

ILIAS 2010

Strategy and Development

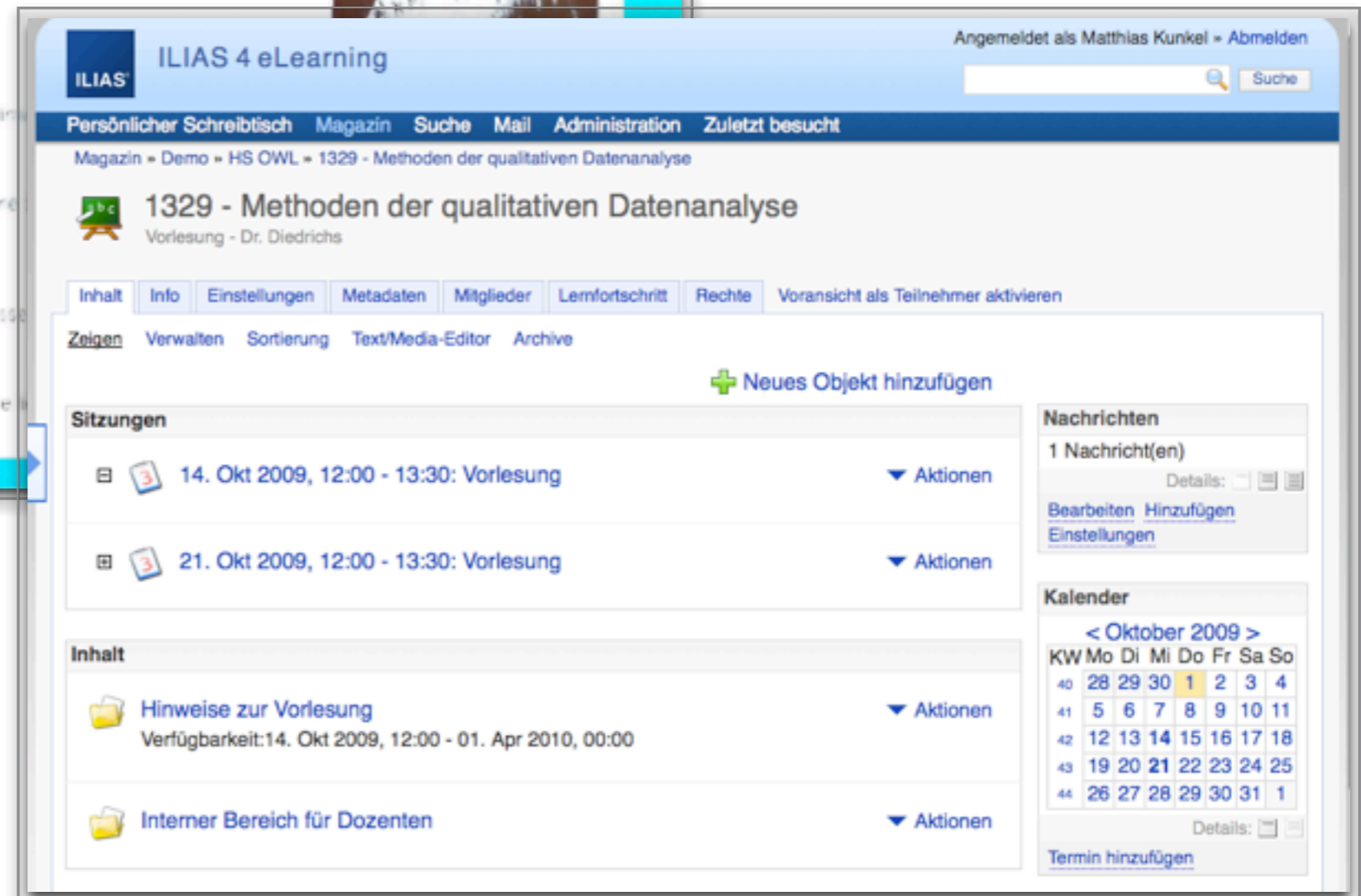
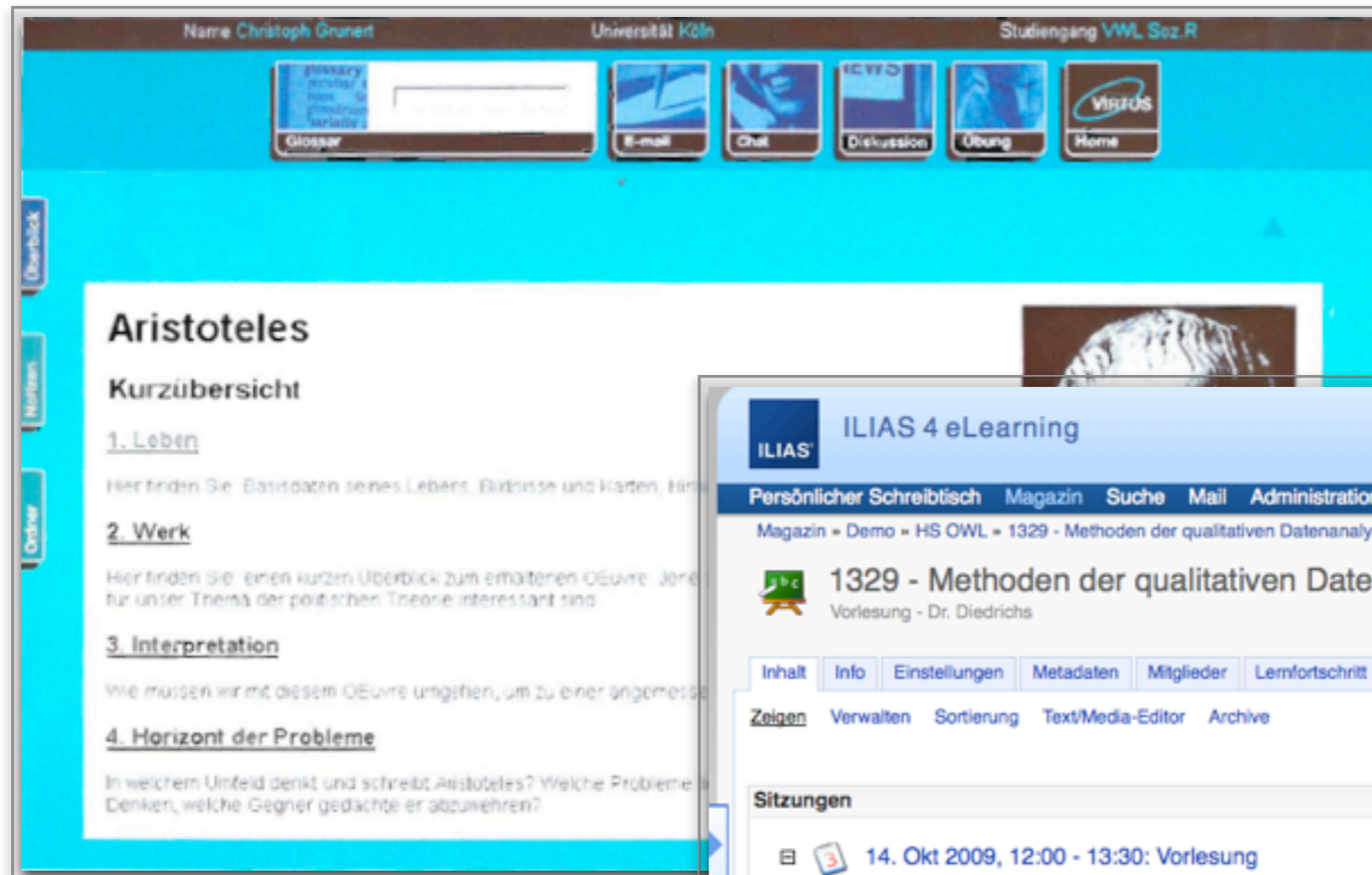
8th International ILIAS Conference
12 and 13 November 2009 in Budapest

Matthias Kunkel • ILIAS open source

Overview

- ILIAS 4
- Development strategy
- Development plans
- Sustainability plans

From ILIAS 1 (1999)



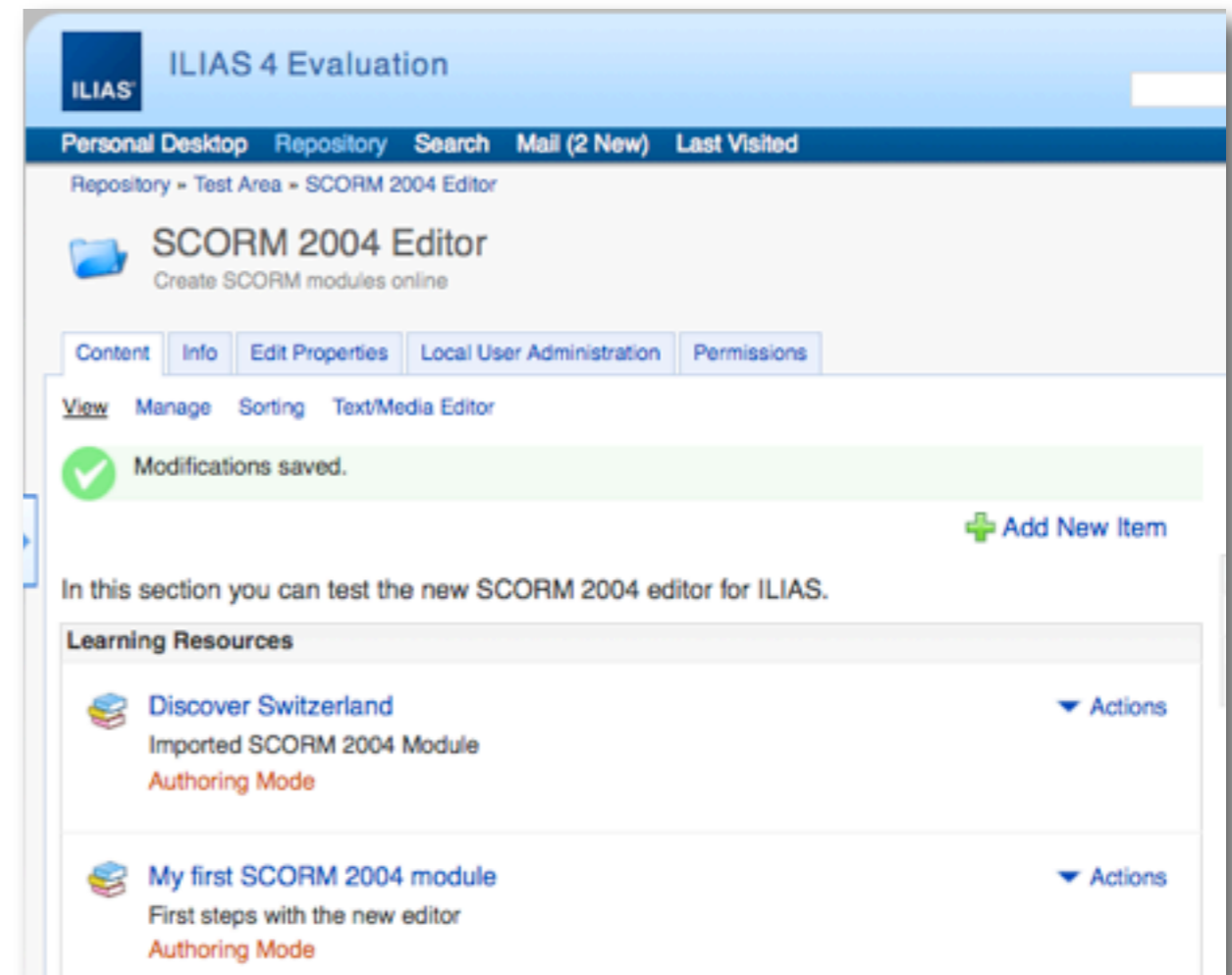
to ILIAS 4 (2009)

ILIAS 4: Some Facts

- Development started November 7, 2008
- More than 2.800 commits
- 79 improved or new features
- First beta release: July, 24, 2009
- First stable release: September 28, 2009
- ➔ **Biggest development step in ILIAS' history**

ILIAS 4: New Design

- New look and feel
 - Revised user interface
 - Less icons
 - Clear axes
- ➔ No more visual noise
- ➔ Improved usability



All improvements and changes based on intense usability research at University of Berne

ILIAS 4: New Features

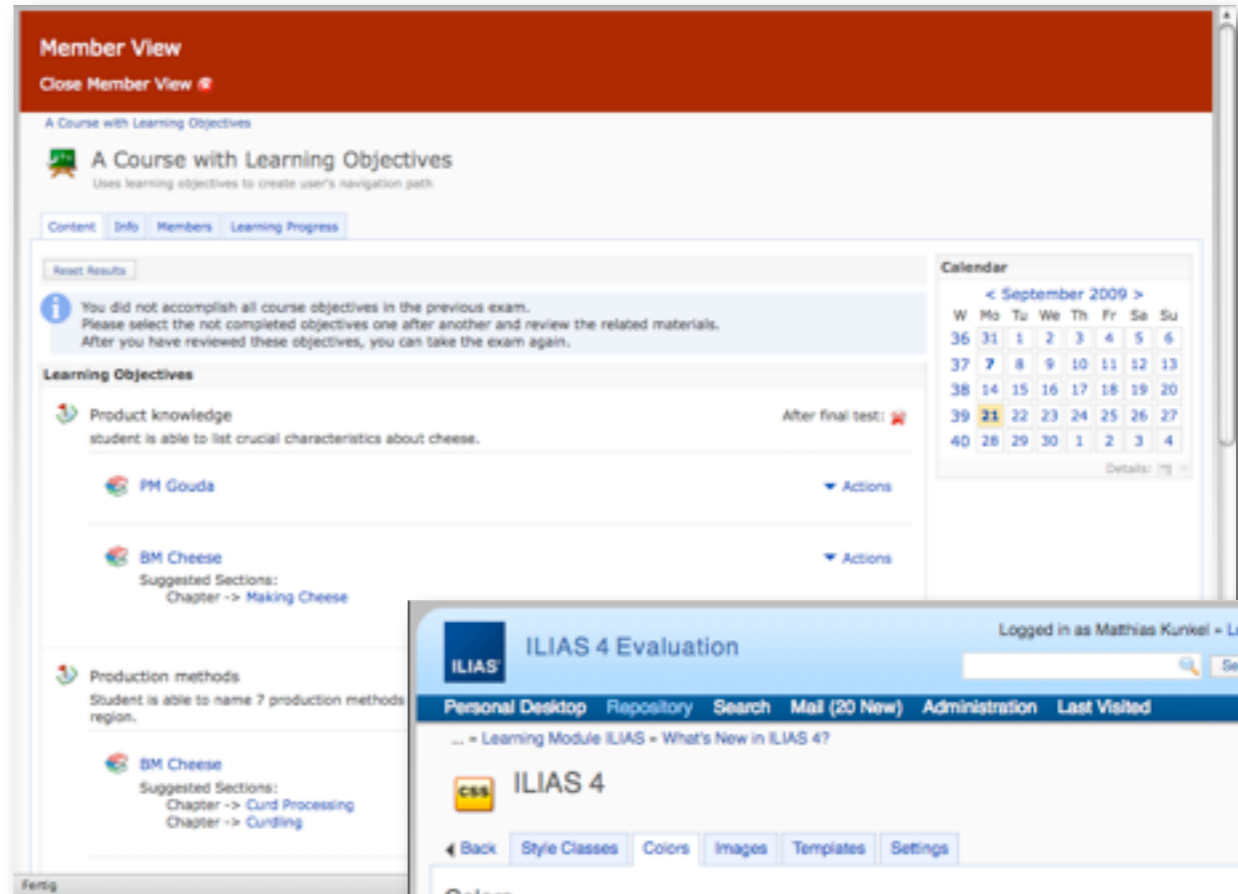
- SCORM 2004 editor
- Plug-in slot for repository objects
 - ▶ to connect external software like virtual classrooms
- Open (personal) profile
- User session reminder
- New question types, e.g. flash applet and essay

The screenshot displays the ILIAS 4 user interface. On the left is an 'Organization' tree with a 'Discover Switzerland' folder containing sub-items like 'Introduction to Switzerland', 'Where is Switzerland??', 'Switzerland - the heart of ...', 'Three main regions', 'Swiss cantons', 'Panorama', 'Facts', 'Read about federalism', and 'Test'. The main content area shows the 'Page: Swiss cantons' with a navigation bar (Edit, Preview, Metadata, History, Clipboard) and a 'Set Edit Mode' button. Below this is a map of Switzerland and a table of cantons.

name	official language	cities	mountains	lakes
Zurich (ZH)	German	Zurich (pop. 360'000), Winterthur, Uster, Dübendorf, Dietikon	Schnebelhorn, Bachtel, Hömli	Lake Zurich
Thurgau (TG)		Frauenfeld (pop. 22'500)	Hömli	Lake Constance

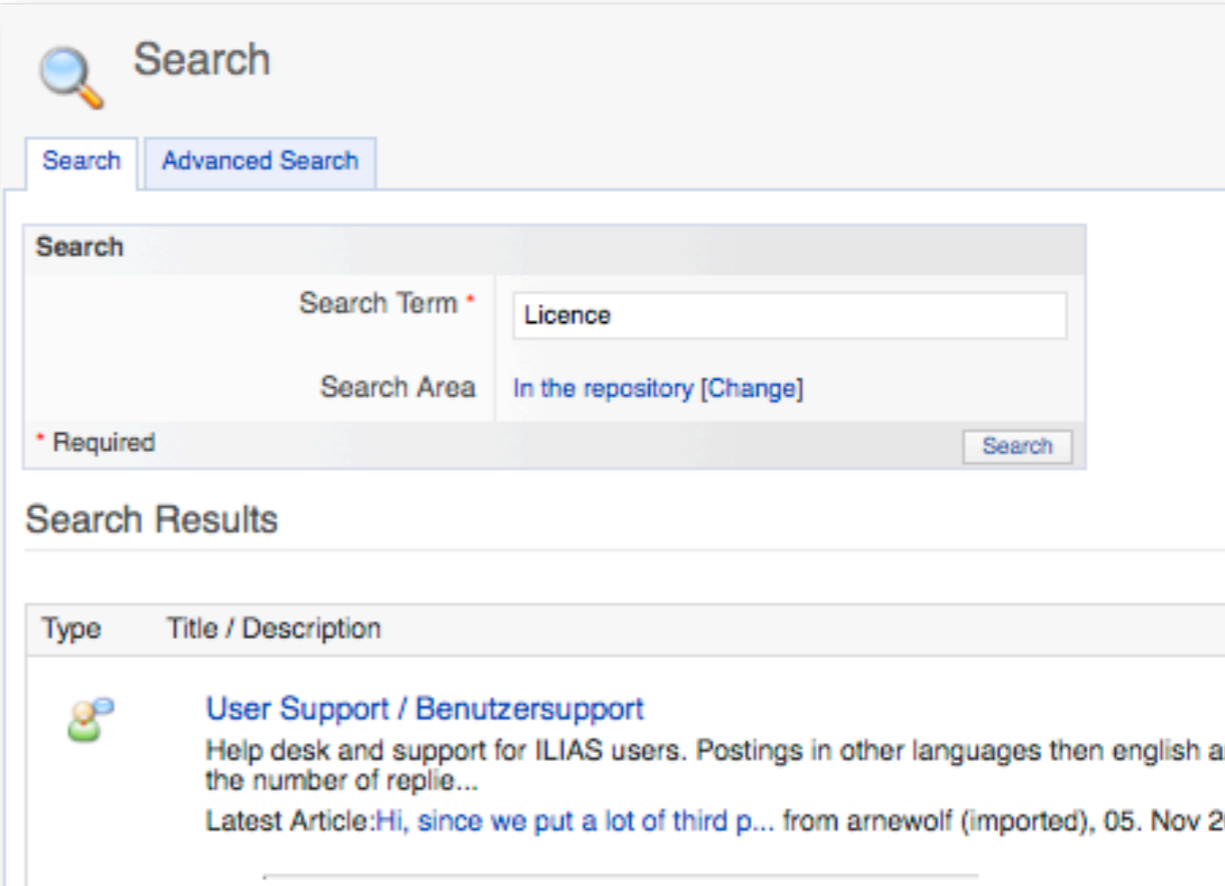
ILIAS 4: Improved Features

- Course management
 - ▶ Preview as member
 - ▶ Improved presentation of sessions
- Learning Modules
 - ▶ Extended style sheet editor
 - ▶ Colour management
- Discussion forum
 - ▶ Rich-text-editor for postings
- Usability improvements for chat
- Calendar
 - ▶ Subscribing to calendar with iCal/Outlook
 - ▶ Milestone feature



ILIAS 4: Improved Technology

- Google-like search engine with ranking of results
- Database abstraction layer
 - ▶ Oracle database support
- Using Ajax and Caches for improving performance
- Setup revision



The screenshot displays the ILIAS search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word "Search". Below the search bar are two tabs: "Search" and "Advanced Search". The "Search" tab is active, showing a search form with a "Search Term" field containing the word "Licence" and a "Search Area" dropdown menu set to "In the repository [Change]". A "Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Below the search form, there is a section titled "Search Results" which contains a table with two columns: "Type" and "Title / Description". The table has one row with a user support icon in the "Type" column and the text "User Support / Benutzersupport" in the "Title / Description" column. Below the text, there is a brief description: "Help desk and support for ILIAS users. Postings in other languages than english a the number of replie..." and a "Latest Article" link: "Hi, since we put a lot of third p... from arnewolf (imported), 05. Nov 2".

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Development Strategy

- E-Learning has to support learning and teaching processes by using internet technology
- Therefore, it has to observe ...
 - ▶ ... the needs of learners and teachers
 - ▶ ... the diversity of teaching and learning
 - ▶ ... the requirements of teaching institutions and cultures

Development Strategy

- Taking this into consideration, e-learning software has to be
 - ▶ flexible
 - ▶ multifunctional
 - ▶ adaptable
 - ▶ capable of being integrated
 - ▶ easy to use

Development Strategy

- ILIAS is a bundle of tools and services
- As a platform it offers broad functionality
 - ▶ due to integrated tools
 - and
 - ▶ coupled / connected tools

Development Strategy

- Integrated tools:
 - ▶ General and basic functions for e-learning
Learning modules, courses, wikis, forums or reporting
 - ▶ Strategic features
SCORM 2004 editor, booking tool

- Coupling / connecting preferred for features
 - ▶ that require different technology
 - ▶ that are too complex to be re-build
 - ▶ that are too special for the vast majority of users

Development Strategy

- ILIAS should ...
 - ... fulfill e-learning requirements of big institutions
 - ... offer an easy entrance for beginners to realise their e-learning scenarios
 - ... be open to new ways and concepts of e-learning

Development Strategy

- Continuing and extending our open development process
 - ▶ «Feature wiki» for all new ideas and requirements
 - ▶ Jour Fixe participation open for all
 - ▶ Development conferences

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Development Plans

- Usability and Accessibility
- Further integration of content features
- Improving export/import capabilities
- Introducing new reporting features
- Offering online help

Usability and Accessibility

- Continuing usability revision
- Harmonising and streamlining functions
 - ▶ Identical screens for similar workflows
 - ▶ Implementing missing functions of specific features
 - ▶ Completing migration to new GUI classes
- ➔ Improving usability and accessibility

Further Integration of Content Features

- Harmonising functions in all ILIAS content modules
 - ▶ Easy re-use of wiki pages in learning modules
 - ▶ Using test questions in learning modules
- Content item plug-in for pages
- Further integration of ILIAS and eLAIX
 - ▶ Import of learning modules in eLAIX
 - ▶ Re-import and versioning in ILIAS

Improving Export / Import Capabilities

- Developing general export guidelines
- Completing export and import functionality
 - ▶ for all content modules
 - ▶ for all container modules

Introducing New Reporting Features

- Revision of existing learning progress, statistics and tracking data presentation
- Implementing a general reporting functionality for all object types
 - ▶ Tracking - how objects are used
 - ▶ Grading - how users using objects and how they perform

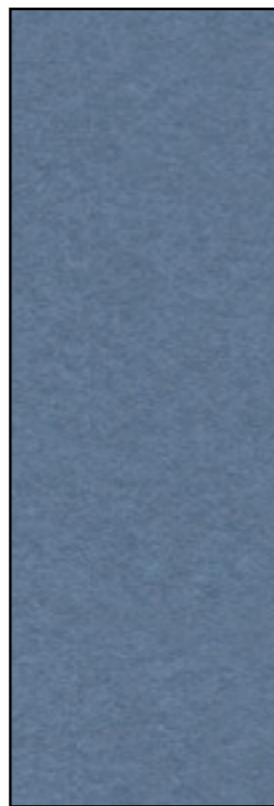
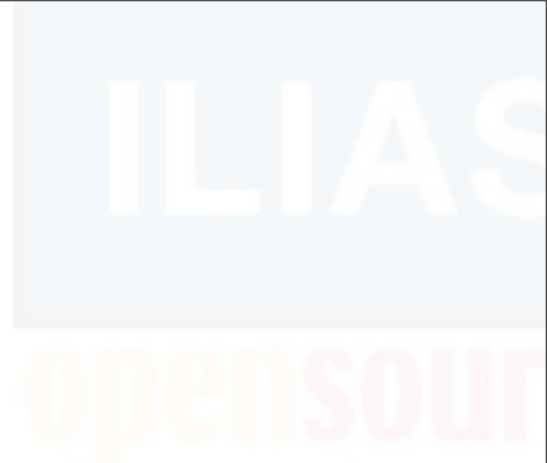
Offering Online Help

- Aim: helping users to use ILIAS easily
- Two online helps offered:
 - ▶ Screen help to explain elements on screen
 - ▶ Workflow help to assist users when using ILIAS

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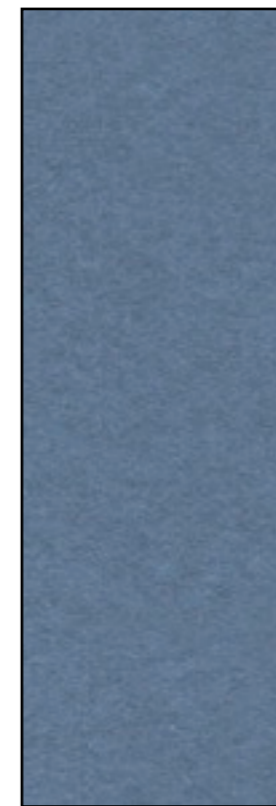
Funding of ILIAS



Projects



ILIAS Society



Cooperation
Network

ILIAS society

- Non-profit society

ILIAS open source e-Learning e. V.

- Founded by users, service providers and core group members
- Major aim:
 - ▶ Supporting ILIAS development and coordination team activities
 - ▶ Ensures sustainability of ILIAS

ILIAS society

- Open for individuals as well as for institutions, enterprises and service providers
 - ➔ Broad base of supporters
- Influencing strategic ILIAS development
- Exchanging user experiences
- Finding partners and customers

ILIAS society

- Annual donation of

ILIAS community award

- Aim is to honour personal engagement within the ILIAS community

ILIAS Community Award 2009

- Donated for extraordinary engagement in moderating ILIAS forums and assisting users
 - ▶ Little Mela
 - ▶ Werner Randelshofer
 - ▶ Pascal Schmitt
 - ▶ Helmut Schottmüller

ILIAS society

- For more information, please contact
verein@ilias.de
- Or talk with us here at the conference!

Thank you for your attention

And enjoy the conference!