Taking xAPI Profiles Further:
A Strategic Approach to Utilize xAPI Profiles to Address Specific Requirements within the DoD and Guidance for Putting the Process into Practice

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Taking xAPI Profiles Further: Designing xAPI Profiles to Address Specific Requirements

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What we will be talking about

- xAPI Profile basics
- Identifying when to use a Profile and what it helps you accomplish
- Steps to designing a Profile
- Putting the process into practice
- Summary and examples
What is a Profile? Why do I care?
xAPI profile basics

Profiles describe the “Rules of Engagement”

- Describes an expected vocabulary
- Describes specific actions that correlate to specific verbs
- Describes sequences of actions that must be done in a particular order

Benefits of xAPI Profiles

- Allows for more advanced reporting
- Ensures content procured from different vendors behaves similarly
- Easier for developers and learning designers to build training
Should I use a Profile?
Identifying when to use a profile

Two important but different needs: internal and external

1. When?
   ● Moving data between external systems
   ● Need data to match
   ● Need to model complex learning interactions

2. What?
   ● Template for structuring data in a repeatable way
   ● Convey to developers how to capture your data
   ● Describe data to people who need to analyze it
How do I design a Profile?
Steps to designing a Profile

First gather stakeholders, then discover requirements

- Who are your learning professionals and xAPI experts?
- What other systems exist in the learning ecosystem?
- Who owns the LRS?
- Who cares about the reports?
- Is there existing relevant data?
Steps to designing a Profile

Start asking questions, conduct interviews

- What's important about the learning activity?
- How will the data be used?
- Where will the data live?
- Will the data be shared?
- Will we collect similar data from multiple sources?
- Do we have needs specific to our organization?
- Is there an existing Profile out in the world that will work?
- Do you need to create a unique Profile?
Steps to designing a Profile

Make multiple passes, find more stakeholders

- Multiple focus groups built from stakeholders from different parts of the organization
- Does this group identify the same needs as the first, what’s different?
- Resolve any differences in the feedback between the groups.
Putting the process into practice

Interpret, synthesize, and test the Profile

- Build an example profile and test with sample data
- Confirm the xAPI Profile produces the expected set of data
- Does it accurately capture all of the necessary information?
- Does it meet the needs of all stakeholders?
In summary

The process

- Requirements gathering
- Focus group building
- Conduct interviews
- Interpretation and synthesis
- Validation review
- Build and test

Examples

- Portable data needs
- CAC card
- Multiple vendors (COTS)
- Simulation training
Questions? Ask me anything.

Email me: tj.seabrooks@rusticisoftware.com
Learn more: rusticisoftware.com | scorm.com | xapi.com
Resources

Requirements gathering

- Who will be impacted by this effort?
- Which systems, tools and data are involved and who are those owners?

Discovery questions

- What do you want to know about?
- Why do you want to know it?
# Methodology

Adaptable, repeatable process

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extant data review</th>
<th>Focus groups</th>
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<td>Review of current data (if any) the DoD is currently capturing, reports, and list of systems that make up the ecosystem.</td>
<td>Structured, open discussions using a verbal question guide that we will create to determine types of activities, actions and ways people interact with content.</td>
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Interviews
Follow-up conversations to clarify, broaden and capture additional information.

Synthesis and interpretation
Intellectual activity by the researchers to construct xAPI Profiles from information collected throughout the process.

Validation review
A draft version of the data and reports that all stakeholders can review and validate.

Meta-process

Reflect, revise, plan ahead

Reflect, revise, plan ahead

Reflect, revise for final version