

Torus Product Roadmap

Snapshot as of 03 May, 2024

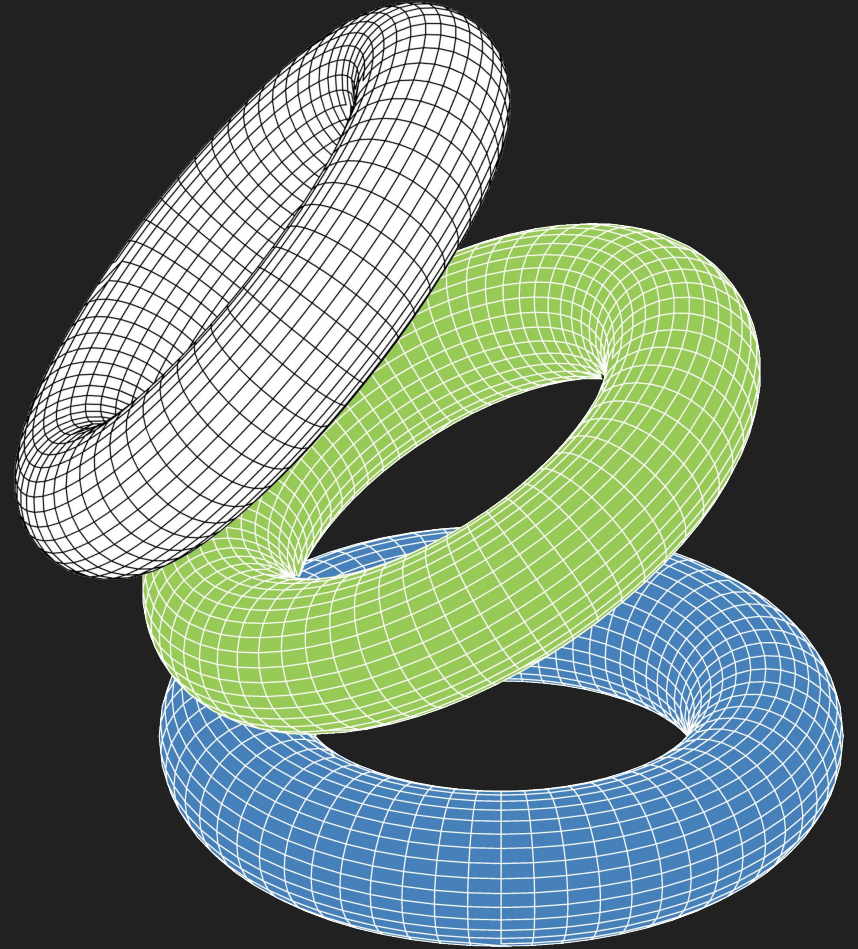


Open Learning Initiative

Transforming higher education through the science of learning.

Product Vision

Transforming higher education
through the science of learning



Torus Roadmap

Torus v28

Release: July 24 2024

NG (Next Generation)
Student Interface

Social Annotation

A/B Testing Improvements

Improvements to Instructor
Reporting and Visualizations

Torus v29

Release: October 2024

Data Processing

Certificate Capabilities

Quiz Features

Post-NG-merge Roundup

Torus v30

Release: December 2024

General UX Improvements:
Instructor Interface

Scheduling Improvements

User Preview Improvements

Integrate LTI Activities

Torus v31

Release: March 2025

General UX Improvements:
Student Interface

Improvements to Student
Reporting and Visualizations

Product / Organization
Improvements

Advanced Pages
Improvements

Changes Since Last Roadmap Snapshot

- Added a release date (p4 and p6) and code freeze date (p6) for v28
- Added Data Warehousing to v29 - see page 9 for more details
- Grouped Question Copying with related features to make “Quiz Features” (see p9)
- Scheduling Improvements moved to v30 from v29. While these are important improvements, we don’t want to launch them in the middle of the Fall semester.
- Moved Product / Organization Improvements to v31 from v30 to balance roadmap after several features added for v29 and to focus on more student-facing features in v30.
- Moved Usage Analytics to a future release (not on roadmap snapshot)
- Various status updates on release pages
- Links added on page 14 for Torus v27 blog post, demo, and release notes



Torus v28 Features

Release: July 24, 2024

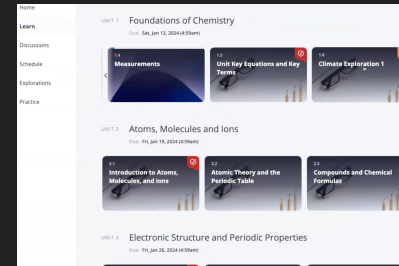
Code Freeze: June 7, 2024

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.

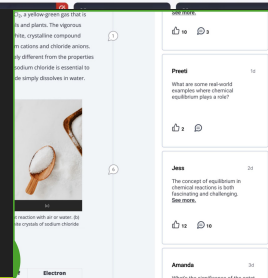


Social Annotation

Status: Implementation

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.

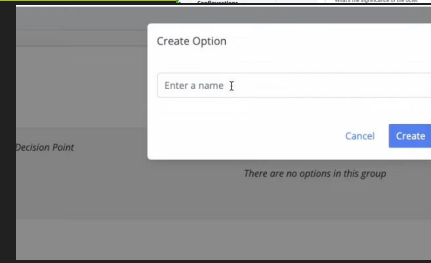


A/B Testing Improvements

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.

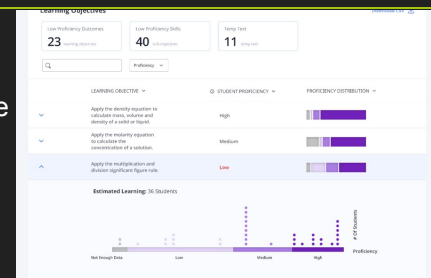


Improved Instructor Reports and Visualizations

Status: Implementation

Interface: Instructor

The instructor dashboard pages and related sub-pages will undergo significant enhancements for improved user experience and functionality. This includes intuitive navigation, easy switching between unit and module content, summary cards that offer useful contextual insights, custom filters across content, learning objective, and scored activity tables, and more.



Torus v29 Features

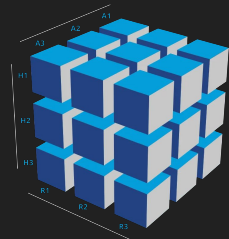
Release: October 2024

Data Processing

Status: Research

Interface: Author / Admin

Improve Torus' ability to export and analyze data. The specifics of this feature depend on the outcome of a proof-of-concept being conducted parallel to Torus v28 development.

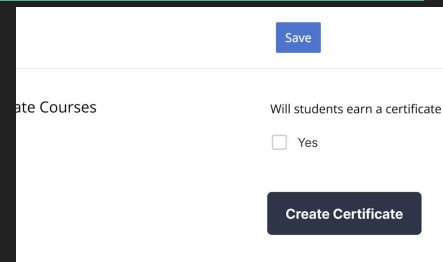


Certificate Capabilities

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.



Quiz Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Author

This encompasses two main feature sets: 1) Question copying - this feature could encompass a number of requests from a variety of members of the Torus community involving copying, banking, and ingesting questions. 2) Viewing controls for quizzes - meaning that authors can set quiz questions to appear one at a time or all at once.

Post-NG-Merge Roundup

Status: Not started

Interface: 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.

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.

User Preview
Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: Multiple

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.

Product / Organization
Improvements

Status: Not started

Interface: 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.

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	https://oli.cmu.edu/torus-v-27-brings-many-new-authoring-updates/	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMilhLFifjc&t=549s	https://github.com/Simon-Initiative/oli-torus/releases/tag/v0.27.0

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

