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Newsletter

8th OpenACS/.LRN Conference Cartago, Costa Rica

A very nice conference, good papers and good fun. The folks from Costa Rica did a very good job as hosts for this conference, and everybody enjoyed their stay. Costa Rica is a wonderful country with a lot of nice places to visit. (View pictures: [1](#), [2](#))

Words from the Organizers

For the ITCR it was a great opportunity to organize this event. It allowed us to show the advances we have made in the TEC Digital project and the benefits of using OpenACS.

It is important to mention that we could also share our experiences with other communities and institutions and improve the sharing methods.

The OpenACS community was very kind and accessible. It was great having them with us.

Mario Chacón Rivas

Organizing this event was an arduous job done over 6 months. It was the first time we organized an event of this kind, that is why we had to look for others experiences to be able to assure the quality of the event.

Personally I am glad because of the work done by the TEC-Digital team to coordinate this event, the work done before, during and after the conference.

The enrichment gotten from the conferences, makes this event very important to share the work done to the OpenACS/.LRN community, sharing ideas and generating new ones.

Cristina Arias Muñoz

Presentiality is very important to share ideas, knowledge and experience, that allows the participants to learn in a few days about our organization's work.

In my point of view, for TEC Digital it represents a window that allows us to show our projects to the .LRN community, to learn from the participants experiences and to strengthen us as team.

It is a valuable opportunity for the young professionals in our team to start on the road of presenting their work in international conferences.

Julia Espinoza Guzmán

Presentations

For more information check out the [Conference Papers](#) or visit the [conference website](#).

- **.LRN Blocks Planner, Assessment & Evaluation** - The Blocks Planner is an interface to organize the content of the Courses. The content can be organized in a weeks or topics format, and all the activities/resources in the course can be linked using the planner. A new set of activity types are defined to use the current activities/resources in different ways with a default configuration, giving them a more specific focus. This will give the teachers an easier way to use the activities with expected configurations.
Rafael Pastor (UNED), Alvaro Rodríguez, Rocael Hernández (Viaro Networks)
- **Management of Grades in Virtual Classroom Platform .LRN** - The new package CARDS is a tool that has been completed in the project "Management of Grades in the Virtual Classroom Platform .LRN", allowing the professors to create complex evaluations methods.
Dario Roig (Universidad de Valencia)
- **OpenACS/dotLRN integration with ITCR platform** - OpenACS/dotLRN integration with the ITCR platform, allowing the creation of new features and tools for students, teachers and administrative staff.
Mario Chacón Rivas, Isaac Alpízar Chacón, José A. Garita (TEC - Digital, ITCR)
- **Development of Eduwiki and Edublog for .LRN** - Eduwiki is a tool that aims to add educational components within the model of the courses in .LRN.
Héctor Amado, Rocael Hernández (Galileo University)
- **A Twitter Application for .LRN** - Twitter is one of the most popular Social Networks,. A Twitter Application has been written to provide the ability to create a channel of communication for each course in .LRN
Marco Rodríguez , Rocael Hernandez, Miguel Morales (Galileo University)
- **Application Usage Statistics for .LRN** - An application that generates useful statistics of how teachers are using dotLRN applications. It has three different predefined reports and a customizable report that can be saved for future use.
David Chavarría, Rocael Hernandez, Miguel Morales (Galileo University)
- **New Question Types in Assessment for .LRN** - Assessment is one of the key packages in .LRN and Hot-Potatoes is well known as a teaching software, creating interactive quizzes. The extended version of assessment will include new question types: cloze test, match test and mix test.
Rafael Pastor (UNED), Alvaro Rodríguez, Rocael Hernández (Viaro Networks)
- **Integrating OpenACS/dotLRN with an Open and Accessible Service Architecture Framework** - Integration of the dotLRN learning management system with the Open and Accessible Service Architecture (O-ASA) framework in the scope of the EU4ALL project to provide services for accessible and adaptive lifelong learning.
Emmanuelle Raffenne, Olga C. Santos, Jorge Granado, Jorge Couchet, Jesus G. Boticario (aDeNu – UNED)



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Posters

- Learning Content in Galileo University
Hector Amado (Galileo University)
- Galileo University Active Contribution Process
Byron Linares (Galileo University)
- CMAP Integration with .LRN
Cristina Arias (ITCR)
- TEC-Digital Project
Tec-Digital (ITCR)

Workshops

- Building Learning Communities without dotLRN
Don Baccus, Michael Steigman (MGH)
- Understanding disabilities and universal design
Emmanuelle Raffenne (aDeNu - UNED)

Next Conference ...

The place for the next OpenACS/.LRN is not decided yet but it will be soon, once we contact possible hosts.

[This work has been done for the .LRN Consortium](#)