

Why metacoon ?

Do you need a learning management system that allows you to get started right away – without much effort for installation or adaptations?

Are you looking for a functional online platform for virtual learning, shared projects - including authoring tools for the creation of learning material or the management of distributed knowledge?

Metacoon is both: Using the metacoon modular system design, your platform is able to grow with your requirements and without the need to become acquainted with complex functionality.

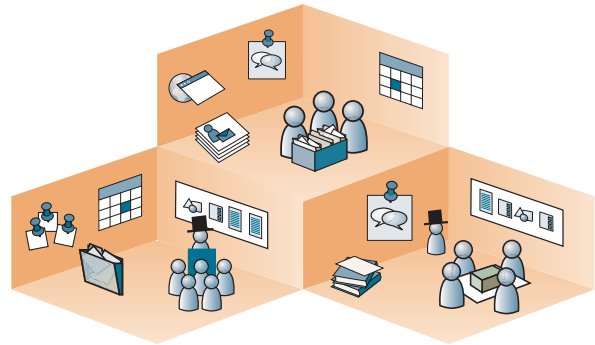


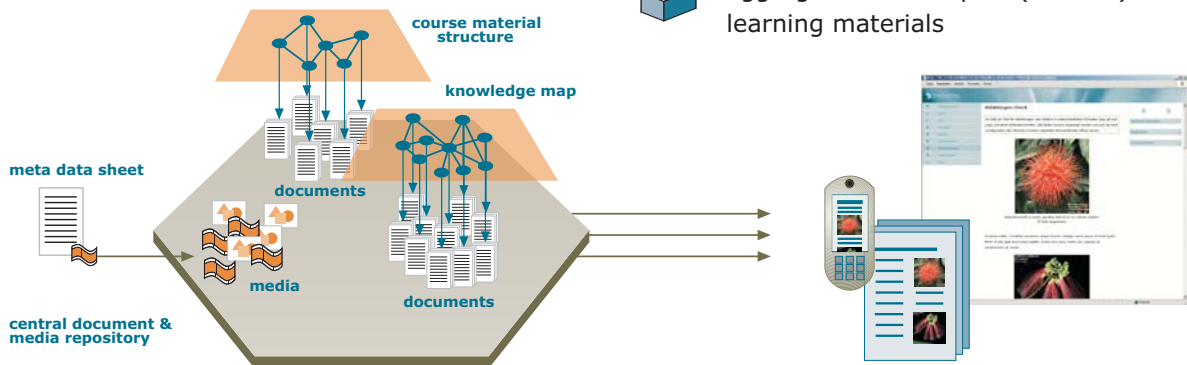
fig.: a metacoon platform as a virtual house with any number of individual learning and working rooms

metacoon is:

- a platform with a user defined number of rooms for virtual learning and working
- a tool box for the individual configuration of these virtual rooms
- websites and a website-editor (WYSIWYG) for each room (project or course presentation)
- SCORM-RTE (run SCORM course material)
- Cross-Media-Publishing of content / knowledge units (XML >> HTML & PDF)

Authoring-Tools:

- knowledge map
 aggregate course material
- XML-content
 question & tests (QTI)
- literature management
 glossary & other reference books
- audio/video slide presentations
- central document & media pool with aggregation and export (SCORM) of learning materials



That is why many organisations have chosen metacoon for numerous fields of use:

- authorities (i.e. the Thuringian ministry of economics)
- further educational institutions (i.e. the Red Cross or the Bauhaus Academy)
- schools and vocational schools (i.e. a vocational school network in NRW) and
- universities (i.e. with a state support contract for all Thuringian universities)

You can imagine a metacoon platform as a virtual house in which you can set up any number of virtual rooms.

To set up a new room you just need to fill in a short form in which you choose a room template (i.e. "course room SMALL & EASY", "project work room ADVANCED", or "Congress organisation").

The platform then creates a new virtual room according to the template chosen. This includes a selection of preselected tools matching the future purpose of the room to help you get started.

Use and Adaptation of Rooms

A room usually represents a course or a project. Trainers, professorships or learning groups (i.e. registers) can hold more than one course in their room.

Within just two minutes a new room can be set up and turned over to the room owner. The room owner then adds documents and information to the room and permits access to the users.

As you can see metacoon beginners are able to get started quickly and uncomplicatedly while advancers can adapt their rooms more individually.

Within a virtual room tools can be switched on or off (approx. 50 tools are in the tool box) and more user groups can be set up with individual access rights on tools and data (course / project group A, B, C, ...)

universities, presence or online teachings

starter:
SMALL & EASY
advancers:
ADVANCED



(vocational) schools: contact with practice instructors and cooperation with partner schools

virtual communities (fig. i.e. www.interkulturelles-Portal.de)



Intercultural Knowledge

Intercultural offerors



virtual project teams, knowledge management and further education in business



further educational institutions, support of presence or online courses

fig.: personals desk metacoon version 2.0 - Overview to News and urgent Tasks & Dates

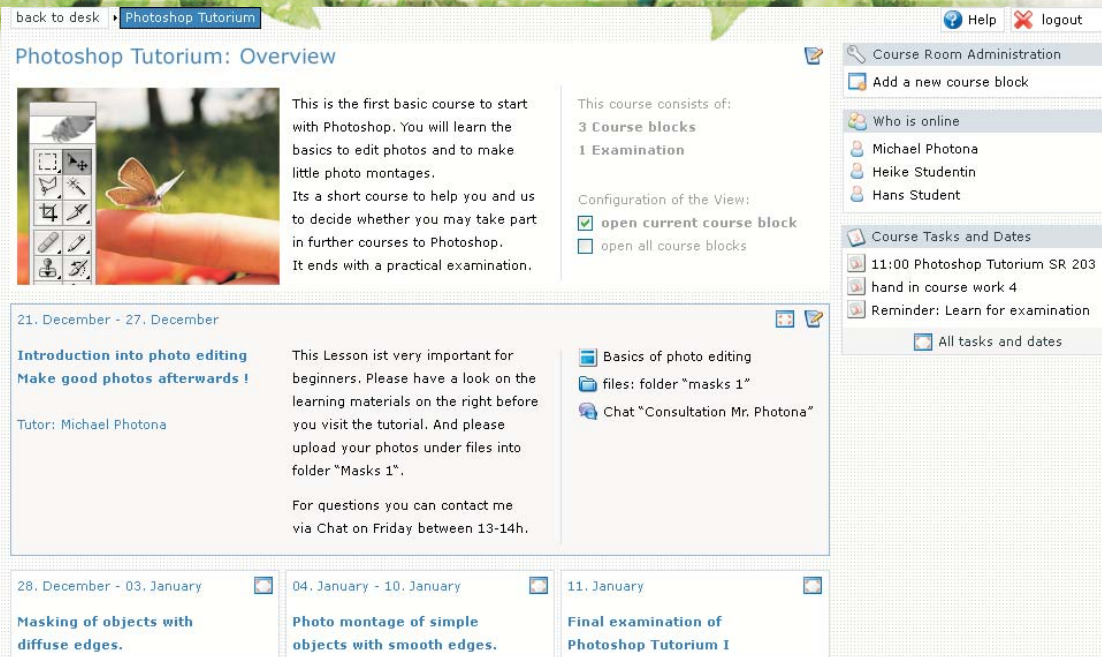


fig.: view into a course room - top: room info block, center maximized course block (i.e. today's seminar), bottom minimized course blocks

Knowledge Management & Learning Materials

You may upload all kinds of existing learning materials in common WWW formats as well as SCORM course material. It is possible to give individual access rights to different groups.

For the creation of advanced learning and knowledge materials metacoon also offers comfortable authoring tools, i.e. reference books (comparable to a glossary), literature management, an offline question & test editor (QTI standard conform) and an audio/video slide presentation editor.

Learning and knowledge content units can be easily edited offline with a common word processing system (OpenOffice).

You may add: formulas, animation media, figures, glossary entries, literature references and links to the pages.

To meet the requirements of author communities a central document and media pool (document management system) has been integrated.

Content is tagged / marked (i.e. as "introduction", "example" or "citation") and transformed into a XML-format automatically. This content units and QTI-tests can be reused in different course materials.

To aggregate course material by reusing existing content units and tests you can use the tool "arrange course material" within the authoring area of the platform.

Later this XML content is presented to the user in a customized manner (i.e. with /without examples and according to the design of the

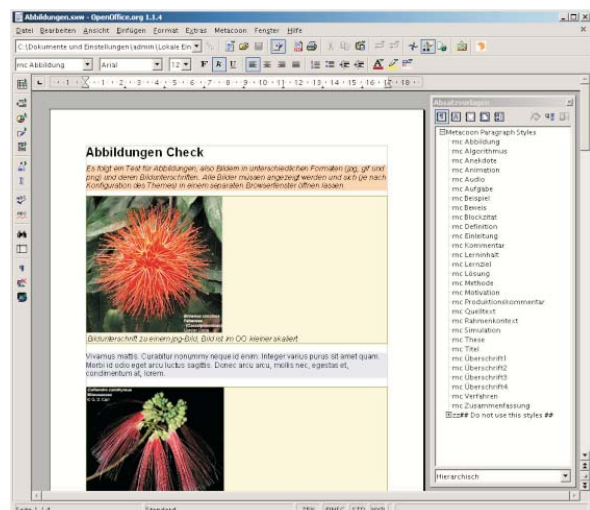


fig.: Editor for XML content units with a normal wordprocessing System (OpenOffice)

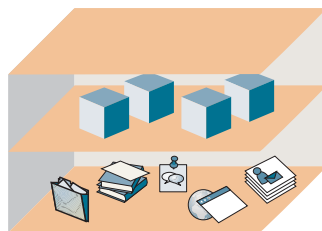
To do so a rendering framework converts this XML content either to HTML (to display it on PC / laptop screens or on mobile devices) or to a PDF format (to print it out in high quality).

metacoon has a central document management system for the shared management of documents and media. This repository offers a broad functionality such as versioning, check-in/-out, lock, management of access rights.

Its special feature is a flexible metadata management. You can choose the desired metadata system via a configuration file. LOM and Dublin Core are preinstalled. Metadata fields can be added or removed by the user.

Communication & Information Tools:

- "Whats new" - shows all new information and material since the last login
- the discussion Board with an overview of all unread entries and the possibility to add files to entries
- a pin board (with possibility to add files, voting / survey and links to other entries)
- the adress book (excel; vcard-palm/outlook export)
- individual set up of chats in each metacoon room with individual access rights for groups
- group mailing lists for each group of the room and of the platform
- messenger functionality (who is online?, short messages)
- "business cards", group and personal description
- FAQ (frequently asked questions)
- automatical email notification



platform-tool box

room templates



learning & working tools

Tools for Learning / Tutoring:

- a Course/room list, program of lectures with signing up functionality
- individual virtual room for each course
- a pool of learning material with a search functionality and a short preview description (formats include: PDF, slide show - Powerpoints, Word documents, complex HTML material,)
- management of hypertext material with search, print and PDF export functionality
- management of SCORM course material
- audio / video slide shows
- network overview of course material
- private or group notes
- the possibility to hand in course work / tasks
- feedback on course work / performance

Tools for Coordination:

- a schedule with vcal export / import
- poll / survey (votings integratable in pinboard and other tools)
- minutes (meeting / conversation note)
- a task manager / assign tasks to people or groups and monitor their completion
- reservation and lending of equipment and rooms
- description of projects an the possibility to link all relevant information and documents of this project

Personalisation /Administration for Users:

- administration of the user profile and user data as well as the password
- choice of a nickname and personal icon
- personal user homepage with photo, address and information about the person
- registration for courses / rooms

Platform & Room Administration:

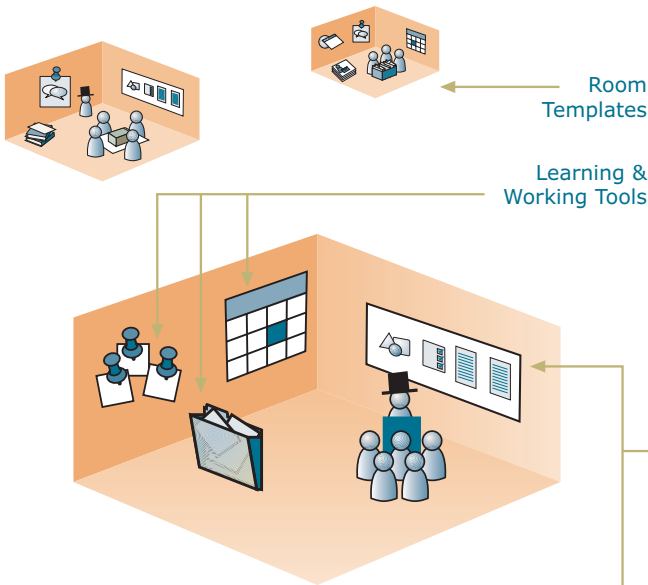
- create and maintain virtual learning and working rooms (i.e. for courses, projects or professorships)
- management of groups and roles
- management of access rights
- user management (permit / cancel registrations, create / delete accounts)
- user data and profiles check
- change user passwords
- list of user logins for statistical purposes
- management of the external platform website

Languages: currently available in English & German; we are working on a Russian version; translation help is always welcome

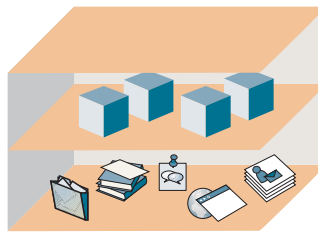
System Requirements: metacoon runs on a LAMP-system (Linux, Apache, MySQL up from 4.0.15 PHP up from 4.3.0). An Apache-Tomcat 5.0 with Servlet Cocoon 2.1.8. (necessary for the rendering of course material) is optional.

Hosting-Service: The service team "metacoon-services" offers installation and hosting service or rent out of virtual rooms to all users which do not have servers or IT staff themselves.

Learning & Working Rooms



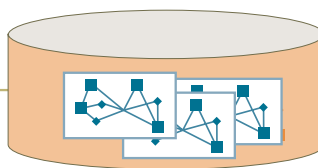
Platform tool box



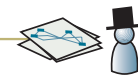
Software developer



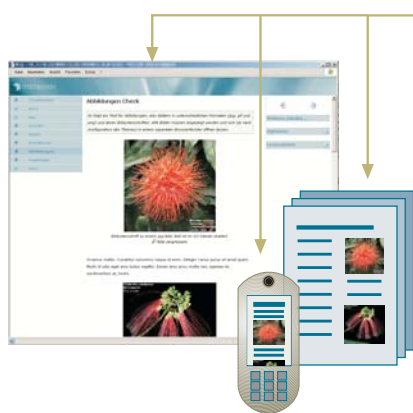
Course Material Pool



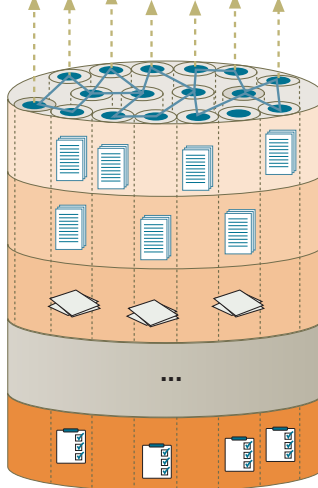
Course Material Authors



Publishing HTML, PDF, ...



Knowledge Pool



Knowledge Community



metacoon further development CampusSource (CS) cooperations:

Currently the metacoon team is working on the following functionalities: question & test and task automating, platform internationalisation, accessibility, integration of a improved overview (on courses, new content and bulletins), authoring tool integration, administration tools for schools / classrooms, more room templates for special purposes and much more.

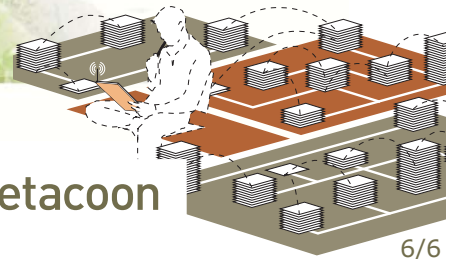
In the future no opensource developer team will be able to develop and maintain all the tools and technologies for learning, working, authoring on its own. Therefore the Campus Source developer teams have joined their forces to develop central

common technologies together.

For instance we are currently working on a shared XML document structure and the adaptation of the authoring tools to it. So besides the exchange of SCORM course material more valuable XML contents can be exchanged between the systems.

The CS teams are also working on shared document and media-repositories, a new SCORM-RTE and other corporate tools.

This way universities and other institutions that use CS-Systems can share course materials and reuse existing tools.



1. Concept & Management

mc-services: consulting, conception, training, coaching, projekt management

2. Production & Introduction



3. Operation & Evaluation



Consulting - Training - Services

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