

# Torus Product Roadmap

Snapshot as of 07 June, 2024

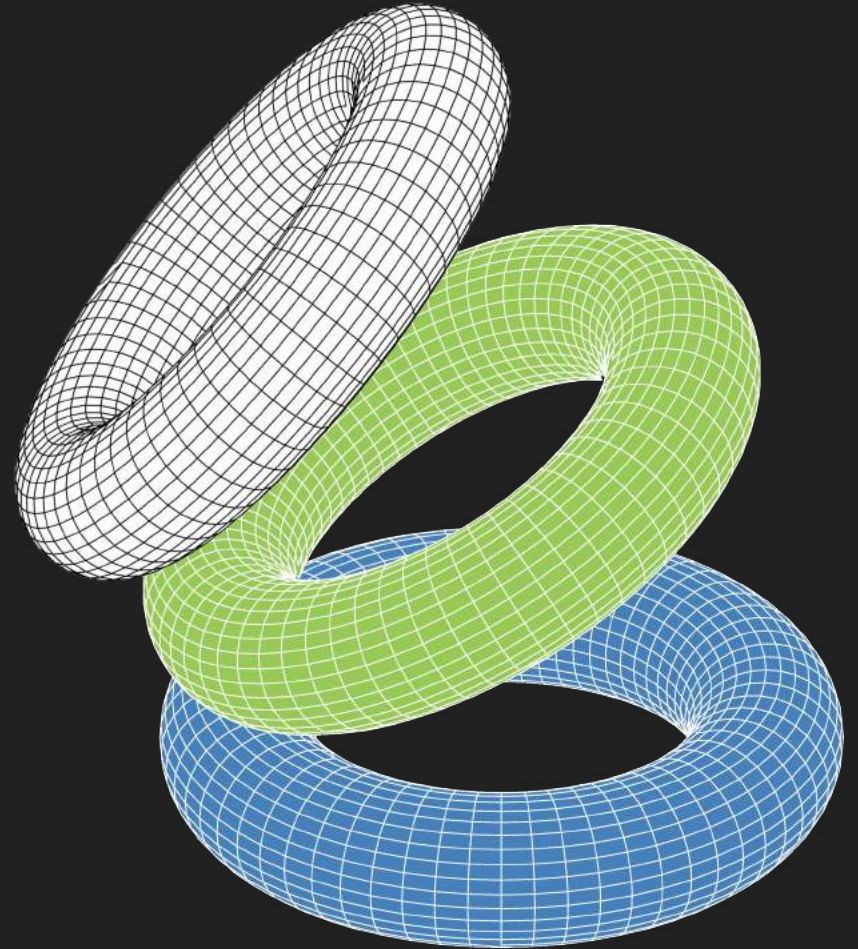


**Open Learning Initiative**

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

Authoring Analytics  
Improvements

Account Type Navigation

Quiz Features

Post-NG-merge Roundup

## Torus v30

Release: December 2024

General UX Improvements:  
Instructor Interface

Scheduling Improvements

User Preview Improvements

Certificate Capabilities

## Torus v31

Release: March 2025

General UX Improvements:  
Admin Interface

LTI Activities

Product / Organization  
Improvements

Advanced Pages  
Improvements

# Changes Since Last Roadmap Snapshot

- V28 code freeze date (p6) pushed back one week to 6/14, though release date remains the same
- “Data Processing” feature for v29 (p4 and p9), updated to “Authoring Analytics,” with more details provided about what the feature entails.
- “Account Type Navigation” added for v29 (p4 and p9)
- “Certificate Capabilities” moved from v29 to v30 because this feature required more research and design than originally anticipated to make it scalable.
- “LTI Activities” moved from v30 to v29 to accommodate the previous three bullet points
- Moved student-centered features to v32 (not included in this snapshot) to avoid pushing changes to the student interface in the middle of the sprint semester. Admin UX improvements have been added in v31 to fill this gap.
- Various status updates on release pages (pp7,9,11,13)



Possible statuses:

- Not started
- Research
- Design
- Ready for implementation
- Implementation

# Torus v28 Features

Release: July 24, 2024

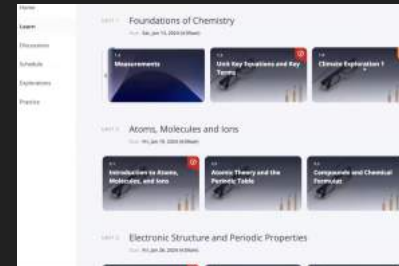
Code Freeze: June 14, 2024

## 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.

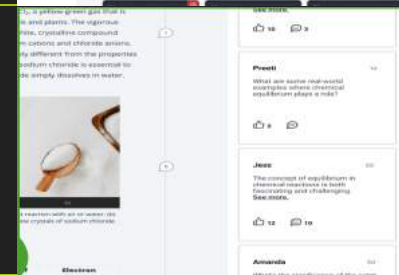


## Social Annotation

**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.

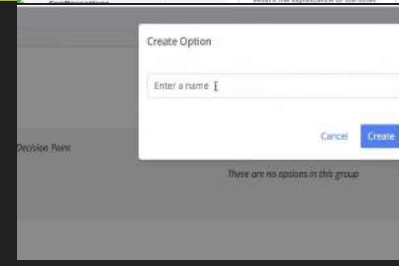


## A/B Testing Improvements

**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.

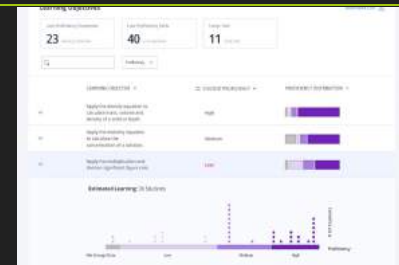


## Improved Instructor Reports and Visualizations

**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.



Possible statuses:

- Not started
- Research
- Design
- Ready for implementation
- Implementation

# Torus v29 Features

Release: October 2024

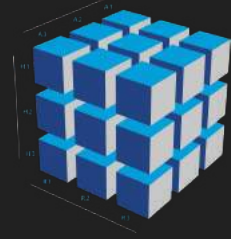


## Authoring Analytics Improvements

**Status:** Design

**Interface:** Author / Admin

Improve Torus' ability to export and analyze data. We will implement a basic data warehousing solution that will be expanded in future releases. For this release, two capabilities will be included: 1) exporting data from the authoring interface that can be imported into Datashop or elsewhere, 2) improved efficiency for authoring reports and visualizations within Torus.

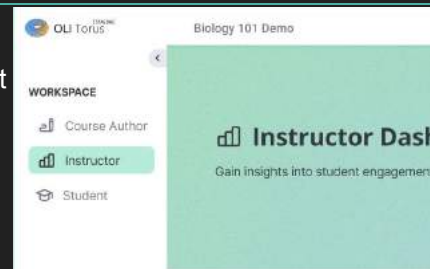


## Account Type Navigation

**Status:** Ready for implementation

**Interface:** Multiple

This design improves upon current Torus account navigation, introducing the concept of course author, instructor, and student workspaces. Users can easily sign in and link various authoring and instructor/student accounts as well as switch between the three interfaces seamlessly. The process of creating a course author and instructor/student accounts is also simplified through an updated sign in process.

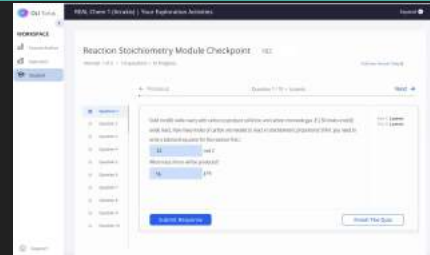


## Quiz Improvements

**Status:** Ready for implementation

**Interface:** Author / Student

This encompasses three main feature sets involving copying, banking, and presenting quiz questions: 1) Question copying - this feature could encompass a number of requests from the Torus community members involving copying and duplicating questions within and across activity bank and curriculum pages. 2) Viewing controls for quizzes - meaning that authors can set quiz questions plus the feedback upon attempting them to appear one at a time or all at once. 3) Bulk import of quiz questions in the activity bank using a CSV file.



## Post-NG-Merge Roundup

**Status:** Research

**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.

Possible statuses:

- Not started
- Research
- Design
- Ready for implementation
- Implementation

# Torus v30 Features

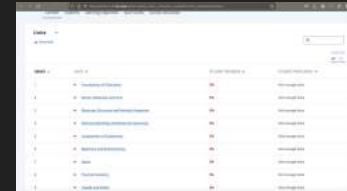
Release: December 2024

## General UX Improvements: Instructor Interface

**Status:** Research

**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:** Research

**Interface:** Student / Instructor

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

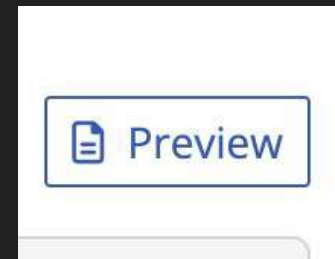


## User Preview Improvements

**Status:** Research

**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.

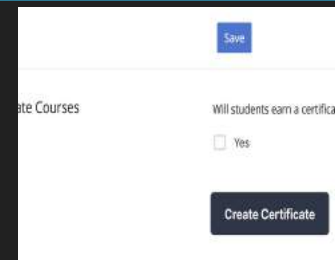


## Certificate Capabilities

**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.



Possible statuses:

- Not started
- Research
- Design
- Ready for implementation
- Implementation

# Torus v31 Features

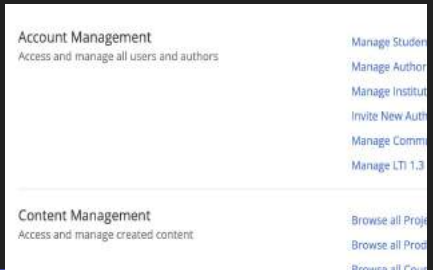
Release: March 2025

## General UX Improvements: Admin Interface

**Status:** Not started

**Interface:** Author

Our Torus administrators work diligently to support all Torus users, but features to make their lives easier often fall off the radar because there are many fewer of this type of user than other user types. It's time to give our admins some love! Our UX Designers will take a holistic view of what improvements will be most helpful to our admins as they help you.

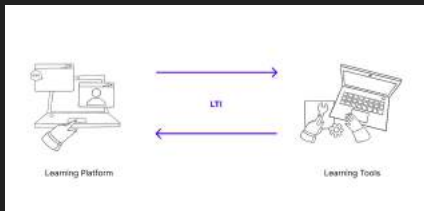


## Integrate LTI Activities

**Status:** Research

**Interface:** 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.

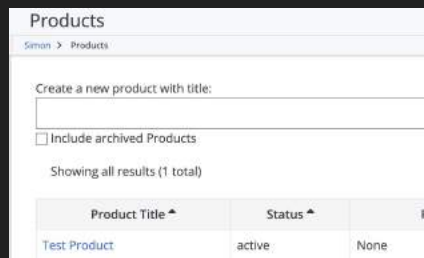


## Product / Organization Improvements

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

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@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:amandab@andrew.cmu.edu)

