# ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHARIF VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

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# Agenda

- What is virtual University?
- What is Distance Learning?
- Why Distance Learning?
- From traditional to new Era ...
- Sharif Virtual University
- Why Standards?
- What are the Standards?
- Architecture considerations
- Discussion



# Definitions

#### **Distance Learning (DE)**

 Distance Education refers to teaching and learning situations in which the instructor and the learner are geographically separated, and therefore rely on electronic devices and print materials for instructional delivery

#### E-Learning = Technology-based learning

 covers a wide set of applications and processes, including computer-based learning, Web-based learning, virtual classrooms, and cooperative learning

#### Online Learning = Web-based learning

constitutes just one part of technology-based learning and describes learning via Internet, intranet, and extranet



## **Definitions**

#### Virtual University (VU)

 VU is normally referred to as an online environment that models the process of education and research. Therefore, VU can be considered as a web-based DE system along with the required systems such as LMS, CMS, Digital Library, and E-Commerce to provide the required services to students, faculty and staff.

#### Learning Management System (LMS)

A learning management system (LMS) is a software application or Web-based technology used to plan, implement, and assess a specific learning process.

#### **Learning Object (LO)**

A Learning Object is a self standing, discrete piece of instructional multimedia content that meets a learning objective. LO consists of material, activities and assessment

# Subsets of Virtual University

**Virtual University** 

**Distance Learning** 

Online Learning

Computer-based Learning



# Why Distance Learning

On-demand learning: instruction is available when and where the learner needs it, eliminating the need to wait for, or travel to, a scheduled class. In addition, distance learning increases access to learning for the disabled

Learner controlled: each learner is able to review topics or to skip the information they already know

Increased motivation: students frequently report that they find technology-based interactive learning more interesting and enjoyable than classroom lectures

Increased achievement: when corrective feedback or a learning strategy designed to help students achieve mastery in a certain area is provided, students often show better test results, retention, or job performance from technology-based interactive learning

Reduced learning time: typically 30–40 percent less time is required for learning to be achieved compared to classroom instruction (Dennis, 1994; Kearsley, 1990; Wilson, 1991)

# Why Distance Learning

Better quality control: Learning experience in Distance Learning is more consistent and reliable than classroom instruction

Greater flexibility: fluctuations in the number of learners, or their backgrounds, can be accommodated more easily than classroom instruction

Improved accountability: automatic collection of data on learner performance can verify that learning has been accomplished and identify learning problems

Faster revision: learning experiences are delivered via a networked system, simplifying the process of making changes and updates to the curriculum

Reduced delivery costs: once developed, technology-based interactive learning is likely to cost less when compared to traditional, labor-intensive classroom instruction



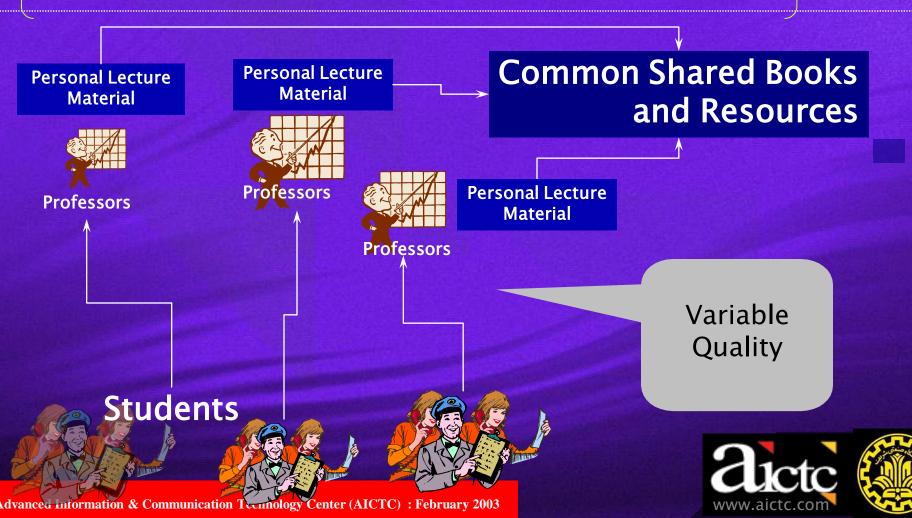
# More benefits...

- • •
- Learner controlled
  - Higher retention of content through personalized learning (Intelligent Tutoring Systems)
  - Face-to-Face Instruction via VC
  - Self-paced
  - Uniformity of content
  - Customizable content
  - Managed Knowledge Bases
  - Improved collaboration and interactivity between students (cooperative learning)
  - Technology revolutionizes learning ...



### Traditional Model of Instruction

Done separately for each class at each university



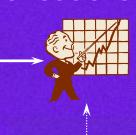
# **Better Model of Instruction**

( with team of authoring specialists)

**Professors** 

( with team of authoring specialists)

**Professors** 



Common Shared Books
Plus e-Resources

Possible local Students



- **Students**

- Learner Controlled
- High Quality by Selection



Mation & Opamunication Technology Center (AICTC): February 2003

### A New Era in Education

E-learning







Administrative Computing









**Portals** 



# **Sharif Virtual University**

- You Would not become a fast runner by buying good shoes!
- Toward Building Sharif Virtual University
  - Workshops & Information Portal: Building the culture & Laws
  - Training: To make the transition smooth
  - Transforming the Courses: Multimedia Contents
  - Building the standard courseware: Standard Content Generation
  - The First Step: On–Line Courses
  - The Second Step: Virtual Class Room
  - Building the standard multilingual LMS: To Start VU Culture
  - Toward Virtual University: Building the Digital Library
  - Toward Deployment: Realizing the Complete E-Environment



# **Sharif VU Design Considerations**

- Availability
- Scalability
- Portability
- Adaptability
- Reusability
- Accessibility
- Security
- Interoperability
- Quality
- Therefore we need standards



# E-Learning Building Blocks

- Courseware :: Learning Objects (LO)
- Learner Model (LM)
- Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS)
- Course Management System (CMS)
- Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- Knowledge Management System (KMS)
- Digital Librsry (DL)



# **Example::Learning Objects**

LO: A Learning Object is a self standing, discrete piece of instructional multimedia content that meets a learning objective. LO consists of material, activities and assessment. Each LO must be reusable across different platforms

#### **EXAMPLE**

Core literacy concept = Critical evaluation of information

Discipline = Biology

Learning level = 1 (knowledge)

Instructional goal: Learn and recall steps in process of evaluating Web sites.

#### ASSOCIATED LEARNING OBJECTS (atoms)

#### Materials:

- 1. Animation (VI)
- 2. Tutorial (VE, VI, KI)

#### Activities:

- Construct a chart comparing two biology web sites (VI, KI)
- 2. Write evaluative descriptions of two biology web sites (VE)

#### Assessments:

- 1. Multiple-choice quiz
- 2. Short answer quiz

#### Learning Levels:

- 1. Knowledge
- 2. Comprehension
- 3. Application
- 4. Analysis
- 5. Synthesis

#### Learning Styles:

- 1. Verbal (VE)
- 2. Visual (VI)
- 3. Kinesthetic (KI)



# **Emerging E-Learning Standards**

- IMS -Instructional Management Systems
- SCORM Shareable Courseware Object Reference Model
- SIF- School Interoperability
   Framework
- Important collaboration with MIT OKI, ADL Co-labs, and IMS
- AICC: Aviation Industry CBT (Computer-Based Training) Committee CSF (course structure format)
- Other standards ( OpenVES, JASIG )
- And other standards such as: XML, UML, UI standards, ...



# Standard Usage Possibilities Describing Content and People IMS Learning Objects Metadata IMS Learner Information Profile Packaging/Sharing Content IMS Content Packaging Supporting Content/System Interoperability

- - Supporting Content/System Interoperability **AICC**



## IMS:: Content & Learners

#### Learning Objects Meta Data

Attributes to describe learning resources, education usage, technical requirement, contributor

#### **Question & Test**

Formats for constructing and exchanging assessment info

#### **Content Packaging**

Instructions for wrapping and exchanging learning content

#### Learner Information Package

Information about people/student progress



# IMS:: Global Learning

Accepted as XML standard for e-Learning

Forum for collaboration

Consensus between partners and competitors

Protecting customers investment in content and technology

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# **SCORM**

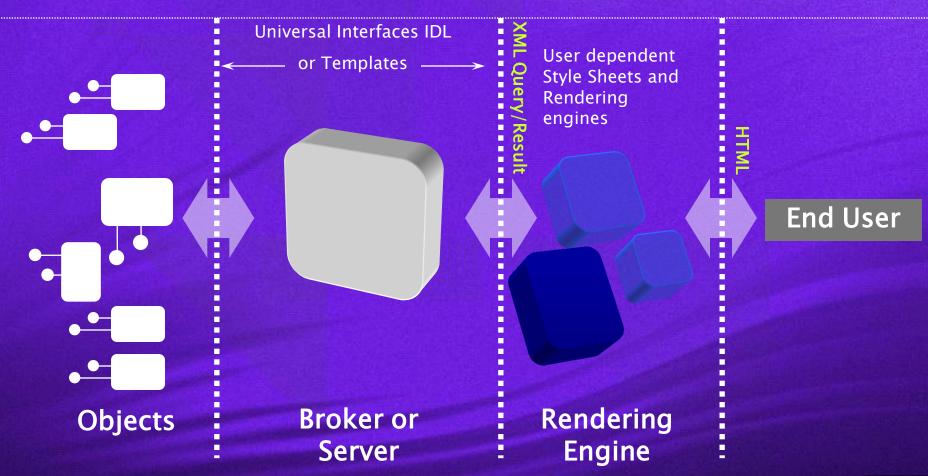
Sharable Content Object Reference Model: Department of Defense reference implementation of IMS

Interrelated technical specifications
Unified online learning "content model"
For the re-use of web-based learning content
To work across multiple environments and platforms

. . .



# One more thing! Basic Multi-Tier architecture for Distance Learning



Define Objects and properties / methods (backend) and define services (front-End)



# An E-Learning Architecture

**Portal** 

**User Management** 

Workflow

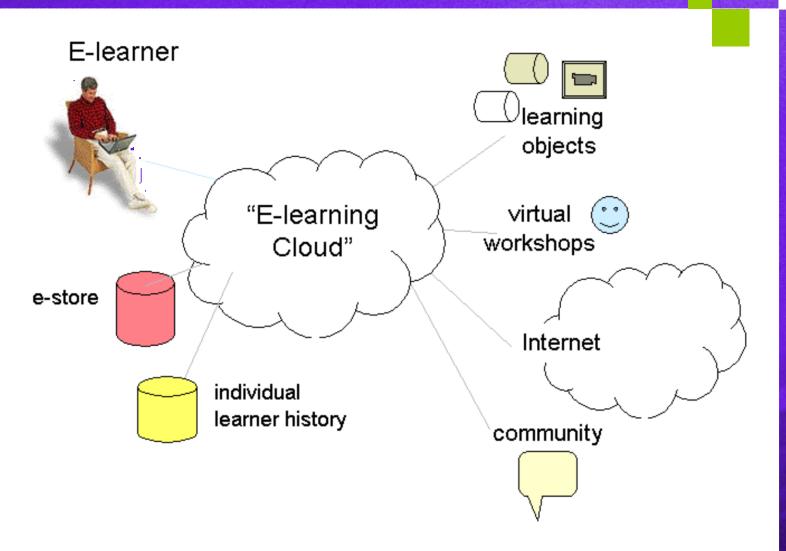
**Content Authoring** 

Learning Management
Services

**Integration Services** 

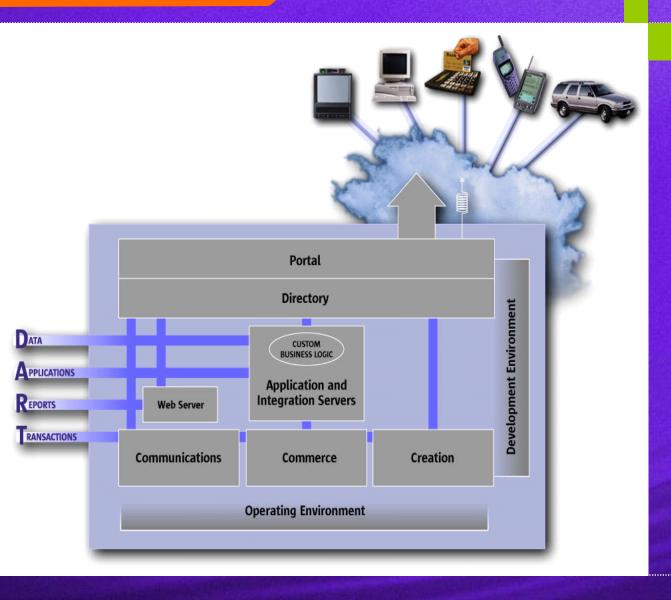
**User and Content Data Resources** 





# Resources





# evices

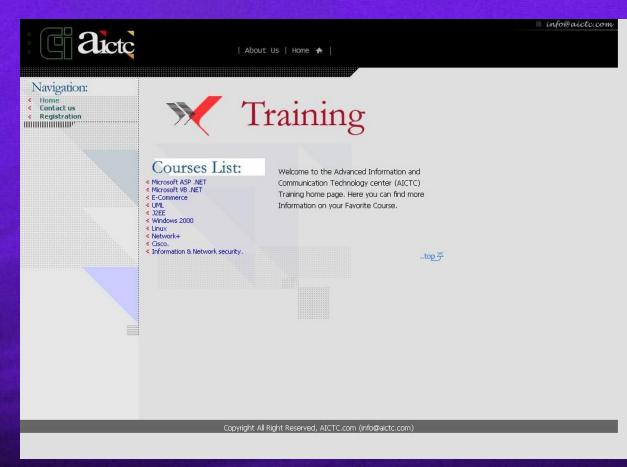


- Workshops & Information Portal: Building the culture & Required Laws
  - Information Portal: vu.aictc.com





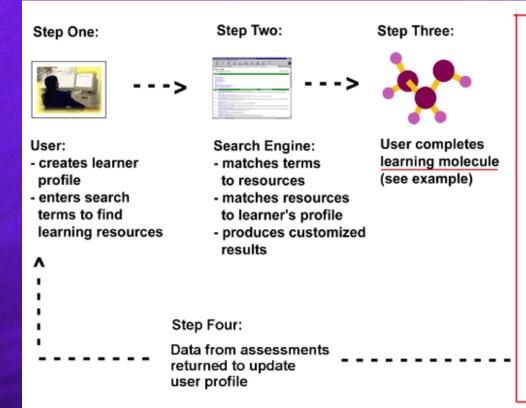
- Training: To make the transition smooth
  - On-Line Short Courses





# VU Project Activities

- Transforming the Courses: Multimedia Contents
  - Courseware Authoring



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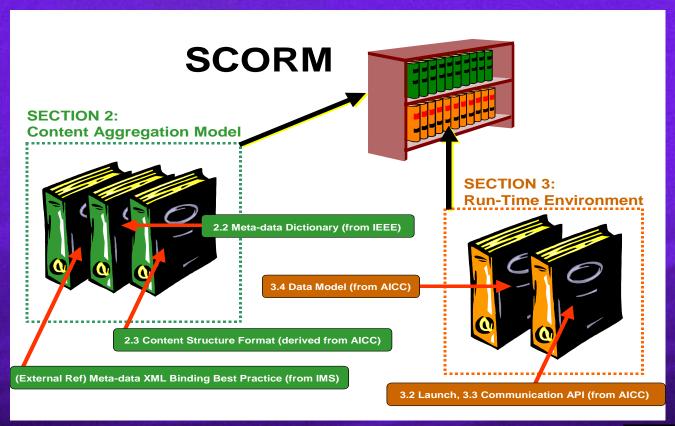
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- Building the standard courseware: Standard Content Generation
  - E-Education Standards



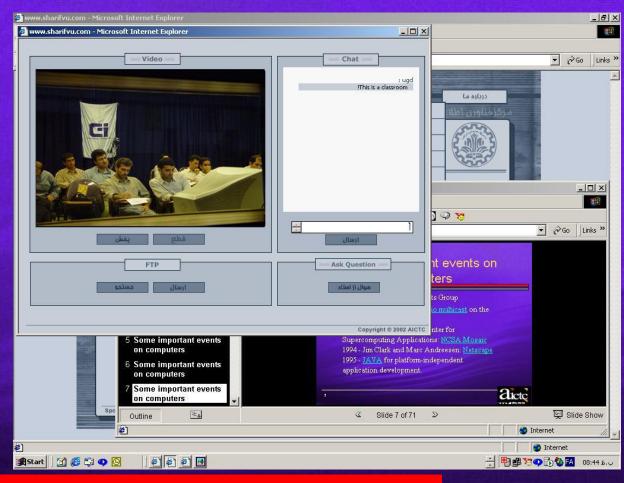


- The First Step: On–Line Courses
  - E-Courseware On-Line





- The Second Step: Virtual Class Room
  - http://www.sharifvu.com

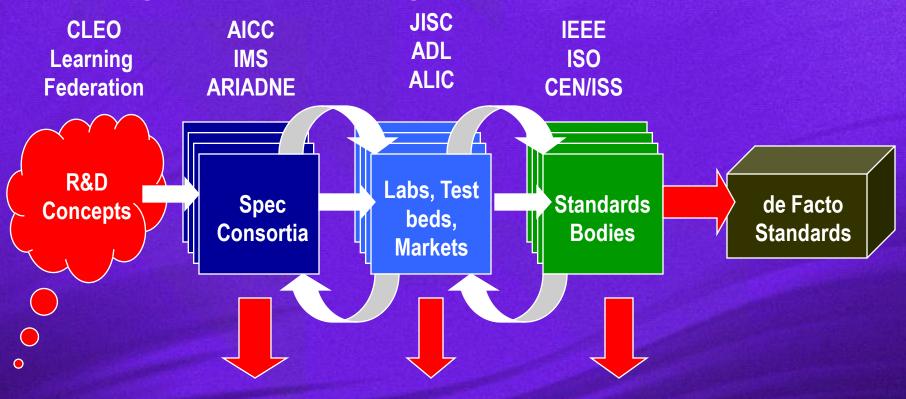






# **VU Project Activities**

Building the standard multilingual LMS: To Start VU Culture



Specifications

Reference Models Standards



# VU Project Activities

Toward Virtual University: Building the Digital Library & Integeration

Portal Services
User Management Entitlements Service

Service Aggregation Collaboration Services

E-Commerce Services Calendar Services

Content Management System System

Integration Services

**User and Content Data Resources** 



# VU Project Activities

Toward Deployment: Realizing the Complete E-Environment





# In Summary

- Virtual University with the help of e-learning standards, removes time and place barriers to support new, more effective models of learning, thereby enabling organizations to leverage knowledge to foster innovation and maintain a competitive edge.
  - Virtual university can become a reality only if we have the required laws, infrastructure, effective learning models, and correct strategy.



# AICTC

# It's Time To E-Learn!!

Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation

Any Question? vu@aictc.com

