Advanced Reporting In Moodle & Totara, With Lambda Zoola

**eBook**

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Introduction

When the learning management system spread from the education market to the corporate sector in the mid-2000s, tech-savvy business professionals were quick to criticize LMS reporting functionalities. Fast forward a few years to 2009, wherein a survey from Bersin & Associates found that 45% of LMS owners described LMS reporting as their number one challenge. Today, according to a research report from Expertus, this number has nearly doubled to 81% leaving many to wonder why organizations have not jumped in to fill the gap.

LMS reporting capabilities are so weak that many organizations have built internal software, or designed spreadsheets with manually compiled data, to avoid dependence on LMS-generated reports. After speaking with many of our clients, we quickly realized the severity of the gap

in Totara and Moodle Reporting, as many users relied on the costly measures aforementioned.

In sum, clients are pained with the following challenges in Totara and Moodle’s reporting capabilities:

* Limited access to data for the creation of Totara and Moodle reports
* Limited capabilities to analyze data within Totara and Moodle’s reporting features
* Limited options to present data due to a lack of visual presentation capabilities
* Excessive time spent creating custom reports
* Limited ad-hoc query capabilities
* Limited ability to demonstrate the impact of learning on business outcomes

Lambda Solutions is excited to finally bring a LMS reporting solution to market that addresses all of the aforementioned challenges, and more. In this eBook, we discuss the solution we have developed, Lambda Zoola for Totara and Moodle Reporting. Enjoy this eBook as we discuss, in detail, how Lambda Zoola will solve your reporting problems for open source learning management systems, Moodle and Totara. If you are already eager to see Zoola in action, save your spot for a 30 minute demo in the button below.

**Schedule a Demo of Lambda Zoola**

Interestingly enough, proprietary LMS users surveyed by Expertus cited identical LMS reporting pains in the following order of importance:

* Limited out-of-the-box reports 54%
* Limited access to data 48% Customization of reports 47%
* Ease of use 46%
* Data accessibility 35%

Limited Access To Data

**Solution: Access to all of your data**

Lambda ZoolaTM gives you have full control over all of your LMS learning data. While this may not seem like a feat, we have heard a number of examples where entire Totara and Moodle sites have crashed when attempting to access LMS data. Additionally, users have described the need to access all tables, and data within the tables to effectively prove to stakeholders the return on investment of their learning programs.

With access to the wealth of data aggregated in an LMS such as Moodle and Totara, companies are able to accurately determine which employees are obtaining course knowledge, which ones need more time, and which courses are most effective. This helps talent managers to accurately determine who is ready for promotion, or who may be a good fit to fulfill internal vacancies, among other things. On a more general level, access to all of your LMS data allows managers to create reports that:

* Measure your people’s level of expertise
* Record completion dates for all regulatory compliance training and
* non-regulatory training
* Determine the time spent learning by each learner in each course
* Determine which employees have completed which courses
* Prove the effectiveness of your learning programs

With Lambda ZoolaTM, we’ve made it easy for you to discover this information using interactive lists, graphical charts, detailed reports, and executive dashboards that incorporate all of your LMS data. In the next section we discuss the out-of-the box LMS reports and executive dashboards that allow you to visualize the aforementioned data.

Limited Capabilities To Analyze Data

**Solution: Executive Dashboards, out-of the box Reports and custom reports**

Recognizing the need for training, learning and talent development managers to access reports and dashboards that provide them with five points listed above, our team of developers have created a wide variety of out-of-the-box reports and executive dashboards that provide you with all of the aforementioned information and more. If one of these customizable reports do not provide you with the information you need, our ad-hoc or custom report builder makes it easy for you to build the exact LMS reports you need. This list is not exhaustive by any means, but below you will find a few of the key LMS reports and dashboards in Lambda ZoolaTM, that provide you insight into the following learning metrics.

**Measure Your People’s Level of Expertise**

* **Competencies, Programs and Certifications Report:** This provides the bene t of deeply understanding the skill sets of your people. With this report, you not only gain an understanding of the progress your talent is making, but also a keen understanding of their competencies, making it easy to form teams, and promote internally.
* **Record of Learning Report:** See how your learners are progressing, in terms of learning and talent development. Be in the know regarding which courses they are enrolled in, which courses they have successfully completed, which competencies they possess and the organization-wide objectives they are contributing to.
* **Objective Progress Dashboard:** This dashboard is loved by c-suite executives because it provides analysis of learner progress in correlation with organizational goals and objectives. With this dashboard you have the ability to zoom out for a bird’s eye view of the learning actions being taken by your people, and how those actions are impacting your business objectives.
* **Learning Plan Progress Dashboard:** Do you know which of your people are actively engaged in their learning plan, and what activities they are engaging in to reach their goals? This dashboard provides you with this knowledge, so you know who is falling behind, and who isn’t even set-up with a learning plan.

**Records of Completion Dates for Non-compliance and Compliance Training**

* **Course Completion Dashboard:** Gain insight into the course completion progress of your learners. With two interactive reports that can be filtered by organization, position, manager, course category, or course, you have the ability to see the number of courses completed within any timeframe of your choosing.
* **Expired Certifications Dashboard:** This dashboard provides information on certification expiry dates, with flexibility in sorting and managing views. Managers love this function because it allows them to have these reports sent directly to their inboxes, through emails scheduled at key times, allowing them to know who to contact for recertification.
* **Who Has Not Taken Courses Dashboard:** Just as it appears, this dashboard allows you to know who has not enrolled in both mandatory and non-mandatory courses, with complete flexibility for filtering by organization, position, manager, course category, course, and enrollment date range.

**Comparing How Employees are Managing their Careers**

* **Course Engagement Dashboard:** This dashboard gives you the ability to see the number of learners who are engaged and active within courses. Equipped with this knowledge, you can reward those employees who are significantly engaged, and provide supplemental knowledge, and motivation for those who are not.
* **Course Enrollment Dashboard:** This dashboard displays an enrollment count, by month. You can see which months boasted the most active learning, and whether the trend of learning is going up or down.
* **Learning Plan Progress Dashboard:** This dashboard also allows you to compare employees based upon how well they are progressing through their learning plans, so that you can pinpoint the employees that are putting their success in their own hands.

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Graphical and Drill Down Reports for Your Managerial Needs

**FIGURE 1.** Course Engagement Dashboard: Easy to use drill down reports to compare and contrast how learners are engaging in course activities.

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Easy Access to Completion Data with a Click of a Button

**FIGURE 2.** Course Completion Dashboard: Graphical and easy to access course completion data at your fingertips.

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**Finding Employees to Build Collocated Teams**

* **Competencies, Programs and Certifications Report:** When building collocated teams, it is important to place those people with complementary skills together. This report allows you to identify employee skills and competencies, thereby assisting you in putting together cohesive and productive teams.
* **Objective Progress Dashboard:** Similarly to the report listed above, the Objective Progress Dashboard allows you to identify the people who are working towards the same business objectives. With an understanding of how they are contributing, it is much easier to group employees together based on their competencies and targets.

**Searching for Top Talent**

* **Performance Appraisal Progress Dashboard:** For any competitive organization, finding and keeping top talent is integral for a healthy growing company. We also know that promoting internally can save significant costs. In conjunction with the competencies dashboard, the performance appraisal dashboard makes it easy to identify those employees that are ready for promotion, and where they will fit best.
* **Objectives Progress Dashboard:** The objectives progress dashboard also allows you to identify the employees who are vastly impacting your organization’s business objectives through the learning objectives they achieve, which is another prime factor in searching internally for top talent.

Limited Options To Present Data For Administrators, Managers, And Students

**Solution: Analyze, collaborate, and share data easily with automation and sharing functions. You can schedule and automate LMS report distribution, as well as filter and export reports.**

A big challenge for LMS report users is the inability to efficiently and effectively present their data. To address this, ZoolaTM is equipped with a number of new presentation capabilities for reports. First, users have the power to style their LMS reports. Users can design their own reports by using branded templates, so that reports match the look and feel of their organization. This helps to reflect your companies branding, and policies. Zoola’s ease of use is evident here, as users have complete control over configuring the content and format of their Totara and Moodle reports.

Second, have the ability to export LMS reports. Once reports are configured to the user’s liking, they can easily export them to the le format of their choosing. No hassle, and no time wasted - just a few clicks of your mouse.

Lastly, there are LMS report scheduling capabilities. Users can have their reports scheduled to be sent at any specific date and time, to any recipient they wish. This allows users to receive their reporting and analytics just in time for key decision making. These reports are designed to make data presentation quick and simple to read.

Too Much Time Spent Creating Reports

**Solution: Quick and easy ad hoc report creation, with user friendly interface, and advanced capabilities**

Reporting is, without a doubt, essential to the online learning process, but it should not be where all e orts and energy are spent. The overall goals and objectives of organizations should always be at the forefront, but LMS Report building can be time consuming, and complicated. What often happens, is learning administrators have to dedicate a great deal of time to create these reports. Lambda ZoolaTM solves this issue by allowing you to build reports in minutes, not days. this time can be spent focusing on students and learners. We repeat - you can build reports in minutes.

ZoolaTM also provides the capability to quickly and easily create ad hoc reports. Not only do ad hoc reports provide you with more control to analyze your data, they allow you to gain a more holistic picture of the learning and talent development that occurs within your organization. Lambda ZoolaTM makes the process very simple, allowing you to create these custom reports quickly and efficiently.

Limited Ability To Demonstrate The Business Value Of Learning

**Solution: Access powerful learning analytics that demonstrate learning effectiveness and provide insight to accurately understand where to invest in the future**

**Dashboards Available to Measure the Business Value of eLearning and online training:**

* Objectives Progress Dashboard
* Appraisal Progress Dashboard

It takes considerable time and money to develop training programs that contribute to business objectives, so it is vital that dollars spent are being put to good use. Having the ability to see how eLearning and online training creates business value in turn creates positive outcomes in a duplicative way. First, when training and talent development professionals can prove the value being created with training, buy-in for C-suite executives becomes easy, and budget allocation is justified. On another level, learners can also see the impact of their time spent learning which only serves to further motivate the e ort they put into learning.

The two dashboards that provide this information are the Objectives Progress Dashboard, and the Performance Appraisal Progress Dashboard. The former is meant to present data analysis of student progress in correlation with organizational goals and objectives. It also measures the degree to which compliance is met. The Objectives Progress Dashboard, is presented as a pie chart, counting by objective status the number of learners who are working towards organizational objectives. There is also an Objectives Progress Table which displays the details behind the chart, including first and last name, manager, objective name, objective status, objective priority, and objectives due date. The Performance Appraisal Dashboard presents an analysis of student progress, and thereby the organization, with respect to their performance appraisals.

See The Benefits Of Lambda Zoola For Yourself

There is only so much we can say about the benefits of Lambda ZoolaTM for your learning, training and talent development programs. The real magic comes when you can see it for yourself. Our team of Totara and Moodle experts are revved up and ready to walk you through the system. For a complimentary demo of Lambda ZoolaTM, please contact us to schedule a time, by clicking the button below. In our demo we will walk you through the following items:

* Overview and navigation of Lambda ZoolaTM
* Out-of-box reports and dashboards
* Exporting and scheduling your reports
* How to create interactive reports
* How ZoolaTM provides greater access to your data
* How ZoolaTM provides increased capabilities for analyzing and sorting your data
* How a quality reporting solution limits crashes and inaccurate reporting