

Torus Product Roadmap

Snapshot as of 01 March, 2024

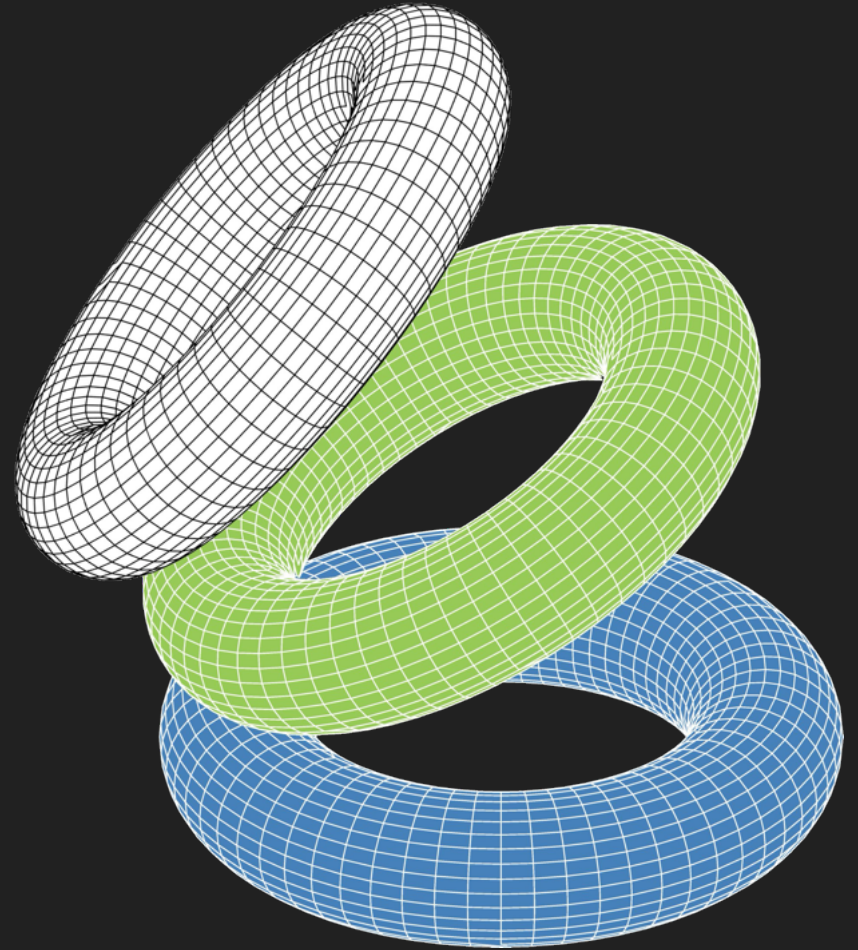


Open Learning Initiative

Transforming higher education through the science of learning.

Product Vision

Transforming higher education
through the science of learning



Torus Roadmap

Torus v27

Release: April 9, 2024

Separation of Admin Roles

Authoring UX Improvements

Content Licensing

...and more

Torus v28

Release: July 2024

NG (Next Generation)
Student Interface

Social Annotation

A/B Testing Improvements

Improvements to Instructor
Reporting and Visualizations

Torus v29

Release: October 2024

Scheduling Improvements

Certificate Capabilities

Question Copying

Improve Usage Analytics

Post-NG-merge Roundup

Torus v30

Release: December 2024

General UX Improvements:
Instructor Interface

Product / Organization
Improvements

User Preview Improvements

Integrate LTI Activities

Torus v27 Features

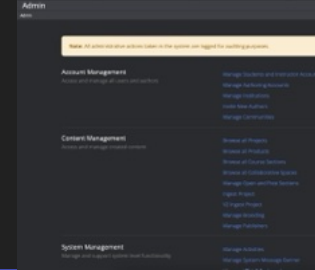
Release: April 9, 2024

Separation of Admin Roles

Status: Implementation

Interface: Admin

As Torus has grown, having only one type of admin role has become unscalable: too many users have access to powerful admin features that they do not need and that could potentially cause a problem if used accidentally. As such, the admin role will be broken into Content Admin (content menu only in the admin interface), Account Admin (content and account menus), and System Admin (content, account, and system menus).

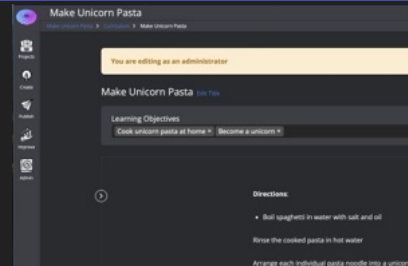


Authoring UX Improvements

Status: Implementation

Interface: Author

We are making a number of user experience improvements to the authoring interface in v27, including but not limited to: adding an undo/redo function when adding or editing pages; adding a number of tooltips to make page features more clear; improved sorting and filtering capabilities including the ability to filter insights by course section; and the ability to maintain product structure when copying projects. Note that these updates occurred before our new UX Designers were hired and up to speed, so we focused on smaller improvements that require less research.



Content Licensing

Status: Implementation

Interface: Author

This feature will allow authors to specify product-level content licenses that will appear on the footer of every page in a product and gracefully handle content remixed between products and projects. Authors can specify one of the Creative Commons licenses, custom license information, or no license.



Easier NASA Infiniscope integration

Status: Implementation

Interface: Student

Discussion menu item disappears if there are no discussions

Status: Implementation

Interface: Student

Clearing a soft schedule

Status: Implementation

Interface: Instructor

...and more. Demo and full documentation for next month's Torus Community Meeting

Torus v28 Features

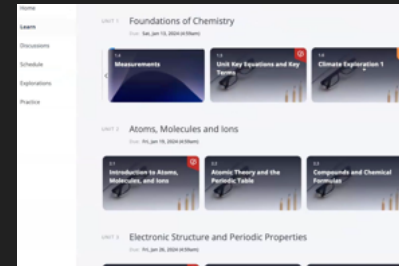
Release: July 2024

NG (Next Generation) Student Interface

Status: Implementation

Interface: Primarily student

Torus's Next Generation (NG) student interface will provide a unified design sensibility that will guide students through a course; clear signposts indicate what students should do next and how the current experience relates to the larger course.

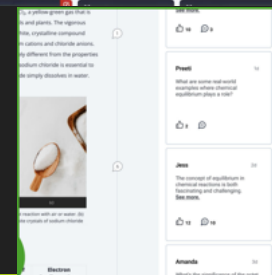


Social Annotation

Status: Design

Interface: Primarily student

Social annotation, also called notes, is an enhancement of the course discussion feature that allows students to annotation specific elements on the course page. Notes can be shared with other learners and the instructor to allow peer to peer connections to grow into peer to peer learning.

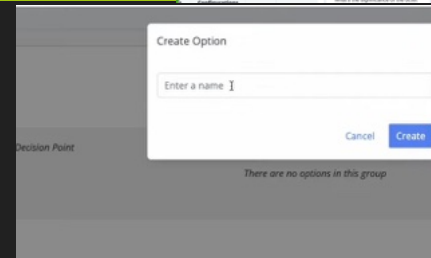


A/B Testing Improvements

Status: Research

Interface: Author

A/B Testing allows authors to create randomized experiments that vary course content between users to gain insights about which questions, activities, etc., help students to learn. Torus already has the capability to integrate with Carnegie Learning's UpGrade A/B Testing Tool, but in v28 we will improve the usability and robustness of this feature.

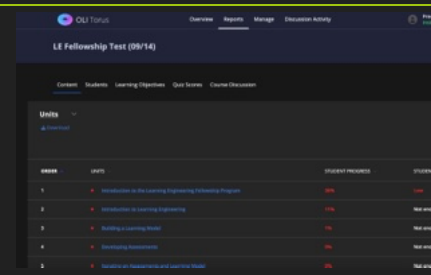


Improved Instructor Reports and Visualizations

Status: Research

Interface: Instructor

Reports and visualizations that help instructors understand where and how to support students is part of Torus' core value proposition. In v28, we will expand these capabilities to increase usability and provide better insights to instructors.



Torus v29 Features

Release: October 2024

Scheduling Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Student / Instructor

Improve the usability and robustness of Torus scheduling. This includes hard (enforced) schedules and soft (recommended) schedules, gating, student exceptions, and other features that allow instructors to control or guide student access to course content.

Certificate Capabilities

Status: Not started

Interface: Student / Author

Authors will be able to set achievement goals that will result in students receiving a certificate, delivered and tracked by Torus.

Question Copying

Status: Not started

Interface: Author

This feature could encompass a number of requests from a variety of members of the Torus community involving copying, banking, and ingesting questions.

Improve Usage Analytics

Status: Not started

Interface: All

Improved usage analytics support user experience research by helping us to understand how users interact with Torus. What pages and page features do they use? Where do users spend most of their time in the application?

Post-NG-Merge Roundup

Status: Not started

Interface: Primarily student

Implementing the Next Generation (NG) student interface in v28 is a big change. We are reserving space in v29 either for planned work that didn't get done for v28 and/or to quickly react to community feedback.

Torus v30 Features

Release: December 2024

General UX
Improvements:
Instructor Interface

Status: Not started

Interface: Instructor

Our UX Designers will take a holistic look at how instructors interact with Torus at present and want to interact with Torus in the future. Tickets previously submitted through the (now outdated) GitHub process or the (current) Torus Triage process will be considered, though fresh user experience research will be the primary guide of what is implemented in this release.

Product / Organization
Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Primarily author

The feature that allows authors to remix parts of courses, or tailor different versions of a course for different venues or audiences, is known as “Products” in Torus and was known as “Organizations” in the OLI Legacy System. This feature will be redesigned to improve the user experience and enhanced to include in-demand capabilities.

User Preview
Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Admin/Author/Instructor

The capability to preview pages of a course as though logged in as a different type of user is key for course design, customer support, troubleshooting, and more. This feature will be overhauled to improve consistency and usability in every place that it appears in Torus.

Integrate LTI Activities

Status: Not started

Interface: Primarily author

The LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability) standard allows educational technologies to interact with each other. Torus already supports integration with any Learning Management System that supports LTI, such as Canvas and Blackboard, allowing Torus to “talk” with the other system. This feature will allow authors to place LTI-compliant activities directly onto Torus pages, instantly giving authors access to thousands of activities from third parties such as Pearson or McGraw-Hill as well as the ability to design custom activities.

Do you have questions about the Torus
roadmap? Do you want to discuss it in more
detail?

Contact Amanda Buddemeyer at amandab@andrew.cmu.edu

