

Springboard to knowledge



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Introduction

This document describes the changes between it's learning 3.0 and it's learning 3.1. The changes and new features are described in detail below and summarised as follows:

- Lesson planner
- it's learning mobile
- ePortfolio
- Third party tools (proxy tools)
- New filter in the assessment portfolios
- Digital exam
- Improved international support
- More advanced message settings
- Absence and community translated to all supported languages
- More library templates and a better template system

New features in 3.1

Lesson planner

This is a new planning tool for the teacher. The lesson planner makes planning easier from the teacher's point of view, and gives learners a better overview of the course plans.

To create a course, enable the lesson planner under **Course settings** in the navigation tree → **Properties**. When the lesson planner is enabled, find it by clicking **Course settings** → **Lesson planner**. The lesson plans are displayed on the course main page for the learners and teachers in the course. The teachers are allowed to set the duration of the lesson plans.



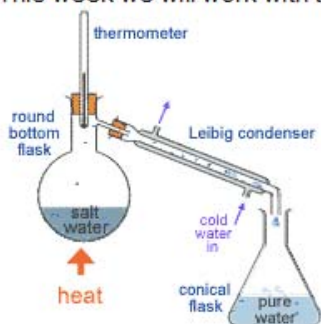
Lesson plan

Show all

Week 1

From 13/11/2006 08:00 - 17/11/2006 20:00

This week we will work with the topic: separating mixtures of materials



- ◆ Lab (Before 02/12/2006)
- ◆ Mobile quiz (Before 25/12/2006)

Figure 1: A lesson plan in a course.

Adding a lesson plan is simple: add a title, a start and stop time, a description, the learning objects, and the number of school hours you want to spend on the plan.

If you add a learning objective and the learning objective has learning tools such as notes and assignments connected to it, the learning tools are listed in the lesson plan.

Lesson plans can be exported and imported (in XML format). This feature makes it easy for a teacher who wants to re-use a lesson plan in other courses. **Note:** Learning objectives and learning tools connected to the lesson plan are not included in the export.

Add lesson plan

Title

Start Date Hour 08 Minute 00

Stop Date Hour 08 Minute 00

Description 3 Arial **B** *I* U

Learning objectives Learning objective 25: English literature [Add learning objectives](#)

Remove learning objectives

Class hours to spend on this plan

Figure 2: Add lesson plan

it's learning mobile

This application allows you to access it's learning from your mobile telephone. it's learning mobile gives you an overview of the most important activities in it's learning. It has a calendar function and an overview of today's tasks, and you can also add new activities. The mobile application provides users with quick access to the calendar and other activities.

Learners are allowed to take tests and submit assignments, and some teachers use it's learning mobile to provide learners with mandatory videos and tests before a specific lecture. This ensures that learners are properly prepared for the lecture.

To use it's learning mobile, you need to have a mobile phone that can access the Internet.

Login

You can access it's learning mobile by entering the link <http://mobile.itslearning.com/> in your mobile phone browser. Use your regular it's learning user name and password. Sites and languages are selected from the drop-down list.

Note: Sites with Single Sign-On are provided with separate passwords for it's learning mobile.

User interface

The it's learning mobile user interface differs somewhat from the web application. The reason is simply that a mobile phone has a smaller screen and different navigation methods. However, the elements should be recognisable for most it's learning users.

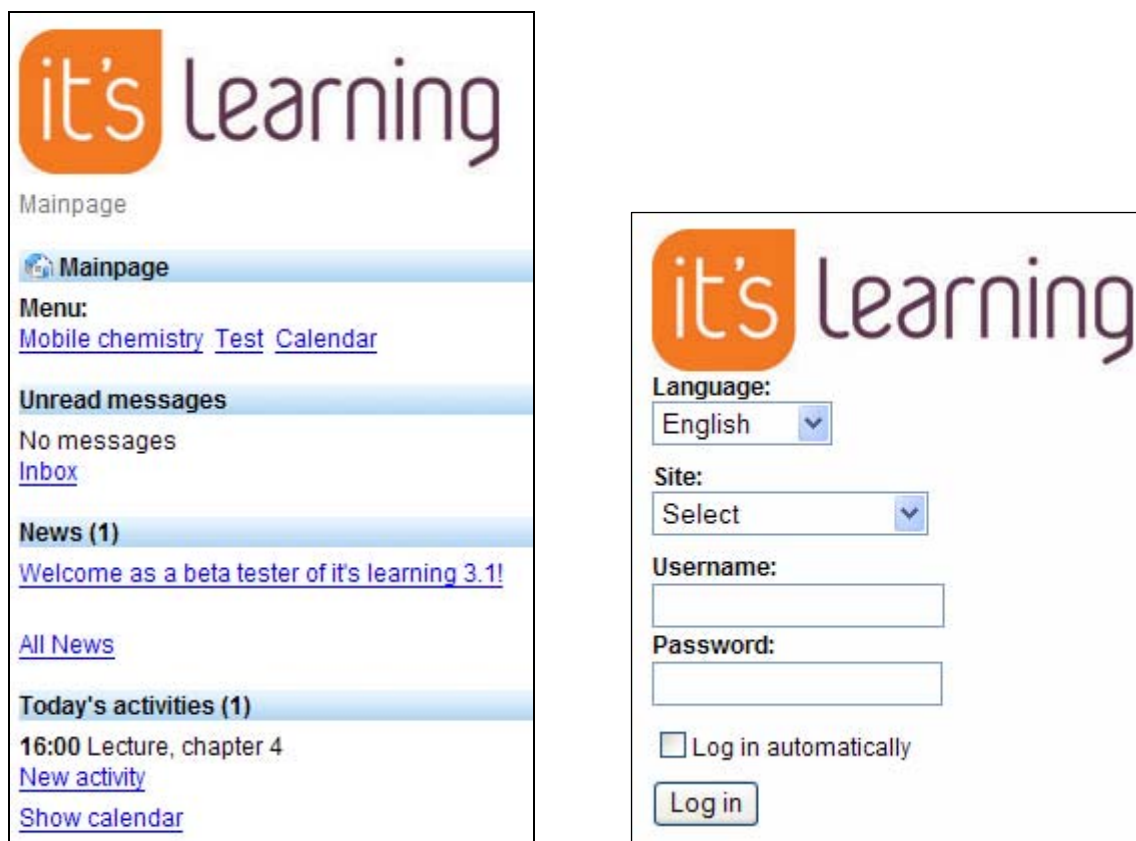


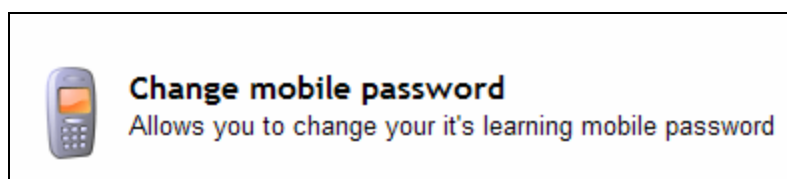
Figure 3: it's learning mobile front page and login page.

SSO and mobile passwords

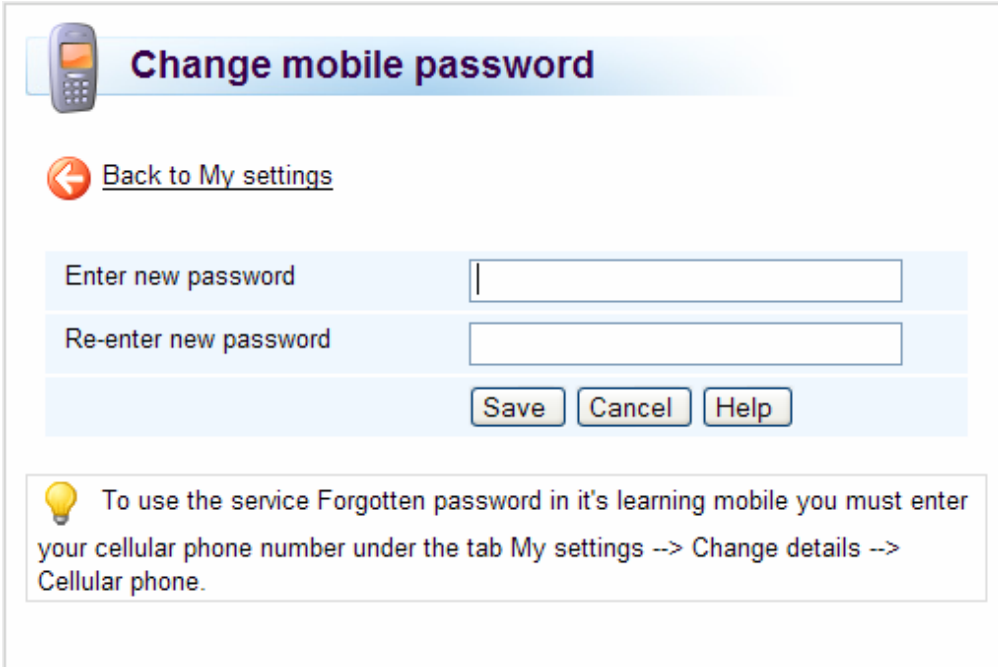
Customers with Single Sign-on have separate passwords for the it's learning web application and it's learning mobile.


Changing mobile password with SSO


1. In order to change the mobile password, click **My settings** → **Change mobile password**.



2. Enter and re-enter the new password in the fields and click **Save**. You can now log in with you new mobile password at <https://mobile.itslearning.com>.



 **Change mobile password**

 [Back to My settings](#)

Enter new password

Re-enter new password

 To use the service Forgotten password in it's learning mobile you must enter your cellular phone number under the tab My settings --> Change details --> Cellular phone.

ePortfolio

A collection of portfolios that is published as an entity on the Internet constitutes an ePortfolio. An ePortfolio can be described as the user's digital identity. it's learning's ePortfolio is highly customisable, and users themselves can select the elements they want to present. Users can set access permissions and choose whether to publish their ePortfolios on the Internet, or keep them completely private. it's learning's ePortfolio features a blog, external links, an "about me" page and private portfolios. The portfolios are folders where the users can add the content they want, such as their CV, school assignments, and files.

Both learners and teachers can use the ePortfolio as a reflective journal. The combination of portfolios and blogs provides an opportunity to reflect over what has been done, what has been learned, and what other people think of the work. Teachers, for example, can use the blog to reflect on their practice. Learners, parents, and other teachers can comment on the entries, and teachers can use the comments and feedback to improve.

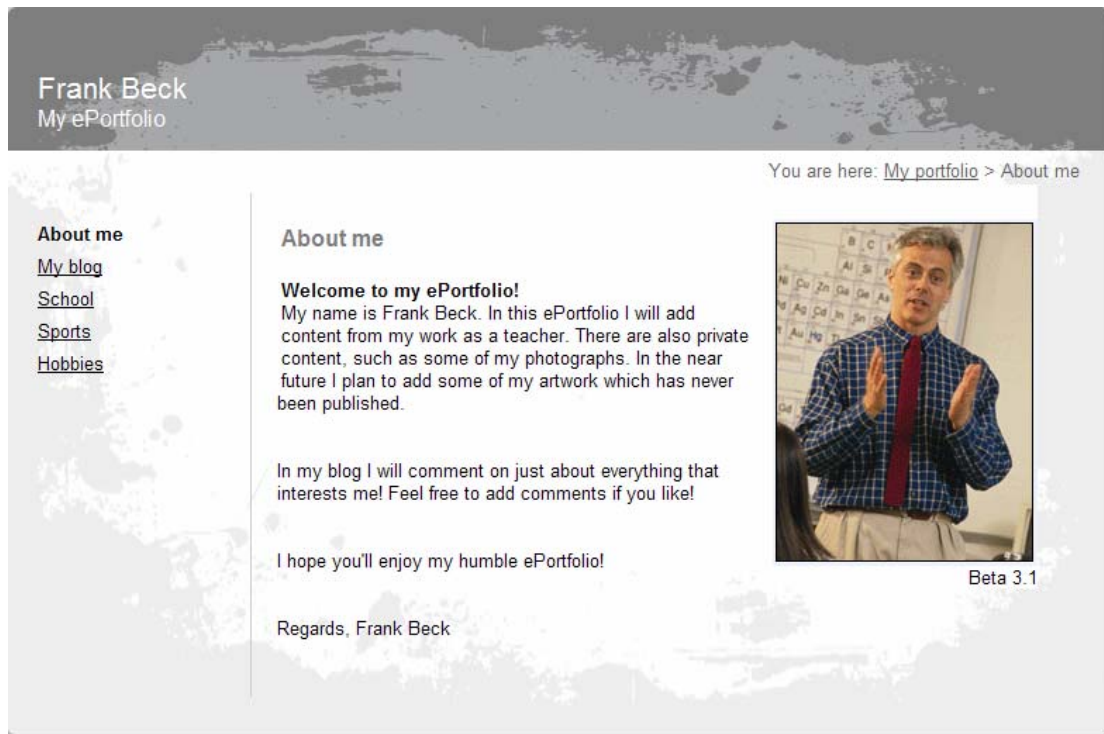


Figure 4: An it's learning ePortfolio.

Teachers and learners will notice a new tab in the top menu. The **My files** tab has been replaced with an **ePortfolio** tab. The link to **My files** is now located on the ePortfolio page.

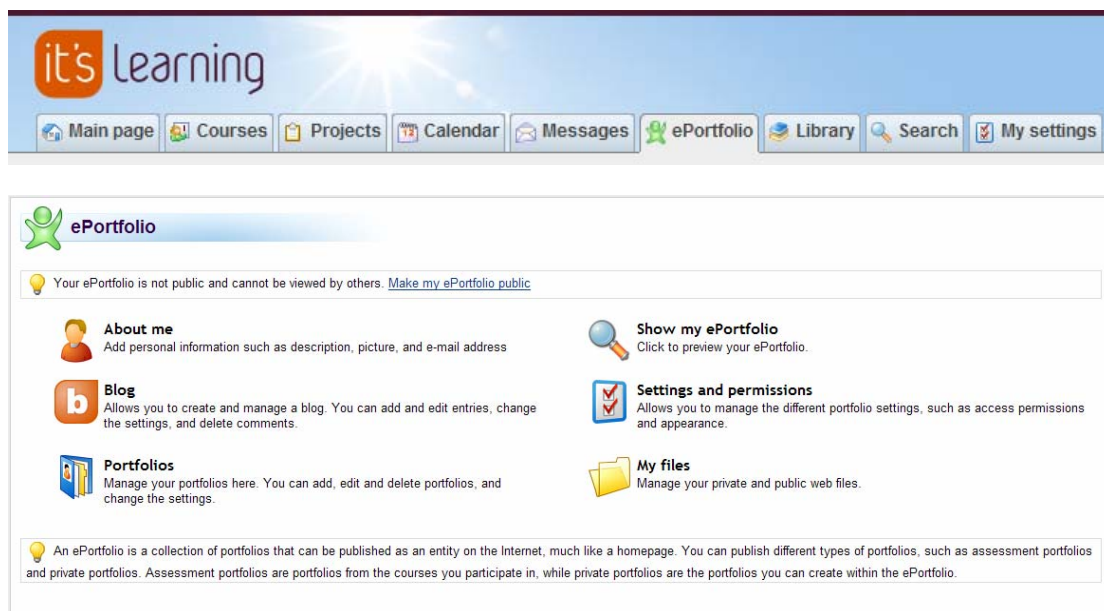


Figure 5: New ePortfolio tab in the top menu, and the ePortfolio page.

The ePortfolio page contains the following links:

Blog

It is becoming increasingly popular to publish blogs on the Internet. A blog, short for “web log”, is a personal space on the Internet that the owner uses to publish articles. In it’s learning, the blog content can be categorised. The users are can add and manage their private categories; examples are “Personal”, “School”, “Sports”, “News” or “Culture”.

When you click the **Blog** link, you see two tabs in the work area: **Blog** and **Comments**. Click the blog tab to add, edit and delete blog entries. Click the **Comments** tab to read or delete comment entries.

You can manage the blog settings by clicking **Edit blog settings** in the upper right corner of the work area. Here you can change the blog title, manage access permissions, enable an RSS feed, and enter an e-mail address that notifies you when new comments are added. You can include or exclude the blog from the ePortfolio in **Settings and permissions** (see below).

Frank Beck
My ePortfolio

You are here: [My portfolio](#) > My blog

[About me](#)
My blog
[November 2006 \(1\)](#)
[School](#)
[Sports](#)
[Hobbies](#)

My blog

Blogs in English courses
It is now easier than ever to integrate technology, especially the Internet, in the classroom. Publishing on the web has become easier than ever. It used to be that one needed to know some basic HTML, or know how to use web design software.

Now it is possible to publish work on the Internet without any technical knowledge. With a few simple clicks of the mouse, anybody can have their own web page and begin creating content for others to see. One example is my ePortfolio.

I plan to use blogs actively in next year’s English courses. My idea is that all learners should create their private it’s learning blogs and use them to write at least two blog entries per month. I do not plan to censor or limit the subjects or content in any ways; they should be completely free to write whatever they want. I hope this will encourage them to write and use the English language.

by Beck, Frank 24 November 2006 12:24:05 [3 Comments](#)

Figure 6: An it’s learning blog.

3 comments

1. by Guest 29 November 2006 13:17:29
This sounds great, Frank!

2. by Beck, Frank 29 November 2006 13:20:43
Thanks, I hope it will catch on. I'll get back to the results in this blog at the end of next semester.

3. by Guest 29 November 2006 13:22:20
Thanks, Frank. You're an inspiration!

Add comment

Figure 7: Comments on the above blog.

Settings and permissions

By clicking **Settings and permissions**, you can select the elements you want to include in your ePortfolio appearance (for example blog, “about me” and so on), and access permissions. You can choose from 14 different skins when you customise your ePortfolio. Click **Change skin** to preview the different skins. You can also add external links from this page.

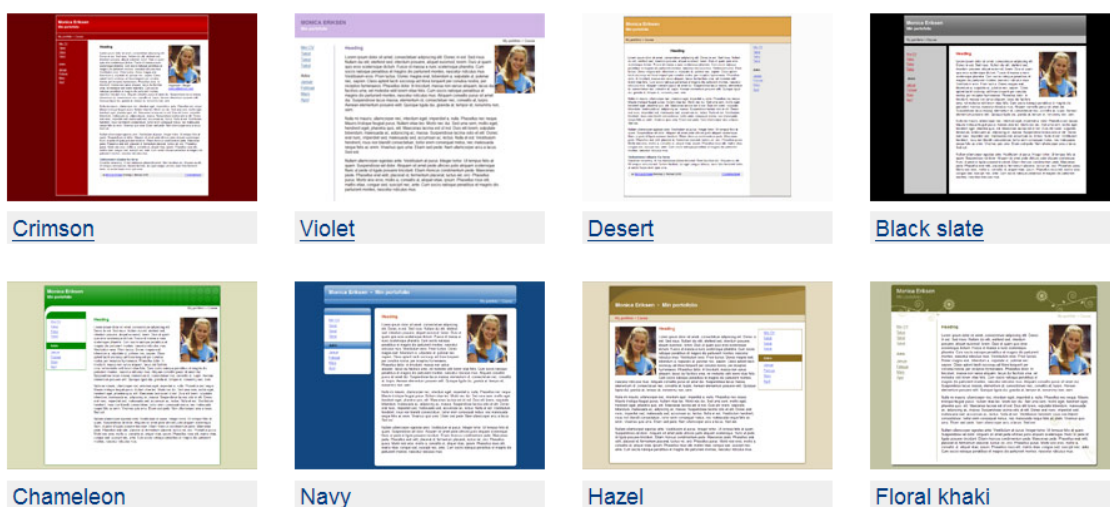


Figure 8: Some of the ePortfolio skins

We have introduced “short names”, thus making URLs shorter and more comprehensible. The short name field allows you to enter a unique name for the ePortfolio that is used to create the URL. An example of a typical ePortfolio URL is as follows: <http://itslearning.com/mysite/> followed by the short name you specify. If you choose to call your ePortfolio myportfolio, the link will be as follows: <http://itslearning.com/mysite/myportfolio>. A short name can only be used once per site, but by clicking **Check availability** you can check whether the short name is already in use.

Portfolios

Here you can manage the different portfolios that constitute your ePortfolio. You can add and delete portfolios, and get a quick overview of status, access level, and comments, for example.

About me

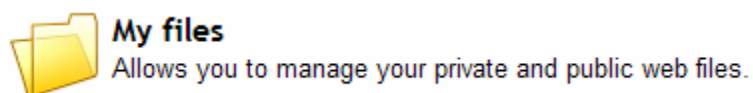
Here you can edit the “about me” function. This is a personal profile with a description of yourself, your e-mail address and personal picture. It is optional whether to include the about me page in the ePortfolio (see **Settings and permissions** above).

Show my ePortfolio

Click this link to preview your ePortfolio.

My files

This link points to **My files**, which was previously located in the top menu. Except for the relocated link, the **My files** function is exactly the same as in it’s learning 3.0.



Third party tools (proxy tools)

By introducing the proxy tool, we allow external, or third party, tools in it’s learning. This enables sites to add customised tools from other vendors, for example. Examples of such tools are test tools or video conference tools. The proxy tool is made according to the international guidelines created by IMS Tools Interoperability. By following these guidelines, we ensure that a number of available tools can be integrated into it’s learning.

You find the proxy tool by clicking **Course settings** → **Proxy tool**.

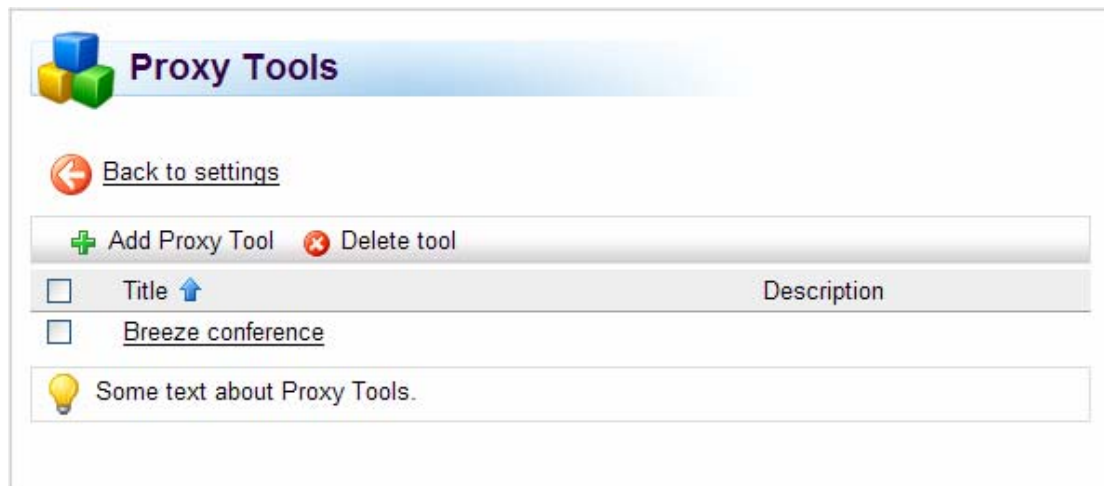
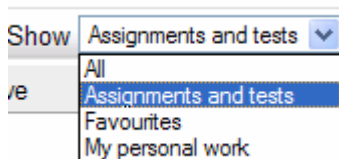


Figure 9: Proxy tools

Assessment portfolios

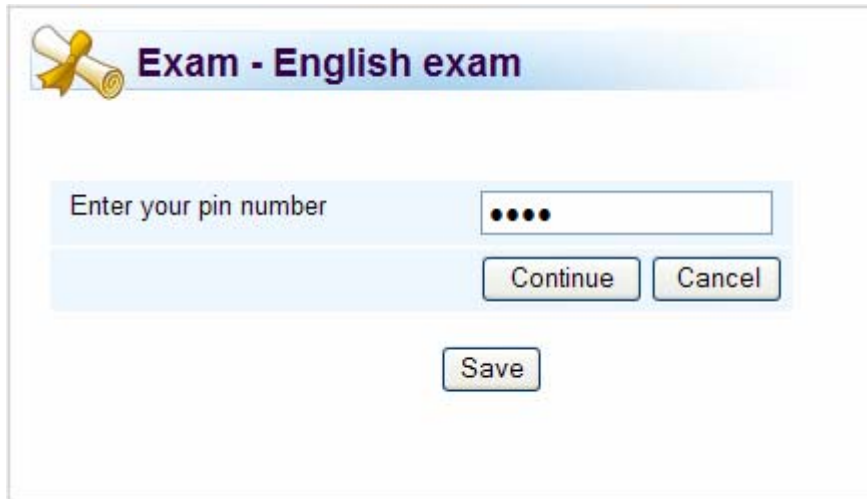
We have created a new filter option in the assessment portfolios. Learners can now filter their personal work in the assessment portfolio.



Digital exam

Digital exam is it's learning's new general module for assignments and exams. It allows you to manually create assignments and exams for higher education, secondary and primary schools. Schools can integrate the module with administrative systems, and both candidates and evaluators use it's learning to submit answers and assessments.

The client supports anonymity, and has a personal login that excludes online co-operation between learners during exams. When taking an exam, the learner's access to the "normal" it's learning application is denied, which means that the it's learning application cannot be used in conjunction with the exam.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Exam - English exam" with a ribbon icon. Below the title bar, there is a light blue box containing the text "Enter your pin number" and a text input field with four black dots. To the right of the input field are two buttons: "Continue" and "Cancel". Below this light blue box, centered, is a "Save" button.

Figure 10: Enter your pin number

However, candidates can access some of the content in it's learning through a feature called **Allowed aids**. Content from the assessment portfolios and **My files** in it's learning can be specified as aids. When the exam is created, the exam administrator decides whether a candidate should be allowed to use aids.

The digital exam has three different roles:

Administrator

Administrators create exams and assign candidates to the exam. Administrators can enable the digital exam on a site by clicking the **Administration** tab → **Edit global settings** → **General**. Check the **Exams** box to enable digital exams on the site.

When Digital exam is enabled, the administrators or teachers click **Administration** → **Exams** to start the exam module. Click **Add exam** to create a new exam.

Evaluator

The evaluators assess the answers submitted through the digital exam application and set grades. If you are an evaluator, click <https://exam.itslearning.com/> to start assessing assignments.

Candidate

The candidate's task is to submit assignment answers through the exam application. The exam application is available from the address: <https://exam.itslearning.com/>.

Answer - English exam

Information about exam

Exam starts 06/12/2006 09:30
Duration 8 hours
Allowed aids [Private files](#) (Opens in a new window)
[Assessment portfolios](#) (Opens in a new window)
Anonymous Yes
Assessment Grades 6 - 1
Status **Ongoing**
Assignment text

My answer

Files [Upload file](#)

Figure 11: Digital exam.

International support

In version 3.1, we have introduced a wide variety of date and address formats. In practice, this means that all users can choose which time and date formats they want to use. The changes we have made affects the **Customise it's learning** page found when you click **My settings**. The new settings are described below.

Standards and formats

Standards and formats are now adapted to each specific country. Users can now decide which formats they want to use by selecting the preferred country's formats from the drop-down list. Different countries have different date formats. For example, the date "17 November 2006" is written differently in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Norway: 17/11/2006 (UK) 17-11-2006 (the Netherlands), 17.11.2006 (Norway).

Time format

Here you can select 12 or 24 hour clock.

Time zone

To find your correct time zone, you can specify your location from two drop-down lists. First, select your nearest region and then your nearest city. This enables it's learning to show the correct date and time for your present location.

Customise it's learning

Regional and language options

Select language: English

Standards and formats: English (United Kingdom)

Time format: 24 hours

Time zone: Region: Europe, Nearest city: London

Preferences

Select presentation of the tree in courses and projects: Entire navigation tree

Select text editor: ActiveX

Open documents in a new window:

Editor warning when exiting page: (Allowed only when using IE 5.0 or higher or Firefox 0.9 or higher)

Allow ActiveX to be used: (Allowed only when using IE 5.0 or higher in Windows)

Allow Applets to be used: (Examples of Applets include Equation editor, File uploader, Chat and SCORM API)

Accessibility

When **Accessibility** is enabled it's learning will go into accessibility mode. As a result the following settings are turned on: simplified tree structure, simple editor and scroll bars for all frames. The accessibility mode is to ensure that it's learning is accessible to people with special needs, such as visually impaired.

Accessibility:

Save Cancel

Figure 12: New customise it's learning page

Messages

In version 3.1, we have introduced more advanced message settings. Users are now allowed to set a standard account. The standard account counts new and unread messages in the top menu, and also opens by default every time you click the **Messages** tab. You can choose whether to set the internal message system or an e-mail account as the standard account. Another new option is sending messages to groups. Click **Groups** in the navigation tree → **Send message**.

Some features have been moved from **My settings** → **Change details to Messages**:

- **Received message notification:** The sound that plays when you receive new messages.
- **Signature:** The signature attached to your outgoing messages.

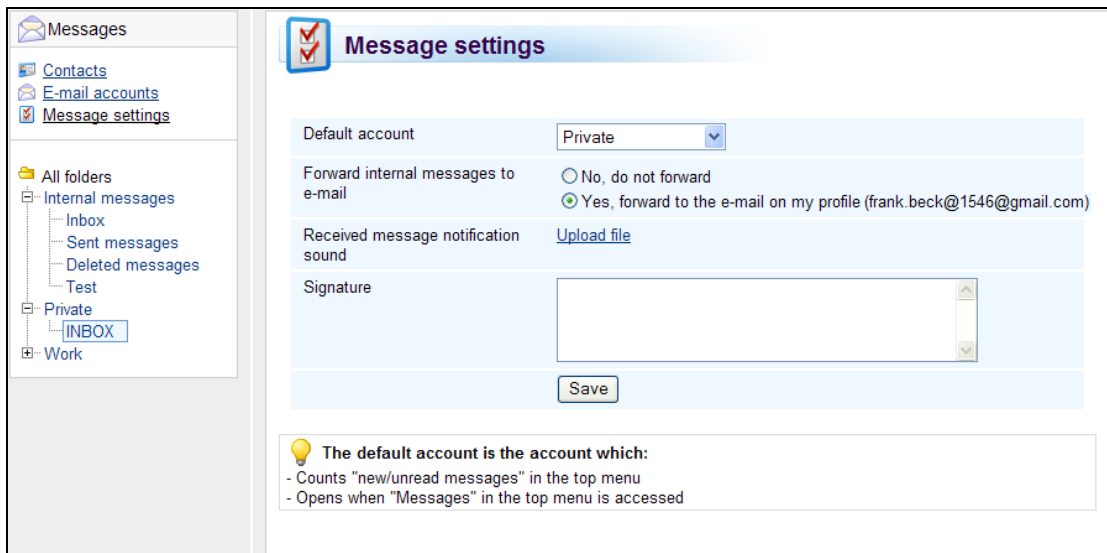


Figure 13: New Message settings page.

Absence and Community

Absence and community is now available in English, German, Spanish, Dutch, Swedish and Danish, in addition to Norwegian.

Library

We have introduced new templates and a new and improved template system in version 3.1. The templates can be previewed by clicking the **Library** tab → **Graphic templates**. In addition, we introduce a new navigation menu.

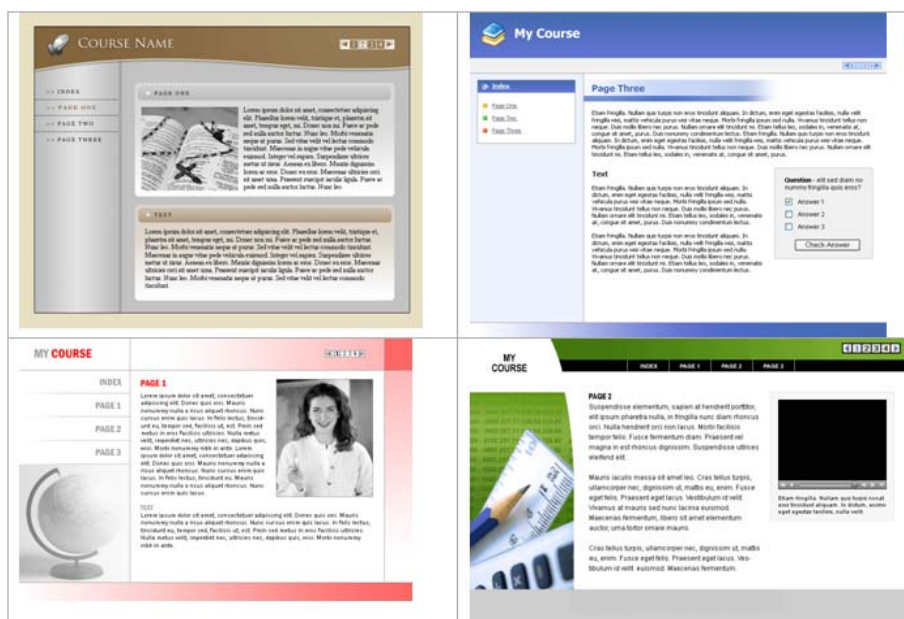


Figure 14: New library templates.

Secure by default

Lately, we have introduced a number of new security settings, but few sites have enabled these. As a result, we will enable the settings for all customers in version 3.1.

As a consequence, users cannot be logged in at two different computers concurrently. It may also be necessary to remove customised login pages that are not supported by us.

The security settings are:

Login	<p>Password rules: We have enabled stricter password rules. By default, we will set the password complexity to Medium. This means that the password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be of a specific character length• Cannot contain your user name or real name• Must contain characters from each of the following three groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Uppercase letters (A-Z)○ Lowercase letters (a-z)○ Numbers (0-9) <p>Secure login: Users will be forced to use secure login (https).</p>
Malicious code filter	<p>We have experienced that inventive learners have tried to exploit it's learning by inserting HTML code into the application. The code filter allows system administrators to decide whether different user profiles should have access to use HTML code in it's learning, and at what level. Separate documentation is available on this filter. By default, the level is Everything for administrators and teachers, and Less restricted for learners and guests.</p>
Session protection	<p>The session protection has been introduced to prevent session hijacking. One consequence is that you cannot log in to it's learning with the same user at two different computers. Separate documentation is available on this subject.</p>

Tips

Passwords

If you want to reset the new password rules, it can be done here:
Administration → **Edit global settings** → **General**.

ePortfolio

ePortfolio settings and customisations may be of interest to prevent the ePortfolios from being published externally on the Internet or turning the function off for teachers.

You can turn ePortfolios off here: **Administration → Profiles → Site → Edit profile → ePortfolio.**

My files

My files are now located under the ePortfolio tab if ePortfolio is activated.

Short names

Only ePortfolios will use the short names, but we have also made a solution that enables you to use the site short name in the login address. Ex: <https://www.itslearning.com/shortname> Your site will automatically be selected in the drop-down list at the login page.

Session protection consequences

It will not be possible to be logged in with the same user at the same time, on two different computers. As a result a learner will be logged out at school if the parents try to log in to the learner's it's learning account while they are at work.