Platform X Course Inheritance

# Introduction

DLAP provides an infrastructure that allows for course inheritance. That means that a course (child) can descend from another course (parent) and it will take on all of the content and properties of the parent course. Part of our design is making use of this inheritance structure to allow for maximum flexibility and minimize data redundancy.

There are several types of course inheritance provided by DLAP.

* **Derivative** makes a derivative course, which creates a linked course from the source to the destination. No new content is actually created; rather, the derived course simply references the master, and only changes in the derived course are actually stored to it.
* **Copy** creates copies of all content of the source to the destination, so that a change in the source course will not affect the destination.
* **Derivative Copy** makes a new derivative of the source course’s master, and then copies all of the source course’s changes to the copied course. This allows a copy to be made without recreating all content, but also while not requiring a new level of inheritance.

Platform X uses the ‘Derivative’ method to inherit courses. To learn more about how derivative courses work in DLAP, see <http://dev.dlap.bfwpub.com/Docs/Concept/CourseChaining> .

# Template Course

All courses in the Platform X system derive directly or indirectly from the template course. This course resides in the PXMigration domain, and has a course ID of TEMPLATE\_COURSE. Because every course is a descendant of this one, it is used to store basic default course settings. These include:

* Default grading schemes
* A group set that is used to store individuals in their own groups – See the document regarding Users and Groups for details on how this group set is used.
* Some default search categories – See the Platform X Searching document for an understanding of how these are used.
* A default infinite scroll setting
* A table of contents entry for My Materials, which is used in all courses to identify content created by the instructor for that course – See the Platform X Table of Contents document for details on how these are used.
* A default folder layout. Platform-X requires certain folder items to be in place. For example, it requires the PX\_TOC

# Product Course

Each product has its own product course. These courses are imported and derive from the master course, but they are the courses that actually contain course content (eBook, quiz content, etc.) These courses can be viewed by a logged-in user, but they are read-only for any user, and are viewed in an anonymous fashion. Product courses in PX look exactly the same when viewed by any user. The one exception is that only instructors see the available action to create instructor courses from product courses.

When user authentication occurs, the authentication system (RA) tells Platform X the ID for the course being viewed, and that course’s product course. When those two IDs are the same, PX knows that the current course **is** a product course.

# Instructor Course

When an instructor creates his or her own course from a product course, that product course is duplicated on the fly using the CopyCourses DLAP call, with the action parameter set to Derivative. Because the instructor course is derived from the product course, it retains all of the content from the product course. Any new content created by the instructor or students that are enrolled in the course exists only in the instructor course.