An Introduction to the WorldWideTestbankTM

Online Homework and Assessment System

Prepared by:



4515 George Road, Suite 340 Tampa, Florida 33634 813.674.0660

www.link-systems.com

2010 - 2011

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
Overview	2
ADVANTAGES OF WORLDWIDETESTBANK	
Integration with Homework Management Solutions	
Advantages over Competing Products	
WORLDWIDETESTBANK TM SYSTEM COMPONENTS	5
METADATA MANAGER	5
AUTHORING INTERFACE	
Edit Question	
Preview Question	
Workflow Editor	
Workflow Activity Type	
Workflow Display and Tolerance Settings	
Printing a Workflow	
Importing Static Templates from Popular Course Management Systems	
WORLDWIDETESTBANK VIEWER	
Hint	
Link to Text	
Link to External Content	11
More Practice	
Print	12
Show Me	
Your Turn	12
NetCalculator TM	
WORLDWIDETESTBANK TM CONTENT	15
ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS, AND ECONOMICS	16
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS	
SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING	
MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	19
SERVER REQUIREMENTS	
Unix Server	
END-USER REQUIREMENTS	
Microsoft Windows Client.	
Macintosh Client	
ABOUT LINK-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC	
LSI MISSION STATEMENT	
OUR COMPANY	
OUR TEAM	
Our Cygrousing	

Confidential Information ©1995-2010 Link-Systems International, Inc.

Executive Summary

Overview

Designed for custom integration into any CMS or platform and capable of providing unparalleled instructor-level customization, the WorldWideTestbankTM algorithm engine powers the authoring, reuse, organization, delivery and automatic grading of online homework and assessment content for a variety of disciplines.

The WorldWideTestbank Authoring Interface enables authors to create new questions easily – including the use of algorithmic variables – as well as the ability to reuse existing content by importing from other question banks and content types. Use the WorldWideTestbankTM Workflow Editor to organize and customize homework and assessments – define which help features (e.g. hint, solution) should be enabled and customize the grading precision using our evaluation tolerance settings.

WorldWideTestbank answer types include automatically graded, free response as well as other standard answer types. There are no custom installations or third party downloads required, and WorldWideTestbank supports all popular browsers on both Windows and Macintosh platforms.

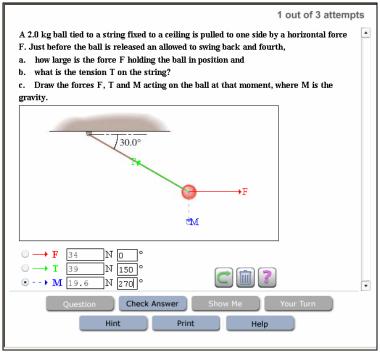


Figure 1. WorldWideTestbank engages students with algorithmic homework and empowers instructors to create automatic, custom-graded assessments.

The WorldWideTestbank online homework and assessment system is a mature, market-leading and powerful platform for the creation, organization, delivery and grading of online homework and assessment content.

This document provides an introduction to some of the advantages of the system, a description of its components, and an overview of the subject areas for which WorldWideTestbank authoring templates currently exist.

Advantages of WorldWideTestbank

Integration with Homework Management Solutions

The WorldWideTestbank is easily integrated into any homework management solution and features robust and flexible assessment content to meet the needs of all courses.

The WorldWideTestbank is integrated, for example, for use within BlackboardTM via their ADL-certified SCORM Content Player Building Block and within McGraw-Hill Higher Education's MathZone homework management system.

The content can be authored so that it is book-specific, or instructors can create their own WorldWideTestbank questions (from scratch or by importing static questions from WebCTTM, BlackboardTM, or Brownstone Diploma and others). Then custom assignments can be built by selecting WorldWideTestbank questions from the textbook or from the instructor's own custom library of questions.

Practice exercises and quizzes are automatically placed into the appropriate section and chapter of the text, allowing students to always be able to access them for self-paced practice and for the instructor to be able to assign them as homework. Assignments are automatically graded and recorded with details in the grade book.

Advantages over Competing Products

The WorldWideTestbank offers a series of features that are not collectively available in competing products, including:

- * Instructors and create their own questions via the authoring interface, which has both a simple and complex mode, allowing both novices and experts to use the system to their fullest capabilities.
- * Instructors can edit any question available in the WorldWideTestbank library (creating their own custom copy of that question) to change the wording of the question or the randomization range of any variables.
- * Complete support for algorithmic and static questions, including the ability for an instructor to import test banks from Brownstone Diploma, WebCT, or Blackboard.
- * Users load the WorldWideTestbank viewer into their browser only once per session, and then only need to load time template files to complete their assignments. All of the algorithmic processing is done on the client machine, making the WorldWideTestbank online homework and assessment system the most scalable product on the market.
- * NetTutor® tutors are able to support any WorldWideTestbank question.
- * Unparalleled, professor controlled, evaluation tolerance options.
- * Answer types such as user input tools and answer palettes that minimize dependency on multiple-choice type questions for auto-graded assessment.

WorldWideTestbankTM System Components

The system consists of five core components:

- * Metadata Manager, a component that allows meaningful metadata to be attached to both imported and native WorldWideTestbank content.
- * **Authoring Interface**, where instructors or content developers can create new (or edit existing) question templates.
- * Workflow Editor, which allows publishers and institutions to create "canned" assignments, as well as allowing faculty end users to create customized assignments.
- * Viewer, which displays the selected templates to the student.
- * **Bernoulli**TM **Engine** the algorithmic engine that powers template randomization and interaction (including automatic grading and tolerance allowance)

Metadata Manager

A template can track and define many key pieces of metadata, including: the template title, description, text-specific details (author, title, edition, copyright year, learning objectives, chapter and section numbers and titles, etc.), answer type, difficulty level, iterations level (the level of "randomness" of the template), based on value (reference to the source of the template), and external link.

The WorldWideTestbank system has a variety of answer types. Some are listed below (and development of new types is ongoing).

- * Answer Palette Discipline-specific, open response entry palette
- * Multipart Answer Fill-in-the-Blank, Drop Down, Answer Palette, User Input Tools, all in a single template, with optional dependence and user input tools.
- * Fill-in-the-Blank Adds pre- and post-text around a numeric response
- * Numeric Integer or Real Number
- * Multiple Select Select the correct answer(s)
- * Multiple Choice & Drop Down One correct option with distracters
- * True/False & Yes/No.

The metadata makes it easy for instructors to select the types of questions that they want to include in their assignments based on search criteria like:

- * Where did the question come from in the book?
- * How easy (or hard) will the students find this question?
- * For a quick pop quiz, where are the true/false or yes/no questions?

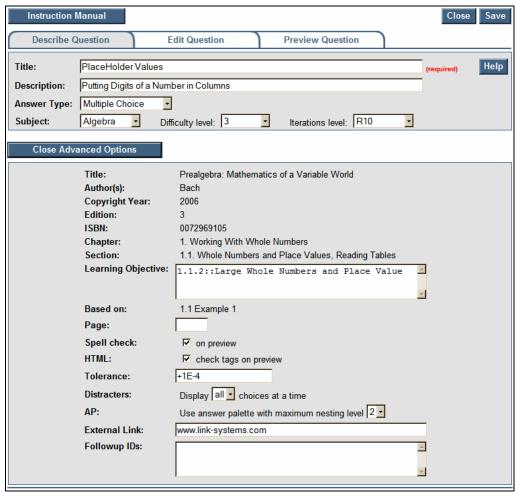


Figure 2. The WorldWideTestbank Authoring Interface – Describe Question tab

Authoring Interface

The Authoring Interface allows the user to create new (or edit existing) question templates. A template includes a question and answer, with optional hint and solution, and can be static or include randomized variables. The interface includes three tabs – LSI Metadata Manager (Describe Question) detailed above, Edit Question, and Preview Question.

Edit Question

In addition to creating/modifying the question and answer, the system can provide instructions, work out the full solution, and give a hint. Special characters and images are available, and HTML can be used, although it is not necessary.

An instructor can create a static question in the "Simple" view. This is ideal for instructors who do not want to randomize their questions, but who do want write their own.

An instructor can use the advanced views to define variables that, when randomized, produce an algorithmic template. An instructor can also choose to edit an existing question to customize the values to suit their needs.

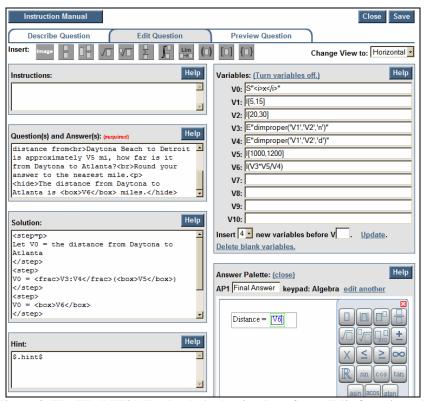


Figure 3. The WorldWideTestbank Authoring Interface - Edit Question tab

The Authoring Interface includes a tool that annotates images. This lets an instructor write on their image over-and-over again without having to update the actual image! Examples for use include changing the circuit values for an Engineering problem or changing the dollar amounts on a statement of cash flow for an Accounting problem.

Preview Question

All templates can be previewed for review in the WorldWideTestbank Viewer before posting live. The Viewer will function as the student sees it, so interacting with the "Show Me" and "Your Turn" question types, for example, would be as the student experiences them.

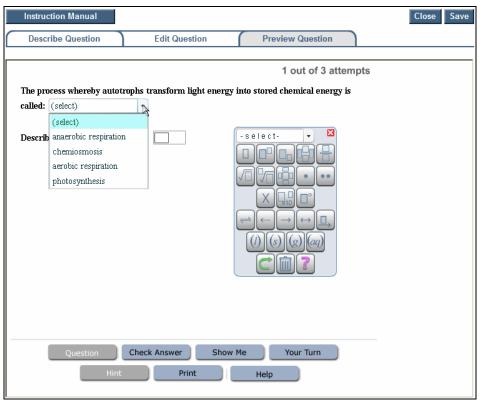
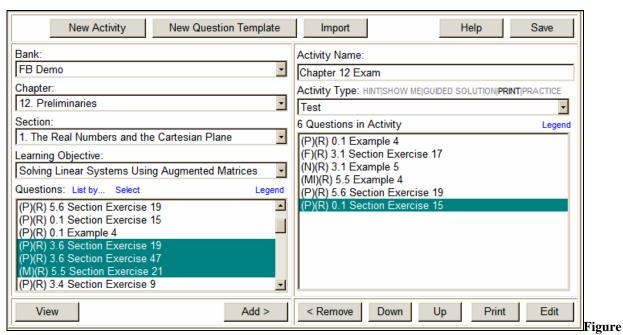


Figure 4. The WorldWideTestbank Authoring Interface – Preview Question tab

Workflow Editor

A workflow is a series of templates grouped together as an assignment. The Workflow Editor (WFE) allows an instructor to create and define new, or edit existing, workflows. Instructors can then assign these workflows as online assessments or print them out for in-class or take-home worksheets or quizzes.



5. WorldWideTestbank Workflow Editor (WFE)

Workflow Activity Type

The WFE has a Workflow Type Editor (WFTE), which allows the instructor to choose an existing workflow type or create his or her own custom workflow types.

This gives the instructor control over how the questions are presented to the student – sets the types of extra "help" features that are displayed for student access – like Hint, Your Turn, etc. For example, a workflow type set to be an exam might include Hint but not the Your Turn.

The instructor can also control the number of retries per question. Instructors may determine that a template with "X" number of iterations may have the option to try another (and set a maximum number of retries), or deactivate the student's ability to try another question of the same type completely.

Workflow Display and Tolerance Settings

The WFE has a Display and Evaluation Tolerance Editor (DETE), which allows the instructor to select display options and evaluation tolerance settings.

Instructors can choose to display numbers in the questions with or without commas, and they can control the acceptable student answers. These can be turned on or off individually, or set as a group (from no tolerance to high tolerance).

Some examples of evaluation/tolerance options are:

- * Equivalent Decimal and Scientific Notation $(0.123 = 1.23 \times 10^{-1})$
- * Variable with Coefficient of 1 or -1 (x = 1x or -x = -1x)
- * Equivalent Fractions $(\frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{8} \text{ or } \frac{3}{2} = \frac{6}{4})$
- * Fractions as Equivalent Decimals ($\frac{1}{8} = 0.125$)
- * Capitalization Acceptance Restriction (Mg ≠ mg)
- * Symbolic and Numeric Equivalence ($c = 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$)
- * Radian and Degree Equivalence $(2\pi = 360^{\circ})$
- * Unit Equivalence (1km = 1000 m)

Printing a Workflow

Instructors can print custom assignments to use for in-class or take-home worksheets or quizzes.

These printouts use the algorithmic templates that the instructor sees in the WorldWideTestbank interface. With the algorithms in place, the instructor can choose to get different versions of the printout with the same *types* of questions (so students have comparable tests with different values). The answer keys can also be printed, and each version will be marked with its version to match it to the right answers.

Once the instructor has put together the questions they want on the print out, they can set the format of the pages – the number of questions per page and the amount of space in-between problems (so students have enough room to work out their solutions).

Importing Static Templates from Popular Course Management Systems

The WFE includes a simple process for importing static questions from WebCT text file, Blackboard 5.5 & 6, or Diploma.

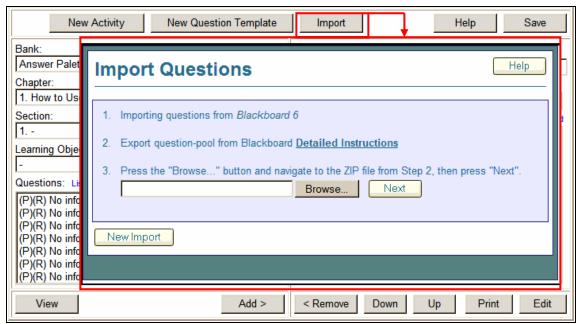


Figure 6. WorldWideTestbank Workflow Editor - Import

The interface walks instructors through the process of exporting their questions from the existing WebCT, Blackboard, or Diploma course that they are using and importing them into WorldWideTestbank system. The process is step-by-step and simple.

Once the questions are in the system, they are accessible in the instructor's Custom Library of templates and can be edited just like any other WorldWideTestbank template. The instructor can then assign them for online assessment or use them in their printouts.

WorldWideTestbank Viewer

The WorldWideTestbank Viewer displays the template to the student. The Viewer includes a variety problem delivery mechanism, which creates "access instances" to the problems under various "rules and restrictions" as defined by the workflow type.

Hint

Each problem template can have a hint option. The hint is static, in the form of an image of a sample iteration of the template or textual guidance.

Link to Text

The template can have a link to the PDF of the section of the text.

Link to External Content

The template can have a link to external content, which is a link to an offsite URL.

More Practice

If the template has been authored such that it has a Your Turn, the More Practice feature opens the Your Turn in a new window. The student sees the option to "Try Another" so that they may work through the same problem type multiple times then go back to the question.

Print

The current view of the template may be printed. For example, if a student is in "Show Me", they can print the solution.

Show Me

Each problem template can have a "Show Me" option. This feature works out the *specific* randomly generated problem in the solution. Once the student has seen the answer, they may opt to "Try Another" and a newly randomized problem will be displayed.

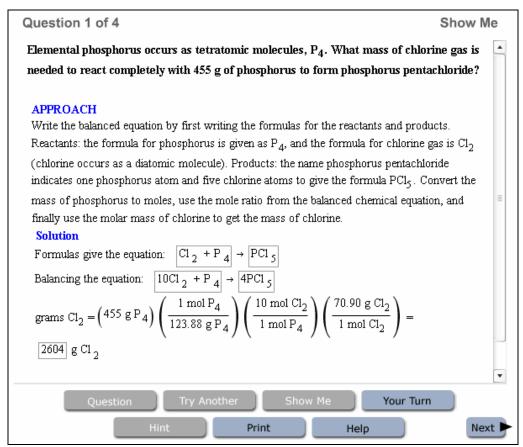


Figure 7. WorldWideTestbank Viewer - Show Me

Your Turn

Each problem template can have a "Your Turn" option. This feature separates the full solution into steps, some prompting the student to enter part/all of the *next step*. Each correct answer would induce the next step to be entered, where as each incorrect answer would be followed by a prompt to try again, with the solution for that step available at anytime.

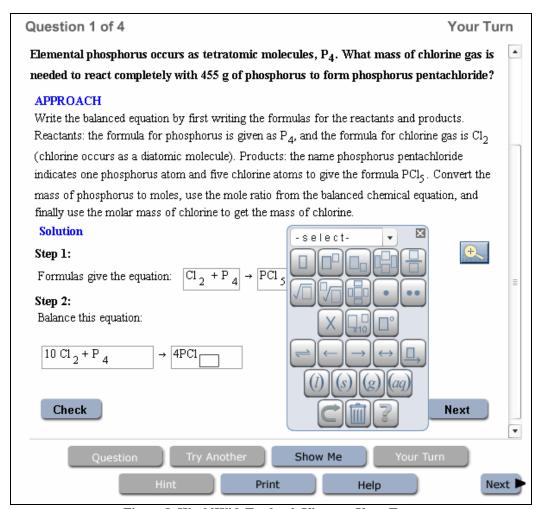


Figure 8. WorldWideTestbank Viewer – Your Turn

NetCalculatorTM

Students may have access to the integrated NetCalculatorTM fully functional scientific calculator, which provides modes for elementary and scientific calculations and graphing capabilities.

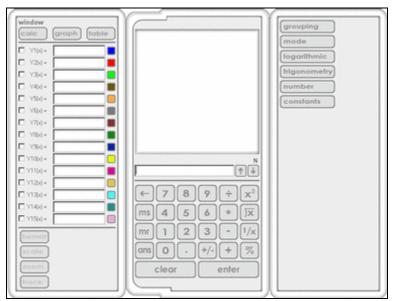


Figure 9. NetCalculatorTM

WorldWideTestbankTM Content

The WorldWideTestbank online homework and assessment system allows for the creation of virtually unlimited homework and test questions "on the fly," allowing students to view various solution options.

Each template defines a problem type and randomized variables can be chosen each time the template is displayed, allowing for a significant number of problem variations. The distracters can be calculated by building into the problem templates common mistakes in calculating answers for that particular problem type.

Each template, based on the problem type, creates from several hundred to several hundred thousand unique problems. A typical problem may have from 3 to 5 (up to 40) randomized variables, each with a fixed range of Real Numbers or Integers. For example, a 3-variable problem, with each variable set to one decimal place, and each variable set from –40 to 40, would create 64 MILLION unique problem iterations!

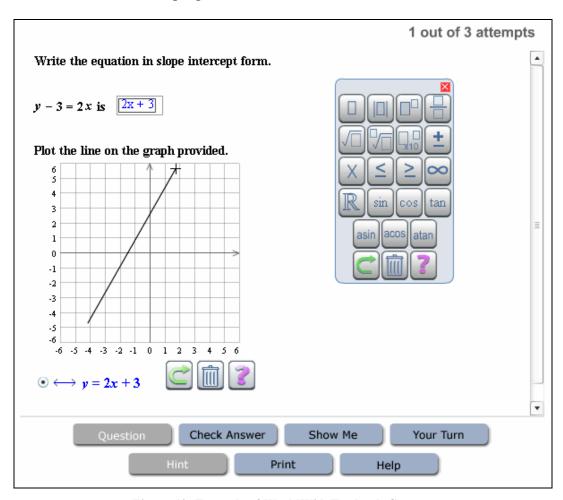


Figure 10: Example of WorldWideTestbank Content

Accounting, Business, and Economics

The WorldWideTestbank system allows powerful and accurate question authoring in several "B&E" subject areas, including Accounting, Business Statistics, Economics, Finance, Marketing, Management, CIT, and Law.

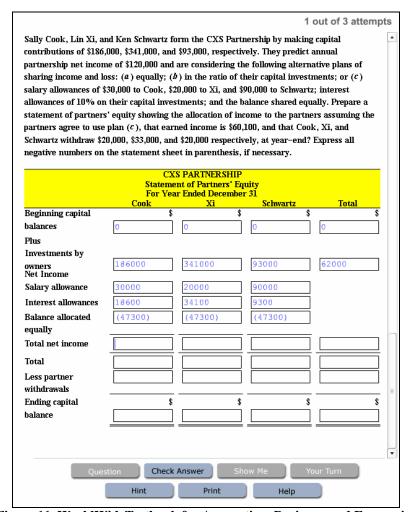


Figure 11. WorldWideTestbank for Accounting, Business, and Economics

Key functions/features for these topics include:

- * Multipart answer type for randomized business documents, like cost sheets and financial statements, plus support for financial statements.
- * Annotated image tool adds variable labels onto static documents and images.
- * Open response answer palettes allow students to "build up" their answers cutting down on multiple-choice answers.

Mathematics and Statistics

The WorldWideTestbank system allows powerful and accurate question authoring in several mathematics subject areas, including Basic Math, Algebra, Calculus, and Statistics.

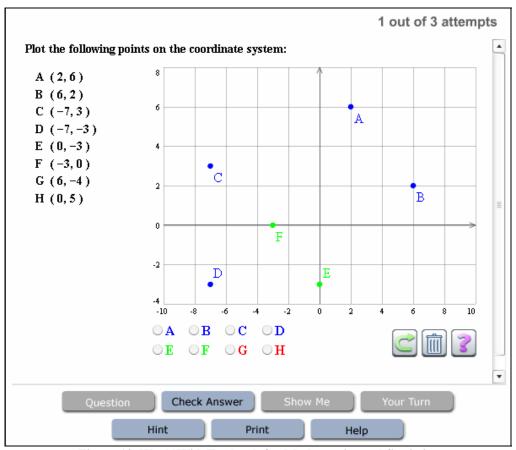


Figure 12. WorldWideTestbank for Mathematics and Statistics

Key functions/features for these topics include:

- * Open response answer palettes allow students to "build up" their answers cutting down on multiple-choice answers.
- * Randomized graphs and coordinate systems can be displayed with the **graphing calculator**.
- * Plot Point and Draw Line user input tools allow students draw their answer on an interactive grid.
- * Images can have variable labels with the **annotated image tool** giving students a visual representation of application problems like comparing the ratio of the height of a man to the height of a tree.

Sciences and Engineering

The WorldWideTestbank system also allows powerful and accurate question authoring in Life Sciences, Physics and Engineering.

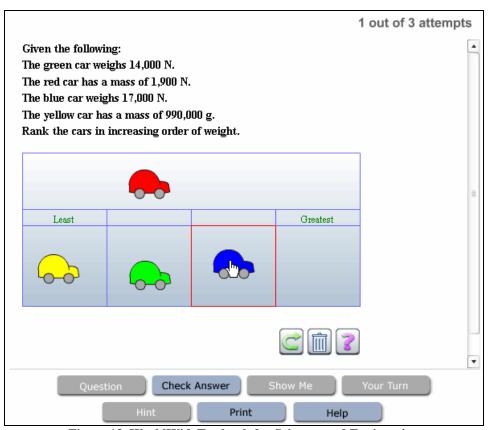


Figure 13. WorldWideTestbank for Sciences and Engineering

Key functions/features for these topics include:

- * Units answer type allows students to enter numeric values with the corresponding unit.
- * The **Free-Body Diagram** user input tool allows students to draw their FBD.
- * The **Drag-and-Drop** user input tool allows students to rank, order, or categorize their answer.
- * Engineering, Life Sciences, and Physics-specific **open response answer palettes**; include features such as rotational and oriented angles, reaction arrows, Greek letters, and common constants used in Physics.
- * The annotated image tool can be used to add variables onto electrical circuits.
- * A multipart answer type with its dependent option allows for questions to include responses that depend on question parts being worked on in order, such as finding a velocity, then finding acceleration.

Minimum System Requirements

Server Requirements

Unix Server

- * Linux RedHat 6.2, Solaris 2.5, or other supported Unix servers
- * 64 MB RAM, 20 MB Hard Disk space
- * Apache 1.3, Perl 5.005
- * MySQL 4, 5 or Oracle
- * aspell (optional) 3.2

End-User Requirements

Microsoft Windows Client

- * Windows XP, Vista
- * 56K bps or faster modem, ISDN, DSL, Cable or LAN connection
- * Internet Explorer 6, 7; Netscape 8.1, 9; Firefox 2.0, 3.0; Safari 3.2
- * Flash Player 9

Macintosh Client

- * Mac OS 10.4, Mac OS 10.5
- * 56K bps or faster modem, ISDN, DSL, Cable or LAN connection
- * Netscape 8.1, 9; Firefox 2.0, 3.0; Safari 2.0, 3.2
- * Flash Player 9

About Link-Systems International, Inc.

LSI Mission Statement

Link-Systems International is the leader in providing integrated technology and service solutions to educators in order to improve the quality of education and training, ensure student success and retention, and provide affordable education to students, workers, and their families.

Our Company

Link-Systems International, Incorporated (LSI) is a privately held, technology services and content development company that has been dedicated to student success and student retention in K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Development Education since 1995.

Our core technologies include a very flexible online tutoring/teaching platform, an online grade book, an online algorithm engine with metadata and workflow capabilities, and an online business intelligence/data mining technology designed to provide real-time alerts regarding student/school/teacher performance, attendance, and other metrics.

Our core services include content development, consulting, and online tutoring through our NetTutor® brand.

Our customers include K-12 publishers, higher education publishers, virtual high schools, higher education institutions, technology companies, and Joint Programs dedicated to providing online educational content to members of Organized Labor and their families.

We are located in Tampa, Florida, a few miles from the University of South Florida. Along with the Moffitt Cancer Center -- one of the premier medical research institutions in the United States -- USF has excellent Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics programs which provide LSI much of our human capital.

Launched in 1995, LSI has created several unique and powerful technologies, which facilitate the sharing of content over the Internet. We specialize in mathematics, technical and scientific content, the most critical types of online content with respect to student success, and the most difficult to share online.

Today, LSI is recognized by a variety of publishers and educational institutions not only for its high-quality work and dedication to meeting commitments, but also for its unique ability to develop digital strategies that are custom tailored to the needs of its customers.

Our partners and customers have come to value and trust LSI because we are the only company that offers a complete suite of interoperable solutions that address the entire life cycle of the student, with an overt focus on the bottom line: Student Success and Student Retention. That student life cycle includes:

- * Online Assessment and Placement
- * Content Authoring
- * Content Recovery, Content Management and Metadata Management
- * Online Teaching, Collaboration, and Tutoring
- * Online Homework and Testing
- * Online Grade book Technologies
- * Online Real-Time Performance Monitoring and Intervention

Through a relationship with LSI, educators acquire the ability to construct a complete, holistic approach to Student Success and Student Retention.

Our Team

Vincent T. Forese, President, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Yanmu Zhou, Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer

Dr. Emil Moskona, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Milena Moskova, Vice President, Research and Development

William K. Barter, Vice President, Business Development

Robert Andersen, Director, Content Services

Chris Boisclair, Director, International Sales

Joseph Bower, Director, Operations

Trey Bruns, Director, Sales

Tom Forese, Director, Academic Partnerships

Dr. David Kephart, Director Online Tutoring

Richard T. Meade, Director, Market Development

Our Customers

A Partial list of the various schools and companies we work with.

Business Customers:

- Association of Joint Labor/Management Educational **Programs**
- Communication Workers of America
- Earth Pledge
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Nurture New York Nature
- **Qwest Communications**
- United Steel Workers of America
- Verizon, Inc.

Publishing Customers:

- Bedford, Freeman & Worth
- Cengage Learning
- * Houghton Mifflin Company
- John Wiley and Sons

Academic Customers:

- American Intercontinental University
- Ashford University
- Arizona Western College
- * California State University
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Chattahoochee Technical College
- * Chattanooga State University
- * College Board
- **CCS** Web Academy
- **Cumberland County Schools**
- Delgado Community College
- * Fanshawe College
- Florida Virtual School
- Georgia Virtual School
- Independence University
- * Johns Hopkins University
- Kaplan University
- Keiser University
- Limestone College
- Mississippi Virtual Public School
- Mount San Antonio College

- Key College Publishing
- McDougal Littell, Inc.
- The McGraw-Hill Companies
- **Pearson Education**
- Pima Community College
- **Rockwood School District**
- San Diego Community College
- San Diego Mesa College
- SUNY Cortland
- * SUNY - Delhi
- Texas Tech University
- Union County College
- University of Arkansas
- University of Canterbury
- University of Central Florida
- University of Colorado-Denver
- University of Georgia
- University of Idaho
- University of New Orleans
- University of Phoenix
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Utah Valley University
- Weber State University
- Youngstown State University

Platform Customers

- AcademicOne
- Blackboard
- Content on Demand

- Pearson eCollege
- Embanet
- JonesKnowledge, Inc.