# Tool implementation

In this section the practical use and implementations of ALAT will be treated. The target audience will be determined and discussed. A description of the target audience also allows for a discussion on the possible applications of ALAT. With these applications in mind a case is made on the possibility of future expansions of ALAT and how this could affect or change its target audience and real world applications.

## The ALAT target audience and applications

ALAT has been created in order to provide a new authoring environment for GALE. At this time GALE and GAT are mainly used in courses and projects at TU/e[[1]](#footnote-1). The first possible application of ALAT is to be the new recommended authoring environment in the adaptive hypermedia courses at TU/e. This means ALAT will be used by students with a technical background which are not yet experienced in authoring adaptive hypermedia. ALAT provides the tools necessary to ease these students into authoring courses while they learn the principles of adaptive hypermedia. This means that the main target audience of ALAT at this time consists of both students learning to author for GALE as well as engineers and experts with more extensive knowledge on adaptive hypermedia.

The ALAT authoring environment as it is now is created to be used by authors with at least basic understanding of adaptive hypermedia with the support of a GALE expert. This expert is to set up the templates needed to create adaptive applications. It might be difficult for users to start using ALAT without the expert on the background because as extending templates might be necessary to create the desired adaptation rules or concept blueprints. A solution to this would be to create an all-round and straight forward set of templates that covers all basic adaptation techniques commonly used in GALE.  
An effort has been made to make ALAT a usable authoring environment for more adept GALE users as well. Experienced GALE users can install ALAT on their own server and can create their own templates and default layout files. Even though experts might prefer writing their own GALE code, deployed ALAT applications could serve as a basis for further development. This is something which is not possible in GAT, because it stores applications in the IMS VDEX[[2]](#footnote-2) format [Sm11], which is not easy for humans to read and edit.

## Possible future applications

As described earlier, ALAT is a tool which will mainly be used by students and GALE experts at TU/e in the foreseeable future. This section will discuss what might hold ALAT back from a larger user base and what solutions could possibly solve this problem.

Many discussions on ALAT and adaptive hypermedia authoring in general with employees of “De Roode Kikker” have resulted in some interesting comments and statements on the use of authoring software in the field of education.

Some things which are very important in the academic use of tools such as ALAT, do not apply to authoring by either teachers or experts in educational hypermedia at all. The great difference being that teachers and educational hypermedia expert need a subset of all functionalities in ALAT. They need a standardized set of rules

[FOCR04]   
Foss, Jonathan GK, and Alexandra I. Cristea. "The next generation Authoring Adaptive Hypermedia: Using and Evaluating the MOT3. 0 and PEAL tools."*Proceedings of the 21st ACM conference on Hypertext and hypermedia*. ACM, 2010.

[Sm11]

Smits, D. David. *Towards a generic distributed adaptive hypermedia environment*. Diss. Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, 2012.

1. Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.imsglobal.org/vdex/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)