Full-text search
- Share resources with other authors (learning resource repository)
- Form your own project groups and invite buddies
- Use discussion forums, file share space, contact forms etc.
- Instant Messenger: See who is online and chat with others using either the integrated chat client (AJAX based) or an external Jabber client

Authentication Options

- Users can create their own accounts (with/without approval by administrators)
- Direct login into OLAT with OLAT user name and password
- Access file system via WebDAV login
- Full Shibboleth integration
- Single sign-on e.g. via Switch AAI

<http://www.olat.org> - Version from: 10.12.2007
 Control access to courses by means of AAI attributes

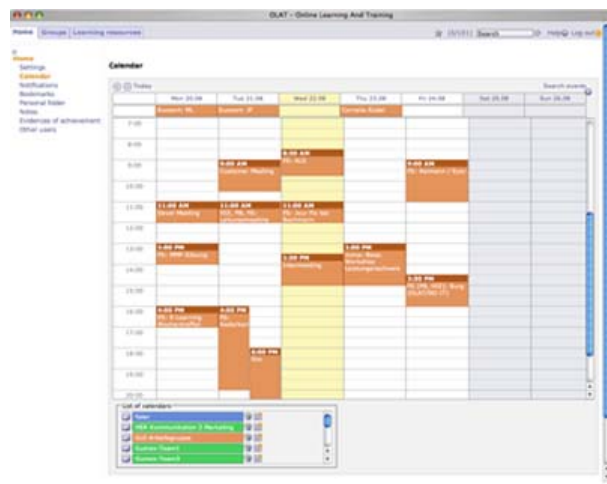
Course Management



Wikis are one of the new features in OLAT 5



The group tab lists all groups a user is subscribed to

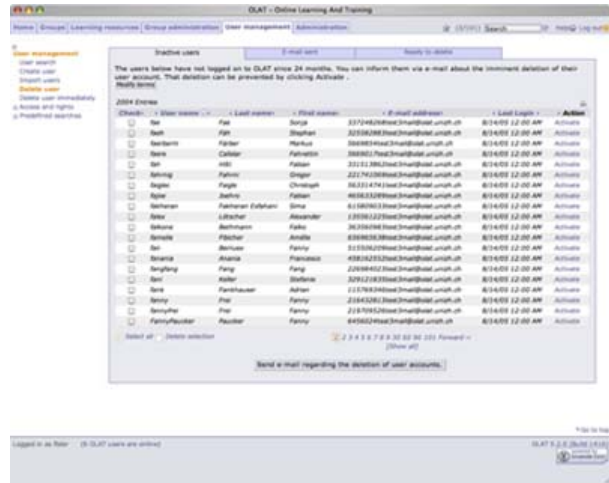


The OLAT calendar shows personal events along with group and course events

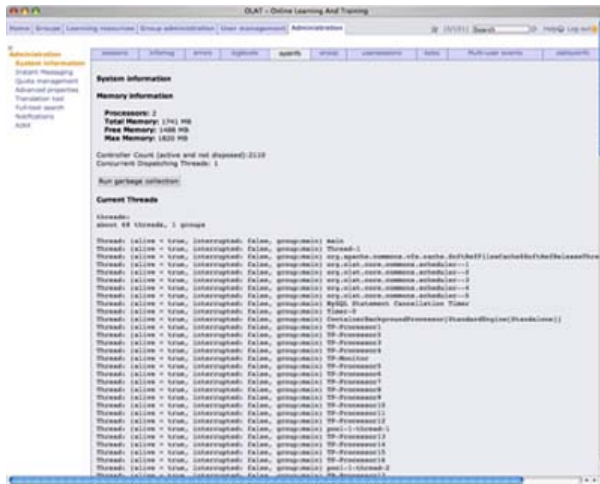




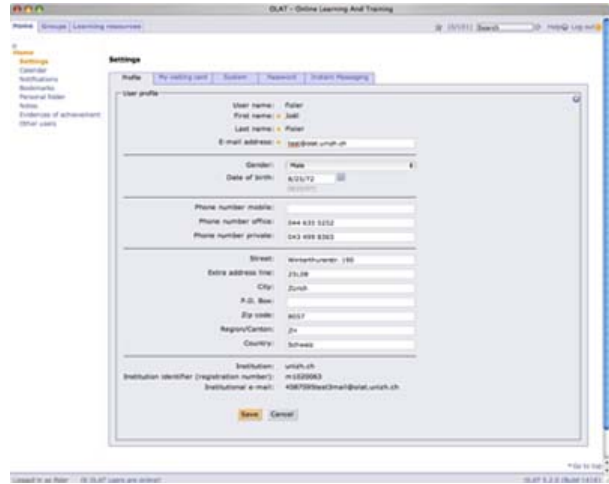
The resource list displays all available courses according to a student's role



In the user management you can add, modify or delete OLAT users



The OLAT administration offers tools to log, modify and delete sessions, errors, log levels, locks etc.



In OLAT each user can modify his or her personal settings in the home tab

1.2. OLAT Demo Server: Test OLAT Before Downloading It!

Feel free to test OLAT before you download and install it. Our demo server allows a login in different roles and languages. Please do not store any data on it since all courses are deleted automatically every weekend. To access our demo server, please go to: demo.olat.org

1.3. Who Uses OLAT? List of OLAT Installations

As far as we know, there are about 150 OLAT installations running worldwide. Some of them are just for test purposes, some are used for internal training but most of them are productive installations at some university or higher education institution. We do list the most important ones below. To our knowledge, OLAT has been installed in the following countries:

- Australia
- Austria
- Brazil
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Italy
- Korea
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- USA
- Vietnam

From the visits on our website we know that there are people interested in OLAT at the following locations (see [ClustrMaps for more information](#)):

OLAT.org website visits since the release of OLAT 5.2 (July 2007)

Furthermore OLAT has been or is being translated into most of the above countries' national language and more translations are on their way. Please check our [OLAT translations](#) page for a complete overview! If your country is missing or if you are interested in translating OLAT, please [send us an e-mail](#).

OLAT Main Installation: Universities of Zurich, Basel, Bern, Lucerne and the Federal Institute of Technology



The main OLAT installation is located at the [University of Zurich](#) (maintained by the [Multimedia & E-Learning Services of the University of Zurich](#)) but used by more universities such as the [University of Basel](#), the [University of Bern](#), the [University of Lucerne](#), the [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich](#) and in [Lausanne](#). It is accessible via the "Swiss Login" [AAI](#)² and therefore available for all AAI member institutions. Up and running since 1999 when OLAT 1.0 was installed.

- 23.08.2007: release 5.2.0 installed, 30'200 users, 700 authors and over 1000 published courses
- Between 250 and 400 users simultaneously online every day; the maximum is 750 users

² AAI stands for Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI). For detailed information both on technical and organizational level refer to the SWITCH AAI page.

OLAT - Open Source LMS

- Single-server environment for OLAT, MySQL and Wildfire IM Server. See [server requirements](#) for more technical information.

[University of Zurich OLAT Installation](#)

Bildungsportal Sachsen BPS



The [BPS Bildungsportal Sachsen GmbH](#) decided to use OLAT as their strategic future LMS. The BPS is a joint venture company financed by 10 universities in the state of Sachsen, Germany. Since BPS customized OLAT and built new features they renamed their product from OLAT to OPAL and promote their LMS under this name.

- Authentication done via Shibboleth infrastructure (Sachsen first and only German state using Shibboleth state-wide at all universities)
- Currently using the latest 5.2 release
- Nearly 20'000 registered users

BPS Bildungsportal Sachsen GmbH is one of the major contributors of the OLAT project.

[BPS OLAT Installation](#)

Warmia and Mazury Vocational Education Centre in Olsztyn (Poland)



Warmia and Mazury Vocational Education Centre in Olsztyn is an educational organisation which deal with vocational courses in many areas such as: building construction, landscape architecture, surveying and many others. It provides also many driving license courses.

- Installation of OLAT 5.2.2
- Default language is Polish
- Instant Messaging / Openfire enabled

[Warmia and Mazury Vocational Education Centre OLAT Installation](#)

Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich



Evaluation of students of primary schools using the OLAT testing and evaluation tools. Status: Version 4.1.1 installed, 41'000 randomly generated evaluation accounts (regular OLAT users with access to evaluation courses).

[IT-Test OLAT Installation](#)

iVee - Instituto Virtual de Ensino Estruturado (Brazil)



The [iVee](#) is not only running an OLAT installation in Brazil, it is also responsible for the OLAT translation into Brazilian Portuguese.

[iVee OLAT Installation](#)

Top Originators, USA



The goal of [Top Originators](#) is to introduce their customers to the profitable world of loan origination. For online training purposes the company is using a customized and extended version of OLAT.

- Based on OLAT 3.2.1
- Addition of a certification course element
- Addition of a search course element
- GUI customization

Installation, customization and extension development done by [Agile Studios](#), USA.

[Top Originators OLAT Installation](#)

Gartenbauschule LVG Heidelberg, Germany



The LVG Heidelberg is a school for horticulture in Germany.

- Installation of OLAT 5.1
- Instant Messaging / Jabber enabled
- Customized GUI

Customization and installation done by [frentix GmbH](#).

[Gartenbauschule OLAT Installation](#)

Zentrum für Ausbildung im Gesundheitswesen Kanton Zürich (ZAG), Switzerland



The ZAG is a new Swiss school for health care.

- Installation of OLAT 5.1
- Customized code extensions
- Video streaming and Picturepark media management integration
- Intranet is managed using OLAT; intranet designed on the OLAT course system (permanently visible in the top navigation unlike regular OLAT courses)
- Instant Messaging / Jabber enabled
- Customized GUI

Hosting, installation, customization and extension development done by [frentix GmbH](#).

[ZAG OLAT Installation](#)

Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit Zürich HSSAZ, Switzerland



The HSSAZ is one of the eight Universities of Applied Sciences in Zurich and specializing in social work education.

- Installation of OLAT 4.0.1 standard version
- Instant Messaging / Jabber enabled
- Integrated additional non-OLAT component project agenda; a straightforward project-planning tool

Hosting, customization and installation of OLAT by [imachine projekt ag](#).

[HSSAZ OLAT Installation](#)

University of Zurich IRC (Accounting and Controlling)



Decentralized installation for the accounting and controlling institute of the University of Zurich. Fork of early OLAT version, individual GUI implementation

[IRC OLAT Installation](#)

Academia Bohemica



The Academia Bohemica is a new internet university with the target to provide good university education for unprivileged people. Courses in philosophy and history are now in preparation.

- OLAT 4.1 release installed
- Default language is Czech
- Some courses accessible with guest account

[Academia Bohemica](#)

Frentix E-Learning Server



The [frentix GmbH](#) offers commercial services such as ASP, hosting, customizing, development, support, and training for the LMS OLAT. The [learn.frentix.com](#) server is used by frentix for OLAT training courses and hosts courses from frentix customers.

Currently the version 5.1 is installed.

[frentix OLAT server](#)

Swiss Federal Strategy Unit for Information Technology FSUIT



The [HERMES project management method](#) is used to manage, develop and execute projects in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It has been developed by the federal administration in 1975 and has since then undergone extensive revisions in 1986 and 1995. HERMES is not just used by the federal administration as open standard but is also at the disposal of cantons, educational institutions and business enterprises. HERMES has become a significant success as regards numerous ICT projects and serves as a common guideline for service providers and service procurers, in particular for project purchasers, project managers and project employees.

OLAT is used to train the HERMES project management method. Currently the version 5.0 is installed.

Installation, customization and extension development done by [frentix GmbH](#).

[HERMES E-Learning](#)

KTSI: Höhere Fachschule (HF) für Technik



The [KTSI](#) is a technical school in Basel, Switzerland.

In 2006 students evaluated and tested OLAT. The positive result of that project convinced the school board to push OLAT as their e-learning platform. In January 2007 OLAT went live and is very successful according to the school director.

[KTSI E-Learning](#)

Alta scuola pedagogica dei Grigioni, Switzerland

Since spring 2007 the [Pädagogische Hochschule Graubünden](#) offers an OLAT server running on the latest 5.1.3 release.

Realized and implemented by the [ICT-Atelier](#) in Chur.

[PHGR OLAT Installation](#)

Are You Missing Your OLAT Installation Here?

Please send a mail to info@olat.org along with your text and links if you want to be added to this site!

1.4. OLAT Download Material

Flyers and Posters

Feel free to download and print the product flyer of OLAT if you would like to promote OLAT on congresses, in workshops, your organisation or elsewhere.

OLAT 5 Flyer	0.6MB PDF	Print this Pdf in duplex mode and fold it in half to get the OLAT brochure in DIN A5 format
OLAT 5 Flyer	1.2MB AI	ZIP archive with frontside and backside of flyer as Adobe Illustrator file (can be edited)

[OLAT 5 Poster](#) 1.7MB PDF This version is for print only. Print it in DIN A0 format on a plotter to get the best results

[OLAT 5 Poster](#) 1.0MB AI This version can be edited by using the Adobe Illustrator

The OLAT Logo

[OLAT Logo with Text](#) 40kB GIF This simple GIF version can be used for websites etc.

[OLAT Logo with Text](#) 180kB AI This version can be edited by using the Adobe Illustrator, A3 format (resizable)

[OLAT Logo with Text](#) 204kB PDF This version is for print only, A3 format (resizable)

[OLAT Logo Stand-alone](#) 192kB AI This version can be edited by using the Adobe Illustrator, A3 format (resizable)

[OLAT Logo Stand-alone](#) 212kB PDF This version is for print only, A3 format (resizable)

University of Zurich Logo

If you need the University of Zurich logo or font have a look at the [UniCommunication Corporate Design](#) page. Unfortunately this page is only accessible for students and staff. Therefore we publish the PNG version (can be used for web and print) of the logo below:

[Logo University of Zurich \(Black Font\)](#) 40kB PNG English, Black Font

[Logo der Universität Zürich \(Schwarze Schrift\)](#) 40kB PNG German, Black Font

[Logo University of Zurich \(White Font\)](#) 40kB PNG English, White Font

[Logo der Universität Zürich \(Weisse Schrift\)](#) 40kB PNG German, White Font

1.5. Short Overview of the History of OLAT

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [\[link\]](#)

Earlier OLAT News

Roadmap for OLAT 5.2: Usability (Usage and Installation), Workflows and AJAX

(12.6.2007) We are currently working on the next OLAT release 5.2 due in late summer 2007. The main topics planned for the next release are:

- AJAX: from Beta feature to Productive
- User deletion
- Usability (usability lab results, easier group management, forum, portlets, glossary, overlays, Wizards)
- Community, installer for productive environment

OLAT 5.1.3 (May 8th, 2007)

The latest OLAT release contains some bug fixes in the HTML and test editor. Please refer to the complete notes to see a full list of changes and grab your copy from the [download page](#).

OLAT 5.1.2 Released (March 5th, 2007)!

OLAT 5.1.2 is out! It is most and for all a bug fix release to resolve problems caused by the earlier version. Please refer to the complete notes to see a full list of changes and grab your copy from the [download page](#).

OLAT 5.1 Public Release Available

The OLAT 5.1 Public has been released today (March 14th, 2007). Please note that OLAT 5.1.0 has only been released at the University of Zurich. The OLAT 5.1 Public Release is in fact OLAT 5.1.1.

OLAT 5.1 is mainly a consolidation release. As you can see from the notes the OLAT team contributed over 170 bug fixes and improvements. We decided that before implementing new features we needed to improve the existing features. Nevertheless OLAT 5.1 comprises some new features:

- New Wiki engine: The new Wiki engine offers a lot more functions (e.g. image thumbnails, footnotes etc.) and is superior to the one introduced in OLAT 5.0 (many bugs have been fixed). Please refer to [JamWiki](#) for a full Wiki syntax.
- Glossary: OLAT now offers a learning resource called "glossary" which can be included into one or several courses. Please refer to the manual for further information.
- The HTML editor now offers a possibility to include internal links to course elements (no need to copy and paste IDs and go-to-node javascripts)

OLAT Presented in the Newspaper "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (NZZ)

One of the major Swiss newspapers, the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (NZZ), presents OLAT in its section on "Media and Informatics" (March 9th, 2007). You can find the article "Vom E-Learning zum «Blended Learning»" online on the NZZ website. The article is available in the [Press section](#) but only in German.

OLAT Webapp Framework @ JAX



OLAT has its own web application MVC GUI framework. The essence of the separated framework is submitted under the name brasato framework for the JAX Innovation Award 2007.

- [brasato framework](#)
- [brasato demo](#)
- [jax-innovation-award](#)

OLAT 5.1 Public Release in Two Weeks

The OLAT 5.1 Public Release was planned for tomorrow (March 8th, 2007). Unfortunately we must announce that the release has to be deferred for at least two weeks. OLAT 5.1 was released at the University of Zurich one week ago. This server hosts more than 25'000 users and more than 1000 courses. While the system is up and running we have found some hidden bugs and would like to fix them before we go public with OLAT 5.1. We would like to apologize for the delay and comfort our open-source user with the fact that when OLAT 5.1 Public is released, it will be thoroughly tested and will work no matter what your setup is. Thanks for your patience and your interest in OLAT!

Using OLAT for E-Assessments at the University of Zurich

The E-Learning Center of the University of Zurich has currently presented E-Assessments in its [podcast](#). In the last edition of the E-Learning podcast the OLAT team leader Franziska Schneider talks about "OLAT & E-Assessments". You can download and listen to this 15 min-podcast [here](#). Furthermore the online magazine "UniPublic" has just published an article on the same topic. Please visit the [UniPublic website](#) for more information. Both publications are only available in German.

OLAT Team at LearnTec in Karlsruhe (Germany)



Presenting OLAT to eLearning professionals

1.6. Press

- **Gremmelmaier, Eric**, 2007. NZZ: Nach dem Hype der Alltag. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ*, April 3rd.
On the 3rd of April 2007 one of the biggest daily newspapers, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ, wrote a second article on e-learning at the University of Zurich. In that article Eric Gremmelmaier has a closer look at online courses and teaching material at the University of Zurich.
Download: [../download/publications/nzz_hype_alltag.pdf](#)
- **Zuberbühler, Hans-Jörg**, 2007. Vom E-Learning zum «Blended Learning». *Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ*, March 9th.
On the 9th of March 2007 one of the biggest daily newspapers, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung NZZ, dealt with e-learning at the University of Zurich. In that article Hans-Jörg Zuberbühler (member of the OLAT team) talks about OLAT and eLML (eLesson Markup Language, see www.elml.ch) at the University of Zurich.
Download: [../download/publications/nzz_blended_learning_print.pdf](#)
- **Strunk, Holger**, 2007. Open Source und kostenlose Software – Einsatzmöglichkeiten im Unterricht. *B&B Agrar - Die Fachzeitschrift für Bildung und Beratung*, 3, 88.
Holger Strunk at the Staatliche Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt für Gartenbau Heidelberg explains how OLAT is used at their school.
Download: <http://www.frentix.com/de/resources/articles/Artikel-BBAgrar-2.pdf>
- **Schulze-Fröhlich, Ruben** (2006). *Interview OLAT (Florian Gnägi)* [online]. [lmsnews.com](http://www.lmsnews.com). Available from: <http://www.lmsnews.com> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
In this interview Florian Gnägi, one of the founder of the OLAT LMS, talks about the early days of OLAT, its possibilities and where it is heading. It gives also some insight into the project's structure and its development cycle.
Download: <http://www.lmsnews.com/modules/content/index.php?id=28>

- **Genner, Sahra**, 2006. Exportschlagert E-Learning. *iQ - Quartalinfor für Uni und ETH*, 18th April, 11. Sarah wraps up the history of OLAT and talks about the current situation in a short article in IQ. That article is based on an interview with one of the OLAT founders, Sabina Jeger.
Download: [../download/publications/iQ51-p11.pdf](#)
- **SwissICT**, 2006. *FOSS-Studie Schweiz 2006*. Baden: Schweizerischer Verband der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologie SwissICT.
In the Swiss FOSS study of 2006 Florian Gnägi presents how he introduced OLAT at the Zentrum für Ausbildung im Gesundheitswesen (ZAG).
Download: http://www.swissict.ch/fileadmin/sekretariat/download/foss-studie_2006.pdf
- **Schleifer, Hans-Jörg, Strunk, Holger**, 2006. Blended-Learning in der Fachschule - Einsatz einer Lernplattform im Unterricht. *B&B Agrar - Die Fachzeitschrift für Bildung und Beratung*, 5, 162.
Download: <http://www.frentix.com/de/resources/articles/BB-Agrar-Artikel-1.pdf>
- **Zuberbühler, Hans-Jörg** (2005). OLAT bringt Release 4.0. *ZInfo - Elektronisches Informationsbulletin der Informatikdienste* [online], 18. Available from: <http://www.id.uzh.ch/publikationen.html> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
Hans-Jörg explains in this article what has been added to the OLAT 4.0 release and gives a short outlook into the future. The article has some nice screenshots of some of the new OLAT features.
Download: <http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/publikationen/zinfo/zinfo0018/kataktuell/olat.html>
- **Fuchs, Marita** (2005). E-Learning im Ernstfall. *UniPublic* [online], 26.08.2005. Available from: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
This summer at the University of Zurich the first real online tests have been taken substituting paper-based tests in the field of veterinary medicine. These tests are not just self-tests; students can appeal the test's results should they fail. These online tests are based on a standard OLAT installation in IMS QTI format. The article further describes this major milestone in the e-learning process at the University of Zurich.
Download: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/campus/uni-news/2005/1824.html>
- **Abächerli, Martina** (2005). *Uni Zürich öffnet E-Learning-Plattform für andere Universitäten* [online]. *pressetext.schweiz*. Available from: <http://www.presetext.ch/> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
This article describes the current state of OLAT and how it applies a Shibboleth interface to allow any Swiss student to log in to the University of Zurich platform.
Download: <http://www.presetext.ch/pte.mc?pte=050805044>
- **von Däniken, Theo** (2005). Beim E-Learning die Nase vorn. *UniPublic* [online], 05.08.2005. Available from: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
This article describes the current state of OLAT and how the spin-off company goodsolutions has been founded in spring 2005.
Download: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/campus/uni-news/2005/1741.html>
- **Kosler, Monique, Hahn, Daniel**, 2005. *Projekthandbuch: Funktionelle und softwaretechnische Analyse sowie Dokumentation der Lernplattform OLAT Version 3.1.4*. project thesis. University Chemnitz, Germany.
Review and documentation of the OLAT 3.2. system architecture.
Download: [../download/publications/OLAT_Projekthandbuch_mitAnhang.pdf](#)
- **Anonymous** (2005). *OLAT 4.0.1 Review* [online]. *lmsnews.com*. Available from: <http://www.lmsnews.com> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
A detailed test review of OLAT 4.0.1. The review covers the following aspects: installation, features, learner experience, teacher/administrator experience and didactic value
Download: <http://www.lmsnews.com/modules/content/index.php?id=21>

- **Anonymous** (2005). *Course Platform Evaluation Report: OLAT 3.2* [online]. Edutech. Available from: <http://www.edutech.ch> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
OLAT 3.2.1. Review: This review covers the following aspects: student's environment, tutoring and didactics, course development, system and administration
Download: <http://www.edutech.ch/lms/ev3/showreport.php?prodid=1>
- **Gnägi, Florian**, 2005. Interview mit Florian Gnägi, Partner JGS goodsolutions GmbH. *InfoWeek*, 15. August, 9.
This Swiss IT newspaper interviewed Florian Gnägi, one of the co-founders of OLAT.
Download: http://www.infoweek.ch/archive/ar_single.cfm?ar_id=15562&ar_subid=2&sid=0
- **Schnider, Guido**, 2004. *Instant Messaging Technologien in Learning Management Systemen*. Diploma thesis (PDF). Institut für Informatik der Universität Zürich.
In the past few years, Instant Messaging has become popular in private as well as in economic environments. This work discusses the possibilities of applying Instant Messaging in a webbased learning environment and its didactic benefits and implements Instant Messaging tools into the learning environment of the University of Zurich. Current research in the fields of didactics and awareness are fundamental for this discussion. Instant Messaging tools try to connect learning individuals that are spatially separated. The tools should also enable spontaneous communication between learners as well as support the creation of learning groups. The results of this theoretical analysis serve as basis for the implementation of selected Instant Messaging elements into the web-based learning environment at the University of Zurich. The implementation is based on the Jabber Internet standard.
Download: http://www.ifi.uzh.ch/ifiadmin/staff/rofrei/DA/DA_Arbeiten_2005/Schnider_Guido.pdf
- **Steinemann, Coni** (2004). OLAT 3: Die vollständige Neuentwicklung des strategischen Learning Management Systems der Universität Zürich ist in Betrieb. *ZInfo - Elektronisches Informationsbulletin der Informatikdienste* [online], 15. Available from: <http://www.id.uzh.ch/publikationen.html> [Accessed 22.11.2006].
Download: <http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/publikationen/zinfo/zinfo0015/live/kataktuell/olat.html>
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Download: <http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/publikationen/zinfo/zinfo0013/olat.html>
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Download: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/campus/uni-news/2000/medida/>

2. Download the OLAT Software

OLAT 5.2.3 Easy Installer Version (Demo Use Only!)

Just double-click the installer and OLAT will be installed and preconfigured automatically. No need to get Tomcat, MySQL or anything else. Use this version only for demo purposes or to create courses locally on your computer.

You need a Java SDK ≥ 1.5 on your computer. Not yet installed? Get it [here](#).

If you want to test OLAT, play around a bit--this package is all you need.

[OLAT 5.2.3 Easy Installer Version](#) 57MB ZIP

OLAT 5.2.3 Source Code Version (for Productive Use)

This package contains everything you need to install OLAT in a productive environment. It features an ant-based configuration and installation procedure; it requires a tomcat and a database installation as well as a Java SDK. A manual for the installation procedure can be downloaded in our [documentation section](#).

If you want to use OLAT in a productive environment then this is the right choice.

[OLAT 5.2.3 Source Code Version](#) 68MB ZIP

See the [release notes](#) of the following major release cycles for more information about the changes in each version. For a roadmap of our upcoming versions, please visit the [OLAT roadmap page](#).

Download Material

If you would like to download OLAT material such as flyers, logos or posters please have a look at the [About OLAT: Material](#) section.

Previous OLAT Versions

If you need an earlier version of OLAT you can download the latest three major releases below as ZIP archive. For all other versions please use CVS directly.

OLAT 5.1 Easy	57MB ZIP	OLAT 5.1.3 Easy Installer Version
OLAT 5.1 Source	68MB ZIP	OLAT 5.1.3 Source Code Version
OLAT 5.0 Easy	57MB ZIP	OLAT 5.0.2 Easy Installer Version
OLAT 5.0 Source	67MB ZIP	OLAT 5.0.2 Source Code Version
OLAT 4.1 Easy	42MB ZIP	OLAT 4.1.4 Easy Installer Version
OLAT 4.1 Source	41MB ZIP	OLAT 4.1.4 Source Code Version

2.1. Release Notes

OLAT 5.2 Public Release

Please note that OLAT 5.2.0 has only been released at the University of Zurich. The OLAT 5.2 Public Release is in fact OLAT 5.2.1.

The OLAT 5.2 release is a big step towards Web 2.0 and usability. In this release we tried to implement the results of the usability report done by the University of Berne. We also rebuilt the chat client using AJAX technology and updated the forum. Here is a short list of improvements:

- Usability: New tabs for navigation, creating groups from within course editor, better publishing support etc.
- Web 2.0/AJAX: Faster!
- Better chat client: Now HTML/AJAX based
- Forum: Mark threads as sticky or important, split threads
- Deleting workflow: Now you can delete users, groups, courses or resources using sophisticated filters and with prior notification of users and owners
- The OLAT help in German is now Wiki based (authors can help improve the manual!)

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [\[link\]](#)

2.2. Documentation

OLAT Overview of Functions

This paper explains the most important features of OLAT. It is meant for decision makers who need to get a quick overview of the functionality offered by OLAT. This paper does also contain some screenshots of OLAT.

OLAT 5 Functional Survey	1.5MB PDF	Overview of OLAT functions
OLAT 5 Funktionsübersicht	1.5MB PDF	Übersicht der OLAT Funktionen

OLAT User Manual / Online Help

The comprehensive OLAT manual covers authoring of courses and other advanced features. It serves also as general help for users. The same manual is also implemented in each installed OLAT as an online course. Since OLAT 5.2 the OLAT help is implemented as a Wiki in order to offer community members a simple way to help improving and writing the manual. We do not offer a PDF or HTML version anymore, sorry.

OLAT has also an integrated context-sensitive help. Wherever in the application--you will find a little question mark that gives you an explanation on the topic. Just click on it... Currently this context-sensitive help is available in German, Italian, English and French. Translating the help or manual into other languages is very welcomed.

Installation Documentation

The technical documentation explains the installation process and gives you hints on how to customize your OLAT installation. This documentation is only available in English and updated frequently. The single-page version is identical to the multiple-pages version but rendered as one big HTML page for better searching and printing. Many thanks to all those developers who contributed to OLAT's technical documentation! Special thanks go to the MELIS development team who wrote most of the documentation. More technical manuals and information can be found in the [Development section](#).

Installation Documentation OLAT 5.x	HTML	Multiple pages
Installation Documentation OLAT 5.x	140kB HTML	Single page

OLAT Translation Tool

A short description on how to use the integrated OLAT translation tool that makes translating OLAT to a new language really easy.

How to set up a new language is described in Section 4.2 of the [Installation Documentation](#) (see [Development section](#)).

OLAT Translation Tool User Manual	212kB PDF	English
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External Documentation

frentix GmbH

frentix has many documents available for download and other overall information about the OLAT LMS:

- [frentix Website](#)
- [frentix OLAT Overview Page](#) (in German)
- [frentix OLAT Resources Download](#) (mostly in German)

BPS Bildungsportal Sachsen GmbH

BPS hosts an OLAT Wiki that is used by the development team for specifications and discussions that are not hosted in the OLAT bug and issue tracking system [JIRA](#).

- [BPS Website](#)
- [BPS OLAT Wiki](#) (in German)

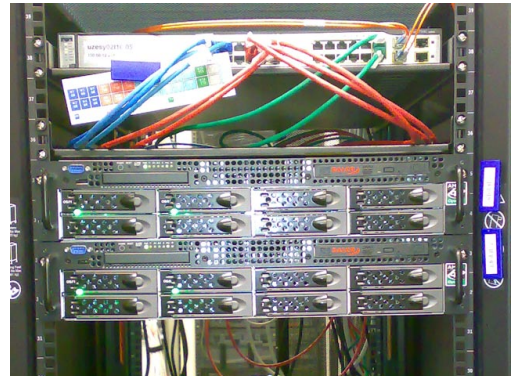
2.3. Server Requirements: No Need for a High-End Server!

The following list should give you an impression on what kind of server you will need if you want to install OLAT. Here are some general tuning tips:

1. Use fast RAM. Be aware that fully buffered memory (FDIMMS) are usually slower than normal DIMMS. Use FDIMMS only if you really need a lot of memory in your server. If you run OLAT with only 4GB, there is no need for FDIMMS.
2. Use fast disks. Normally the bottlenecks in OLAT are IO operations; faster disks can deliver more data.
3. If you use a hardware RAID controller, you can enable a disk cache that will speed up things quite a bit. But be aware that this can cause loss of data in case of a hardware or power failure. In addition be aware that XFS does not immediately write data to disks!

4. If you have no performance problems, run OLAT, MySQL and OpenFire on the same server. The first thing you might want to separate is the OpenFire server with its database.

University of Zurich (UZH)



Probably the biggest OLAT installation can be found at the University of Zurich:

- **OLAT Installation** : 36'000 registered users, more than 1000 courses, max. 900 users at the same time
- **Hardware/CPU** : AMD Opteron 64Bit Dual Core 2.2 Ghz and 8GB RAM, 100 Mbits internal network and 500GB FibreChannel Disks
- **Software/OS** : SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9, Java 1.5, Tomcat 5, MySQL 4.1, Apache 2.0 und OpenFire 3.3
- **Configuration** :
 - Apache MaxClients = 1000
 - Tomcat (VM Options) -Xss 256k -Xms 2560m -Xmx 2560m
 - Tomcat (server.xml) minProcessors = 10 maxProcessors = 1000
- **Used disk space** : 250GB data, 800MB MySQL DB dump, Tivoli Storage Manager for the daily backup

frentix GmbH



[frentix GmbH](http://www.frentix.com) is the main commercial OLAT provider in Switzerland.

- **OLAT Installation** : Up to 15000 registered users with up to 400 users at the same time
- **Hardware/CPU** : Intel Core 2 Duo E6600 64Bit Dual Core 2.4 Ghz and 4GB RAM, 100 Mbits internal network and 2x150GB disks (RAID1)
- **Software/OS** : OpenSuSE 10.2, Java 1.5, Tomcat 5.5, MySQL 5, Apache 2.0 und OpenFire 3.3
- **Configuration** :
 - Apache MaxClients = 150

- Tomcat (VM Options): -Xss256k -Xmx2048m
- Tomcat (server.xml): maxThreads=150 minSpareThreads=25 maxSpareThreads=75

Bildungsportal Sachsen



[BPS GmbH](#) is the main OLAT partner in Germany.

- **OLAT Installation** : 27000 registered users with up to 500 users at the same time, about 2200 courses
- **Hardware/CPU** : 2x AMD Athlon MP 2600+ (2100 MHz) 32Bit 3,5GB RAM, 1 GBit network and 8x200GB disks (RAID6)
- **Software/OS** : SL_4.5_X86, Java 1.5, Tomcat 5, Postgresql 8.1 , Apache 2.0 und WildFire 3.2
- **Configuration** :
 - Apache MaxClients = 500
 - Tomcat (VM Options): -Xss2048k -Xms1G -Xmx2G
 - Tomcat (server.xml): maxThreads = 500

Other Installations?

We would be happy to publish your server data in order to give new users an impression what hardware they will need if they choose OLAT. Just [drop us an email](#) with the information listed above. Thanks.

2.4. The OLAT Software License

OLAT is released under the Apache 2.0 Open-Source License. For more information about this license visit <http://www.apache.org/licenses/> If you download OLAT you receive a copy of the License (see file COPYING distributed along with each release).

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OLAT is distributed on an "AS IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND, either express or implied. See the License for the specific language governing permissions and limitations under the License.

Contributors

This Software contains code contributed by the following companies and people:

- [frentix GmbH](#), Switzerland: Florian Gnägi

- [BPS Bildungsportal Sachsen GmbH](#), Germany
- [goodsolutions GmbH](#), Switzerland: Felix Jost, Mike Stock
- [beecom](#), Switzerland: Gabriel Bucher, Rainer Kulow, Pascal Pellmont
- [Nouvelle srl](#), Italy: Roberto Bagnoli
- [LaLiLuna tutorial site](#), Germany: Sebastian Hennebrueder

Other Licenses affected by this Distribution

This product includes...

- software based on the [Apache Software License](#) such as Tomcat, Ant, Velocity, Log4J
- software developed by the [JDOM Project](#)
- [net.sf.jazzlib](#) library. It is under [GPL](#) with a special exception: "As a special exception, if you link this library with other files to produce an executable, this library does not by itself cause the resulting executable to be covered by the GNU General Public License. This exception does not however invalidate any other reasons why the executable file might be covered by the GNU General Public License."
- [DHTML calendar](#) software developed by [Mike Bazon](#) at dynarch.com. This program is free software published under the terms of the [GNU Lesser General Public License](#).
- [TinyMCE](#) WYSIWYG HTML editor (LGPL).
- [rss4j library](#) from ChurchillObjects.com.
- [SMACK](#) client library from jivesoftware.org.
- [Alex Macartney comic strips](#). Please note that these comics are not public domain and must not be used for any other purpose than being displayed in the OLAT home portal.
- software developed by the [reload SCORM player project](#).
- SCORM API adapter developed by the ISN ([International Relations and Security Network](#)). Author: [Matthai Kurian](#).
- software for the wiki rendering engine developed by [jamwiki.org](#).
- [jsMath](#) Java-Script library.
- [tooltip-js javascript library](#) from Jonathan Weiss
- [Quartz job scheduler library](#) from the OpenSymphony project (Apache 2 license)
- [prototype javascript framework](#)
- [script.aculo.us javascript framework](#)
- [extjs javascript framework](#)

3. Development: More Information for Developers

Bug and Feature Development Tracking

For bug tracking and enhancement issues we use JIRA. Go to bugs.olat.org to see which bugs are open or already fixed and which features are in the development process. If you find a new bug please do post that bug on our developers' mailing list. If we can reproduce the bug we will add it to the bug tracking system. Please do always search for existing bug reports before you send a mail. To watch what is committed and by whom visit our [fisheye CVS view](#):

- [OLAT main branch development \(RSS-Feed\)](#)
- [All OLAT development activities \(RSS-Feed\)](#)

Technical and Developer Documentation

The technical documentation chapter covers OLAT concepts, system architecture and the OLAT development framework.

Technical documentation OLAT 5.x	HTML	Multiple pages
Technical documentation OLAT 5.x	160kB HTML	Single page

How to set up OLAT in Eclipse

If you would like to develop some extensions or just play with the source code and debug some workflows of a running OLAT you will need to run OLAT out of the Eclipse IDE. There is a nice guide available for [setting up an OLAT development environment](#) under the Eclipse IDE. We suggest to use the [Eclipse WTP build](#) which includes by default a lot of useful plugins

OLAT Javadoc / API documentation

The generated javadoc of the source code can be found here. A good starting point is the [top level package org.olat](#) which contains a graphical overview. You will find technical explanations of packages and code examples.

Access to the OLAT CVS

We use the Concurrent Versioning System (CVS) to manage the OLAT source code. If you are interested in the cutting-edge version of OLAT or if you want to develop OLAT extensions you should check the OLAT CVS HEAD. There are also other branches with stable versions, e.g. OLAT-5-0-x-BRANCH with version OLAT 5.0.2. We recommend checking OLAT from within the Eclipse IDE (see above). We develop using Eclipse; all project settings are also part of the project. We use Eclipse 3.1.

- Host: `cvs.olat.org`
- Repository path: `/usr/local/cvs`
- User: `anonymous`
- Password: `anonymous`
- Connection type: `pserver`
- After configuring your new CVS location check `olat3` of the HEAD branch

When checking OLAT on a shell use the following commands:

1. `cvs -d :pserver:anonymous@cvs.olat.org:/usr/local/cvs login` (password is anonymous)

2. `cvs -d :pserver:anonymous@cvs.olat.org:/usr/local/cvs co olat3`

If you want to send us some code, please send only patches you have made using the patch mechanism from Eclipse. Send us the patch via the developers' mailing list.

See the [CVS log archive](#) to get an impression of current development activities.

3.1. Future OLAT Development: Roadmap

Topics for the OLAT 5.3 Release

The next major release 5.3 is planned for January 2008. We will focus on the following topics:

- Continue implementing results from the usability lab at the University of Berne
- Improve the calendar
- Better configuration of portlets (maybe some new portlets) on user entry page
- Wiki bug fixes and improvements
- A new Easy Installer for OLAT
- Infrastructure enhancements
- Redesign of layout based on a CSS framework
- Scalability enhancements

3.2. Mailing Lists

OLAT offers three different mailing lists you can subscribe to:

- [Announcement list](#): New releases are announced via this list. At least one mail per month (moderated list!).
- [Users' list](#): You have installed OLAT and now have questions or comments on using OLAT? This is your list.
- [Developers' list](#): You are a Java developer working with OLAT and would like to discuss technical stuff. This is your list.

The OLAT customer team at the University of Zurich regularly checks the users' list; then the developer team will respond to mails on the developers' list. So please post general questions and comments on these lists and do not mail the OLAT team directly.

Subscribing to Lists, Managing Subscriptions

To add or remove mailing list subscriptions you have to login to our list-server first!

Get Your Password

If you have never subscribed to one of our lists and do not have a password (or if you forgot your password) you can enter your e-mail address below and the server will send you your password:

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [\[link\]](#)

Login to the List Server

If you have received your password or can still remember it you can login to our list server and manage your subscriptions (add, remove, browse etc.):

Only pictures can be viewed in the PDF version! For Flash etc. see online version. Only screenshots of animations will be displayed. [link]

3.3. Translations

OLAT 5.2 is released along with the following user interface languages:

Translations

supported

development:

- Afrikaans
- Arabic
- Albanian
- Chinese (traditional)
- Chinese (simplified)
- Hebrew
- Hungarian
- Czech
- Indonesian
- Danish (Bahasa)
- Farsi
- Rumantsch (Persian)
- Turkish
- Greek
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian

OLAT offers full UTF-8 support and an online translation tool. If you want to help translating OLAT, please contact info@olat.org. For more information about where OLAT is in use please check our [OLAT worldwide](#) page. A short description on how to use the integrated OLAT translation tool that makes translating really easy:

[OLAT Translation Tool User Manual](#)

212kB PDF

English

4. Getting OLAT Support

We - the OLAT team at the University of Zurich - usually do not offer support for community installations of OLAT. If you have general questions about OLAT please subscribe to the [OLAT users' or developers' mailing list](#) and browse through earlier threads or ask questions there. Please check before posting whether your question has already been answered or not.

If you want commercial support when setting up your OLAT server you can choose from the list below. For all other general enquiries send us a mail to: info@olat.org. We especially welcome mails if you have installed a new OLAT server and would like to be listed on our [OLAT worldwide](#) page :-)

University of Zurich (UZH)



University of Zurich

The OLAT project has been founded 1999 at the University of Zurich and is now hosted by its [Multimedia and E-Learning Services \(MELS\)](#) division. The university operates and supports a very large OLAT installation that can also be used by other Swiss universities under a service level agreement.

- Web: www.id.uzh.ch
- Contact: info@olat.org (for Swiss University members only: support@olat.uzh.ch)
- Type: Academic
- Available: Switzerland
- Target group: Members of Swiss universities, no commercial support
- Services: operating, software development, training, support, consulting, content production

frentix GmbH



frentix is an official spin-off company that has been founded in 2006 by one of the co-founders of the OLAT project to offer commercial support for the open-source LMS OLAT. As a one-stop-shop e-learning service provider frentix offers all necessary services to successfully setup, customize, introduce and operate OLAT installations and empower users in building rich e-learning courses. Since frentix is an active partner in the OLAT open-source community and the development team has a long record in the OLAT project, the company is also capable of developing new OLAT modules or extending the system architecture on client request.

- Web: www.frentix.com
- Contact: contact@frentix.com
- Type: Commercial
- Available: Switzerland, Europe and worldwide
- Target group: Schools, colleges, universities, companies and other associations
- Services: hosting, operating, customizing, software development, training, support, consulting, content production

BPS Bildungsportal Sachsen GmbH



The BPS acts as an OLAT service provider for higher education in the state of Sachsen in Germany. BPS operates and supports a large OLAT installation under the brand OPAL for its university clients and offers the same services also to other clients in the field of higher education in Germany. BPS is a spin-off from 11 universities of Sachsen, Germany.

- Web: [BPS Contact](#), [Project website](#)
- Contact: info@bps-system.de
- Type: Commercial and academic
- Available: Germany
- Target group: Universities, universities of applied sciences, companies and other associations
- Services: operating, software development, training, support, consulting, customizing, hosting

JLS goodsolutions GmbH



goodsolutions is an official spin-off company that has been founded in 2005 by previous members of the OLAT project team to offer commercial java development services based on the OLAT software framework which is also known under the name brasato framework. goodsolutions has in-depth knowledge about the OLAT system architecture and is capable of developing new OLAT modules or extending the system architecture on client request.

- Web: www.goodsolutions.ch
- Contact: kontakt@goodsolutions.ch
- Type: Commercial
- Available: Switzerland, Europe and worldwide
- Target group: Companies and universities
- Services: Software development

5. Glossary

AAI:

AAI stands for Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI). For detailed information both on technical and organizational level refer to the [SWITCH AAI page](#).

LMS:

A Learning Management System (or LMS) is a software package, usually on a large scale (that scale is decreasing rapidly), that enables the management and delivery of learning content and resources to students. Most LMS systems are web-based to facilitate "anytime, anywhere" access to learning content and administration. Some famous open-source LMS are [OLAT](#) and [Moodle](#), famous commercial LMS are [WebCT](#) and [Blackboard](#).

Shibboleth:

Shibboleth is standard-based and open-source middleware software which provides Web Single SignOn (SSO) across or within organizational boundaries. It allows sites to make informed authorization decisions for individual access of protected online resources in a privacy-preserving manner. See the [Shibboleth Website](#) for more information.

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Download: <http://www.lmsnews.com/modules/content/index.php?id=21>
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Download: <http://www.edutech.ch/lms/ev3/showreport.php?prodid=1>
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Download: <http://www.presstext.ch/pte.mc?pte=050805044>
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Download: <http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/campus/uni-news/2005/1824.html>
- **Genner, Sahra**, 2006. Exportschlager E-Learning. *iQ - Quartalinfo für Uni und ETH*, 18th April, 11. Download: [../download/publications/iQ51-p11.pdf](http://www.unipublic.uzh.ch/download/publications/iQ51-p11.pdf)
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