OpenEdX Product Implementation Guide

1. Description/Overview of tool

OpenEdX is an open-source learning management system (LMS). The platform allows administrators to create digital courses for online and remote learning.

2. What need does it fill

OpenEdX is a useful tool for remote learning and workshops. Particularly when it is not possible to conduct an in-person training, OpenEdX provides a good alternative. As opposed to a one-time workshop, OpenEdX allows for an administrator to create a number of different online courses over time, allowing participants to take them at their convenience, and for new users just joining to catch up on the previous content. It also allows for customizations and features like issuing certificates for completing certain courses.

3. Language for proposals/General pitch of the tool

OpenEdX is an open-source product that provides a cheap and easy way to perform online trainings. In-person trainings can be expensive, difficult to coordinate, and sometimes not possible due to various circumstantial factors. When in-person trainings are not the best option, OpenEdX provides a cheaper, easier way to transmit important information to partners, in a way that allows for greater reach, and to continue conducting trainings over a longer period of time.

4. Budget for implementing

Because the application is an online learning platform and quite substantial, the hosting for the site can cost $150-$300 a month (for smaller use cases, it may be possible to use a slightly cheaper hosting configuration). For internal teams, the NDI tech team can help cover some of these costs depending on the situation.

5. Technical capacity required

There are several ways to get OpenEdX. Certain organizations offer full hosting of the applications. Appsembler's Tahoe is a simplified version of OpenEdX that they host. The OpenEdX platform is open-source, and so it can also be hosted by anyone with the proper technical skills. Given the complexities of the application itself however, even for those with technical backgrounds NDI still recommends looking into contracting a vendor to help provide support for the application. A list of OpenEdX vendors with various skillsets can be found here. NDI can provide advice to internal teams on selecting a vendor or providing support. NDI also

has an internally hosted instance of OpenEdX, and in certain cases can provide internal teams with a copy of the application to use.

6. Level of effort to implement

Implementing the platform will require a staff member to spend time learning and gaining expertise in using the platform, particularly in course creation. Teams should plan to dedicate a fair amount of time to this.

7. Contextual Considerations

a. Cybersecurity

OpenEdX is fairly secure and is suitable for environments with higher than normal cybersecurity requirements, but it is not specifically designed as a privacy tool. Considerations can be made to protect users, such as disabling the need for them to create accounts on the site to take courses.

b. Languages

OpenEdX is at least partially translated into dozens of languages, including close to full translation into Spanish, French, and Arabic. The full list of languages and the percentage of the tool that has been translated can be found here

c. Availability of Support/Sustainability, communities supporting the tool, public documentation, etc

A large amount of documentation is available here.

8. Additional information/materials

- A non-NDI affiliated demo site is available here
- A course for learning more about OpenEdX can be found here
- Technical documentation can be found here