

Torus Product Roadmap

Snapshot as of 05 April, 2024

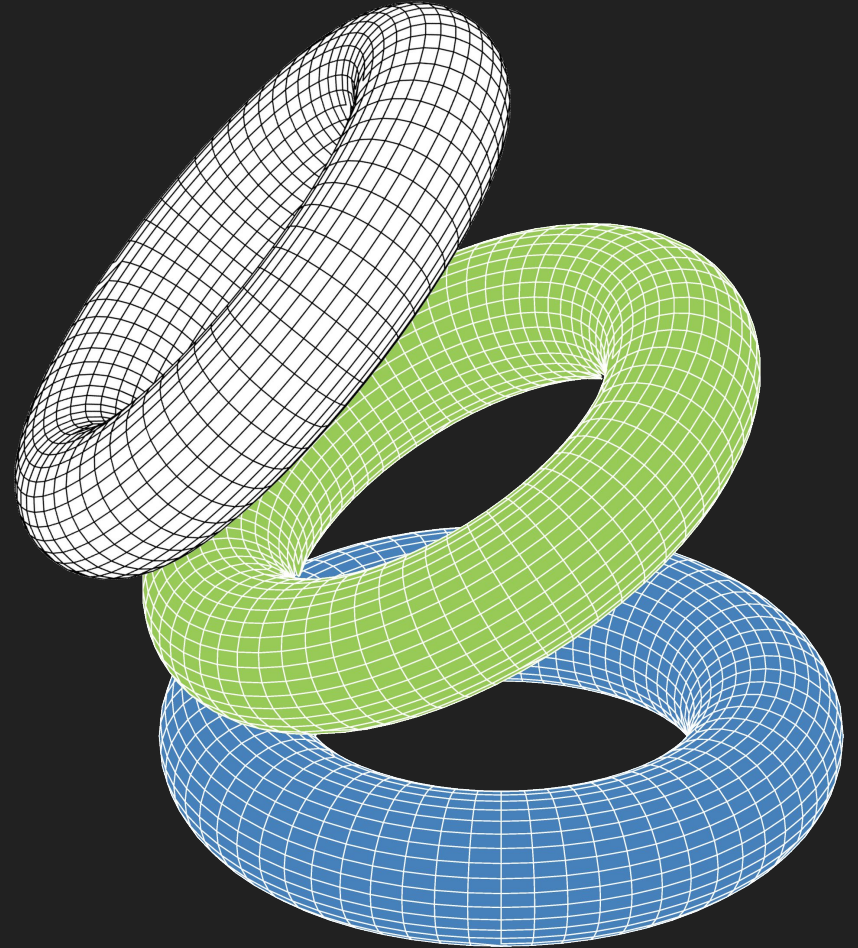


Open Learning Initiative

Transforming higher education through the science of learning.

Product Vision

Transforming higher education
through the science of learning



Torus Roadmap

Torus 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 v31

Release: March 2025

General UX Improvements:
Student Interface

Improvements to Student
Reporting and Visualizations

Quiz Features

Advanced Pages
Improvements

Changes Since Last Roadmap Snapshot

- Removed Torus v27, which will be released on April 9, 2024.
- After the v27 release, we will update this document (p14) and the Torus web site with a blog post, a video demo, and a link to release notes.
- Torus v31 added to the roadmap (pp12-13)
- Some feature statuses in v28 (p7) and v29 (p9) updated as we make progress
- Page numbers added



Torus v28 Features

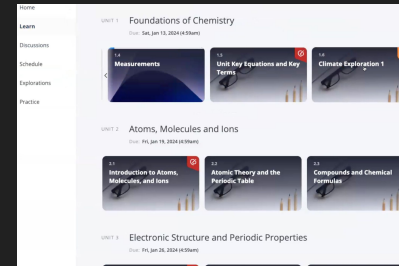
Release: July 2024

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.

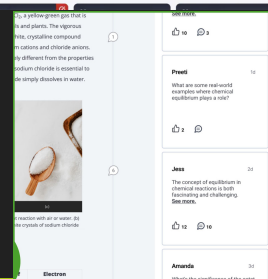


Social Annotation

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.

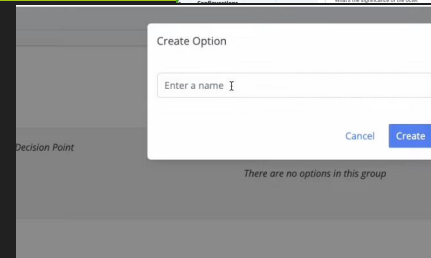


A/B Testing Improvements

Status: Implementation

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.

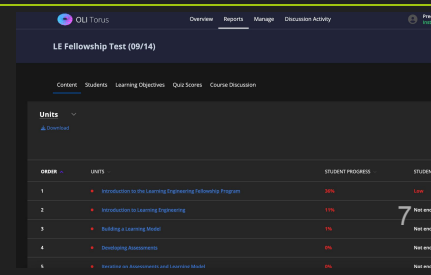


Improved Instructor Reports and Visualizations

Status: Design

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: Research

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: Research

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.

Torus v31 Features

Release: March 2025

General UX Improvements: Student Interface

Status: Not started

Interface: Student

Our UX Designers will take a holistic look at how students interact with Torus at present and want to interact with Torus in the future. This will particularly take account of the new NG (Next Generation) student interface, released as part of v28. Previous feature requests will be considered, though fresh user experience research will be the primary guide of what is implemented in this release.

Improvements to Student Reporting and Visualizations

Status: Not started

Interface: Student

Interface features that help students to identify how they are doing in the course and what areas require the most attention are key to promoting learning. The research for this feature will particularly take into account the NG (Next Generation) student interface, released as part of v28, and how students navigate the course in this new environment.

Quiz Features

Status: Not started

Interface: Instructor, Student

Research for this feature set will include both original research with Torus users about how they want to construct and interact with quizzes as well as a number of existing feature requests to give instructors and authors more capabilities to shape the quiz experience to maximize learning.

Advanced Pages Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Author

The scope of research for this feature set will include both requests from current authors of advanced pages and a design effort to reduce the barrier of entry for advanced pages by increasing usability. In particular, we will focus on a smoother and more robust integration of advanced and basic pages.

Demos and Documentation for Previous Versions

Torus Version	Blog Post	Demo Video	Release Notes
v27	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!

Older versions: See posts on the Torus pages of the OLI web site: <https://oli.cmu.edu/torus/>

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

Contact Amanda Buddemeyer at [amandab](mailto:amandab@andrew.cmu.edu) at
[andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:amandab@andrew.cmu.edu)

