

## Hotschools Description

**Hotschools** is a revolutionary proprietary software technology delivering **eLearning enabler services** for grade levels K-12 and adult learning situations. Some of the functions and capabilities include:

- **content management** (rapid development and deployment of virtually any Internet delivered test, and authoring and delivery of courses)
- **real time collaboration**
- **live chat**
- **eMentoring**
- **discussion forums**
- **document sharing**
- **white board collaboration**
- education related **language translations**
- **knowledge services**

Hotschools brings together virtual classrooms, (through audio and video based conferencing), and dynamic K-12 content creation and management on a single platform, requiring only a browser and a PC. Hotschools offerings are available as an **ASP** (application services provider) service, or **licensed for on-site** uses.

Our platform is a full-blown solution comprised of **Hotschools'**:

- **Learning Management System**- a very natural and intuitive user-interface; only a few hours of training for the user is required.
- **Content Management System**- enables institutions to store and manage content more effectively while increasing collaboration.
- **HSPortal System**- provides a very simple delivery mechanism for school information services, school web site composition and management, personalization, collaboration and integration of local or remote services or resources. The first version of **HSPortal** launches in the first week of May, 2006.

In addition to teacher services, Hotschools offers features and benefits targeted to other members of the school communities, including **students** and **administrative personnel**. With easy to use, innovative teaching tools, thorough training, and ongoing support to your school community, **Hotschools** is a dynamic solution that will help you address many of the instructional challenges of today and help more students experience higher levels of achievement and success.

## Learning Management System

**Hotschools' Learning Management system** provides all the necessary tools and resources for teachers to deliver and manage online classes and guide students toward ultimate success. More over, the Hotschools' Development team is ready to customize solutions to match specific requirements of any user group. Tools and resources include:

- html authoring, document management, courseware management, online course delivery,
- online/offline assessment and evaluation, integration of state standards
- Reusability: Hotschools' learning resources form a repository of reusable components
- Third party audio/video solution integration
- Rubric and Webquest to become available soon!
- guided + free access to learning resources, assessment with feedback for students:
- communication tools - presentation sharing, chat with shared white-board, forum, email etc.

The **Main Features** of the Hotschools' Learning Management System include:

- **Conference Services-** allows school administrators to establish and conduct audio and video based, real time virtual meetings with an individual teacher or student, or multiple teachers or other administrators.
- **Online Assessment Manager** - permits teachers to create their own exams and launch them online to their students using the Web.
- **Online Question Editor** -teachers can create their own questions (Test Items) and add them to their personal question banks using a Web based interface.
- **Online Courseware Manager** – teachers can create and launch their own custom courses on the Internet, using wizards that are very easy to understand The Hotschools' Courseware Manager has a "**Self Test**", option that allows a teacher to create and distribute practice assessments to students. This engaging feature encourages students to practice, learn, and apply basic to advanced skills and concepts integral to their educational success.
- **Performance Evaluation** –evaluate student and the overall class performance by calculating the average test scores in an **electronic grade book**. Options are available to export performance data in various standard data formats and graphical presentations.
- **Chat with White Board** –permits online communications between teachers, teachers and their classes, and subject matter experts.
- **Virtual Class Rooms-** allows teachers to establish and conduct audio and video based, real time virtual classes with an individual student, or a group of students.
- **Bulletin Boards** – Hotschools' Bulletin Boards enable asynchronous discussions among various members of an institution. These Bulletin Boards help students, Educators and Administrators post various topics, including items like homework assignments, online tutoring schedules, school events or teacher announcements.
- **Online Calendar/ Organizer** – Available for all the member communities (students, educators and administrators), the Organizer helps manage appointments and schedule any meetings. The "reminder" option when chosen reminds the user of the appointments.

## Content Management System

**Hotschools Content Management System** allows you to create your own courses. They can be for student learning as well as staff development. It supports a number of document types including PDF files, Microsoft Office, most open office products, Corel Word Perfect , Postscript , HTML, XML etc. It also has a **built-in Search engine** that enables Full text search, Fuzzy search, Highlighting of search terms and visualization of search results. The System has **built-in communication tools** to enable enhanced **collaboration on documents**. The Internet based course delivery allows students to learn anywhere, anytime.

The System helps **Curriculum Specialists** and **Teachers**:

- Manage and share files without the need for duplication
- Maintain and track versions of documents
- Provide dedicated file and content storage areas for individuals and groups
  - **School Administrators-** can manage users and groups of users, manage Search Indices and content backups.
  - **Content Authors/Creators** -can add documents via HTTP upload, download documents, edit/delete documents, move documents, checkIn/checkout documents, maintain versioning, and collaborate on documents

The **Main Features** of the Hotschools' Content Management System include:

**Exam Services** - students can take exams created by their teachers online and the test scores are automatically posted to the egrade book and are available to the teachers, administrative personnel, and the student, if desired.

**Course Services** - students can register for courses and take those courses online. Students can log in to check homework assignments, complete their homework and upload it back to the teacher, all online.

**Grade Book** – students can access their own individual test performance and review their average test scores using scores from multiple exams. Options available to export performance data in various standard data formats and graphical presentations.

**Chat with White Board** – communicate online with other students, their teachers and subject matter experts, including tutors.

**Bulletin Boards** – access information from school sources, including homework assignments, teacher and school announcements.

**Organizer** - organize student appointments, reminders, class schedule, and meetings.

## HSPortal System

**HSPortal** is a web portal trivialized. Designed especially for schools using Hotschools LMS, it provides very simple delivery mechanism for school information services, school web site composition and management, personalization, collaboration and integration of local or remote services or resources. The first version of HSPortal will be released in the first week of May, 2006.

The **Main Features** of the **HSPortal** System include:

- **WebTop:** The HSPortal main page is a "webTop", or a desktop-like-web page. It has "drag-and-place" menu blocks, and a convenient context menu with quick access to main menu items. The "webTop" customization is trivial. A customized main webTop can serve as the school website home page.
- **View-ports:** Web contents appear within rectangular areas (view-ports) in a "webTop". These no-popup "view-ports" also have "drag-and-place" capability; they can be resized, minimized or closed as and when desired. Adding or removing view-ports is as simple as adding or removing lines from template files.
- **Click-to-edit file space:** user file space has been divided into "webSpace" and "workSpace". "WebSpace" contains the web publishable files, whereas the "workSpace" contains private documents primarily related to Hotschools private study documents area. The file space is "browsable", and a click on a file name opens the file content in a "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" html editor.
- **School information service:** school site home page or additional information pages can be easily edited from administrator file space. School notices, calendar, and news items can be maintained via very simple interfaces to associated tools. Top 5 news items automatically appear within a "spotlight" view-port.
- **Contact zones:** are "click-to-contact" web-links. These zones can be used for real-time chat among "visitors" (users clicking on these hyperlinks in their browsers). The contact zones may have areas like "counselor's desk", "teachers' room", and "common room".
- **Personalization:** every user has "mySpace" with tools to maintain personal calendar, task list, address-book, and bookmarks. Each user has a publishable "webSpace", which means the user can create and make his/her homepage available to HSPortal users. The "webSpace" layout and look-and-feel customization in HSPortal has been simplified and is reduced to "drag-and-place" view-ports, "pick-and-apply" foreground/background colors or patterns. Even a beginner can assemble a neat, efficient and impressive personal home page.
- **Collaboration:** apart from contact zones, for asynchronous communication among learners, educators and parents, separate community forums with discussion threads are available.
- **Integration:** view-ports provide zero-effort integration of resources or services from remote web locations. For services that require authentication, this integration does not automatically become "single sign-on". Respective view-ports may require independent authentication for the services/resources. However, the Hotschools Professional Services Team members, if required may provide converting to "single sign-on".

## **Hotschools' Professional Services**

If you're interested in exploiting the benefits of eLearning using the Hotschools' products, you can leverage the expertise of our consultants to maximize the success of your implementation. With Hotschools' Professional Services division, you work with domain and technology experts who understand your institution's specific needs. They'll provide you with the necessary skills to make your e-Education initiatives successful. Professional Services Division's members can help you throughout your full project lifecycle either on a per project basis or as a full-time member of your team. Hotschool's Integration team can integrate external applications with Hotschools products. Customers converting from older implementations can be confident of a smooth conversion with the assistance of our Professional Services. We have years of experience. A team performs a "needs assessment" to determine the current usage and map functionality to the Hotschools system. They evaluate available enhancements to ensure clients get a maximum return on their investment.

## **Hotschools Benefits**

- Adds a unique, world-class eLearning platform to any Educational Institution.
- Strengthen Hotschools' partners' virtual offerings.
- Ensures various standards are being tested, met, and overall school average test scores are competitive.
- 100% web based. No local hardware/software needed in ASP model.
- Java based, standards compliant platform.
- Provides audio and video based e-collaboration capabilities.
- Designed to be easily and quickly customized for unique partner branding where desired.

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