The Importance of IMS Certification and QTI Compliance

WHITE PAPER

OVERVIEW

IMS Global Learning Consortium develops and maintains, among other specifications, the Question & Test Interoperability® (QTI®) standard, to enable the exchange of item, test, and results data between authoring tools, item banks, test constructional tools, learning systems, and assessment delivery systems.

IMS GLOBAL®
CERTIFIED
Current Registrations:
imscert.org

INTRODUCTION

Many products and vendors claim QTI compliance, and even use the QTI name, but that can be misleading. Here's the fine print: being QTI-compliant isn't the same thing as being IMS-certified. The requirements for the latter are much more stringent.

With QTI compliance, a product's implementation and interpretation of the QTI standard are often untested. If you assume interoperability because of the mention of QTI, you might be disappointed. Subsequently, when untested implementations of QTI-compliant products fail, it gives "interoperability" and standards like QTI a bad name.

IMS Global Learning Consortium conformance certified products are in a class of their own. The IMS Global conformance certification program is a testing program that ensures a product is interoperable and up-to-date with the evolving specifications. According to the official listing in the IMS Certified Product Directory, only two dozen products—and from even fewer organizations—have made the cut as some have multiple products that qualify as QTI conformance certified.

In 2014, TAO became the first product to obtain IMS conformance certification for QTI in all four categories: Authoring and Editing systems, Delivery systems, Item and Test bank systems, and most importantly, the QTI content itself. Taken together, they make test content completely portable, which is of critical importance as users migrate from legacy proprietary platforms to open, interoperable environments. Additionally, QTI can be used to create best-of-breed solutions; combining delivery and authoring modules from multiple vendors; where adherence is key in building these learning solutions of the future.

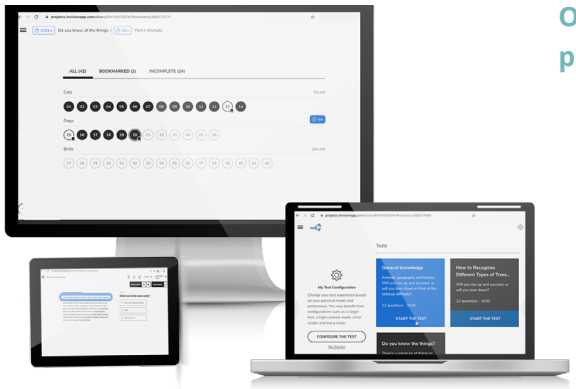


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TAO uses QTI as a native format, i.e. items are stored in QTI. We don't only import/export QTI, we store it natively and therefore item and test editors actually author QTI directly. This means no information is "lost in translation" from a proprietary internal spec to or from QTI.

We have been actively working within IMS and the QTI Technical Working groups to assure valid implementations and therefore assure interoperability.

For example: the IMS Global Executive Board on Assessment organizes regular "plugfests" to verify the vendor implementations, and based on the results improve the implementations and the specification itself (e.g. resolve ambiguities in documentation).



Only organizations truly dedicated to the QTI standard participate in these plugfests.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM TAO



ABOUT OAT

TAO, from Open Assessment Technologies, is the leading digital assessment solution for education and career advancement. Modular, customizable and interoperable by design, TAO empowers you to break free from the confines of proprietary silos, eliminate expensive licensing fees, take full control of your testing resources

PRODUCT

ACCELERATING INNOVATION IN DIGITAL ASSESSMENT

Three TAO editions, one powerful platform. Download our product sheet to learn more about TAO's digital assessment platform solutions for assessment authoring, delivery, rostering and reporting and find the product tier that's right for your organization.



CASE STUDIES

- **Transitioning an Item Bank from Paper to Digital with The Finnish Matriculation Examination Board (MEB)**
- **TAO Addresses the Unique Assessment Needs of Students with Cognitive Disabilities**
- **Beyond Multiple Choice: UMass Enriches Adult Proficiency Tests with Engaging Interactions Types Using TAO**
- **The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministry of Education (EDK) Uses TAO to Ensure Consistent Nationwide Learning Standards**
- **New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Adds Technology and Multimedia to Language Proficiency Exams**
- **The Comenius Program in Europe Uses TAO to Deliver Self-Assessment Surveys to At-Risk Youth**
- **Elsevier Incorporates TAO with Ease, Gauging Career Readiness in Healthcare Fields**



WHITE PAPERS

- **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Opening the Possibilities for Deeper Learning and Assessment**
- **Redefining Digital Assessment**
- **The Importance of IMS Certification and QTI Compliance**
- **The Practical Guide to Successful Large-Scale Online Assessment**
- **Three Tangible Ideas for Engaging Assessment Content**

eBOOKS

- **The Practical Guide to Digital Assessment**