

# Torus Product Roadmap

Snapshot as of 06 September, 2024

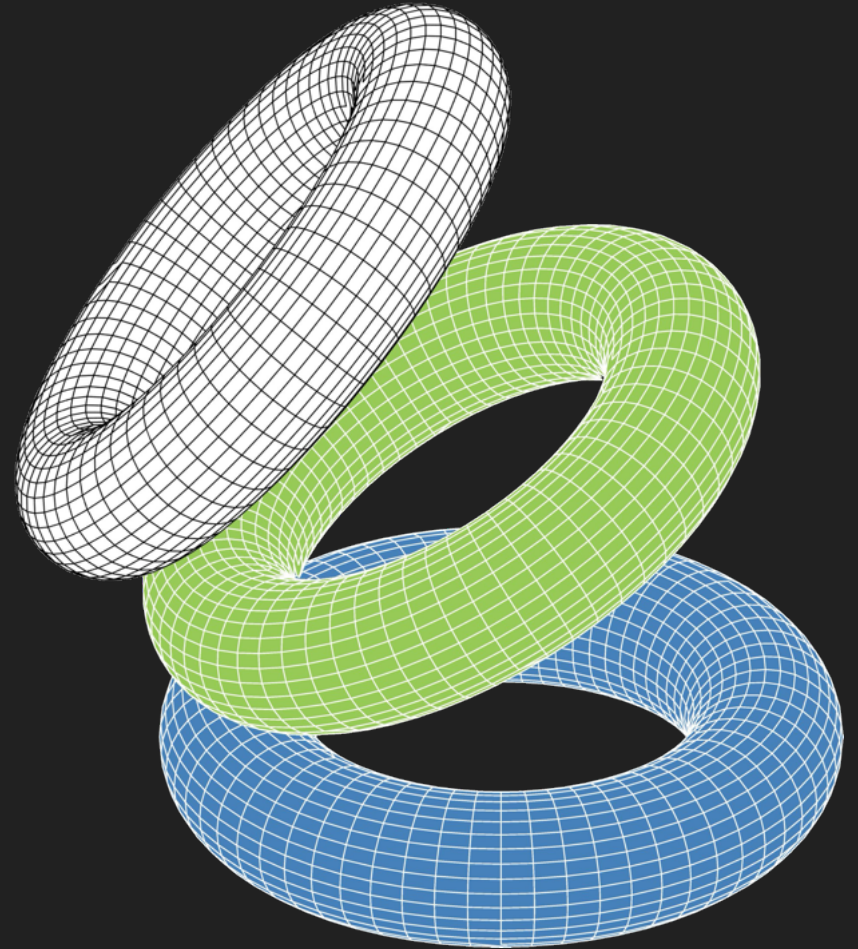


**Open Learning Initiative**

Transforming higher education through the science of learning.

# Product Vision

Transforming higher education  
through the science of learning



# Torus Roadmap

## Torus v29

Release: October 2, 2024

Authoring Analytics  
Improvements v1

Account Type Navigation

Quiz Features

Post-NG-merge Roundup

## Torus v30

Release: December 2024

General UX Improvements:  
Instructor Interface

Authoring Analytics  
Improvements v2

User Preview Improvements

Certificate Capabilities

Student Completion Details

## Torus v31

Release: March 2025

General UX Improvements:  
Admin Interface

LTI Activities

Product / Organization  
Improvements

Scheduling Improvements

## Torus v32

Release: June 2025

General UX Improvements:  
Student Interface

Student Reporting and  
Visualizations

Mobile Responsiveness

Usage Analytics

Advanced Pages  
Improvements

# Changes Since Last Roadmap Snapshot

- Authoring Analytics Improvements has been broken into v1 and v2, with the former coming in Torus v29 and the latter in Torus v30. The extra work in Torus hot fixes during the development of v29 means that we weren't able to finish all of the planned work in v29, particularly since this work is primarily being done by Darren.
- Scheduling Improvements has moved from v30 to v31 to accommodate the new work added to Torus v30
- Advanced Pages Improvements has moved from v31 to v32 to allow for more planning of the best strategic direction for Advanced Pages in Torus
- Link to the Torus v28 demo has been updated. For various reasons, it had previously been posted on Amanda's personal YouTube and is now on the OLI YouTube channel



Possible statuses:

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

# Torus v29 Features

Release: October 2, 2024

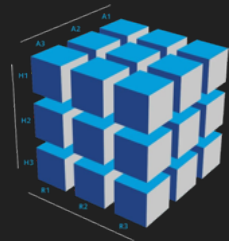
Code Freeze: September 13, 2024

## Authoring Analytics Improvements v1

**Status:** Implementation

**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.

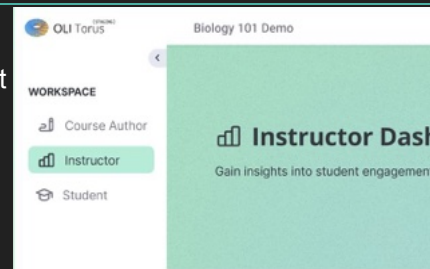


## Account Type Navigation

**Status:** 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.

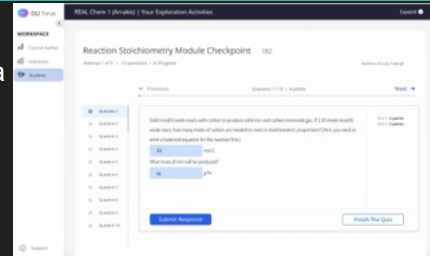


## Quiz Improvements

**Status:** Implementation

**Interface:** Author / Student

This encompasses three main feature sets involving copying, banking, and presenting quiz questions: 1) Question copying - this feature is intended to address 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:** Implementation

**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

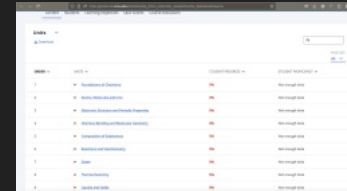


## General UX Improvements: Instructor Interface

**Status:** Ready for implementation

**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.

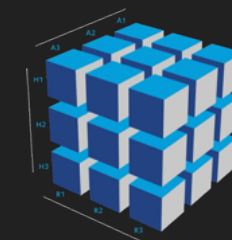


## Authoring Analytics Improvements v2

**Status:** Implementation

**Interface:** Author

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.

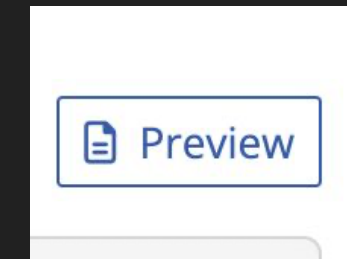


## User Preview Improvements

**Status:** Design

**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:** Design

**Interface:** Student / Author

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

## Student Completion Details

**Status:** Design

**Interface:** Student

Students will receive better insight into the source of their course completion percentage and what resources still require attention

Possible statuses:

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

# Torus v31 Features

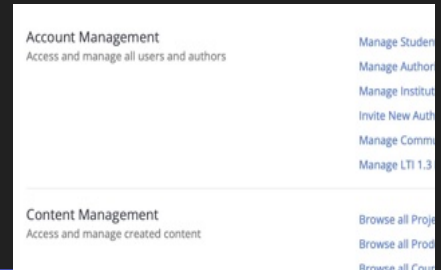
Release: March 2025

## General UX Improvements: Admin Interface

**Status:** Research

**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.

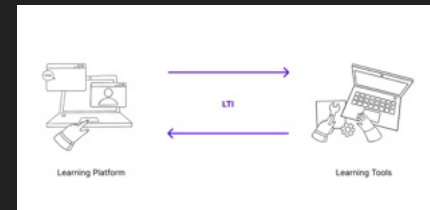


## Integrate LTI Activities

**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.

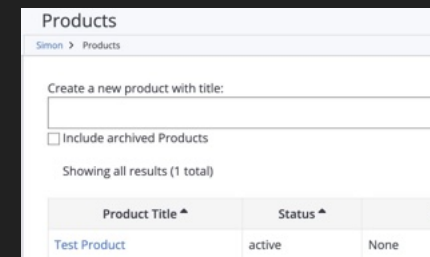


## Product / Organization Improvements

**Status:** Research

**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.

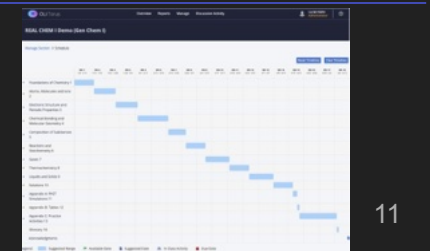


## Scheduling and Gating

**Status:** Design

**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.



Possible statuses:

- Not started
- Research
- Design
- Ready for implementation
- Implementation
- Final testing and prep

# Torus v32 Features

Release: June, 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. 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.

## Student Reporting and Visualizations

**Status:** Not started

**Interface:** Student

We will look at how students receive information about their current state in a course section, including how they can understand that state in terms of learning proficiency, metacognition, effort, completeness, and scoring. Improvements will focus on directing students on how and where they can learn and improve.

## Mobile Responsiveness

**Status:** Ready for implementation

**Interface:** Student

The designs for our new (NG) student interface, introduced in Torus v28, included designs for mobile responsiveness. This means the ability of the interface to gracefully display on different screen sizes and configurations, include phones and tablets. This is a large enough effort that it could not be included in Torus v28 and has been scheduled for a later release.

## Advanced Pages Improvements

**Status:** Research

**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

## Usage Analytics

**Status:** Not started

**Interface:** None

Usage analytics enhance the quantitative data available to Torus's design and implementation teams about how users interact with torus.

# 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> |
| v28           | <a href="https://oli.cmu.edu/torus-v28/">https://oli.cmu.edu/torus-v28/</a>   | <a href="https://youtu.be/u7MOcBJXRZo?si=unAGpnBzFFA2lix">https://youtu.be/u7MOcBJXRZo?si=unAGpnBzFFA2lix</a>               | <a href="https://github.com/Simon-Initiative/oli-torus/releases/tag/v0.28.0">https://github.com/Simon-Initiative/oli-torus/releases/tag/v0.28.0</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)

