

Looma Release Notes

Release 2.3

Summary: Release notes for Looma II Release 2.3
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Purpose and Context


Purpose: release notes for Looma 2.3 software release

Summary


This new release is being posted on AWS, pushed to GitHub, and installed on all Loomas. It incorporates the code developed during the Looma 2016 Summer Camp.

New Features


Select and Speak

On pages with selectable text, like textbooks or other PDFs, the speech button  can be click to have the computer speak text which has been selected with the wand or mouse.


Select and Lookup in Dictionary

On pages with selectable text, like textbooks or other PDFs, the lookup button  can be click to have the computer look up the selected word in the Looma dictionary.

On-screen keyboard

On selected pages that take user text input, there is Keyboard button  which, when clicked, brings up an on-screen keyboard for entering the user input text.

Time Instruction

The Time page, accessed from the toolbar button , provides tools and exercises for teaching how to tell time.

History Timelines

The History page, accessed from the toolbar button , displays history timelines stored in the Looma database.

Slideshows (and Teacher Tool for creating slideshows)

A new media type, “slideshow”, is now supported. Slideshows are collections of image files which can be “played” sequentially, with optional captions shown for each image. Simple play/pause, speed-up/slow-down and re-order controls are provided.

A folder in the Looma Library  holds all the Slideshows.

Slideshows can be created using any images stored on a Looma. A simple tool for creating slideshows is provided for authorized users (see Teacher Tools, below).

Annotated Videos (and Teacher Tool for creating edited videos)

A new media type, “annotated video” (or “edited video”), is now supported. Annotated videos are collections of media files (videos, video fragments, images, PDFs, text slides) which can be “played” sequentially. Simple play/pause controls are provided.

A folder in the Looma Library  holds all the Annotated videos.

Annotated videos can be created using any media files stored on a Looma. A simple tool for creating annotated videos is provided for authorized users (see Teacher Tools, below).

HTML media files

This release of Looma supports HTML files (webpages) as media type. HTML pages can be stored in the Looma content store and viewed as standalone pages, or as activities associated with textbook chapters.

A folder in the Looma Library  holds all the HTML pages.

New types of Activities


Looma Activities are media files that can be associated with individual chapters of textbooks to provide enhanced learning for the chapter subject area.

In earlier Looma releases, the supported types of media files for Activities were:

Video, audio, PDF, and ePaath [games from OLE Nepal].




This release adds new media file types that can be Activities:

HTML, Slideshows, and Annotated Videos
[to be added: Maps, History Timelines and Lesson Plans]

These “activity” media files can be browsed in the Looma Library  page, and they can be launched from the “Activities” page for any chapter they are associated with.

Login

There is now a Login facility for authorized users, which gives access to ‘advanced’ features, mainly Teacher Tools that are used to generate new Looma content.

The Login dialog is accessed from a button on the Looma Settings page ( on the Looma toolbar), or by clicking the padlock on the Looma toolbar . When login is successful, the padlock will change to an open padlock . The user must provide a registered userid and password to log in.

Teacher tools

The new Teacher Tools are:

- Create slideshows
- Create annotated videos
- Register new content in Looma Library and Looma Activities
- Generate Dictionary entries direct from PDF sources
- (future) Generate Lesson Plans for textbook chapters