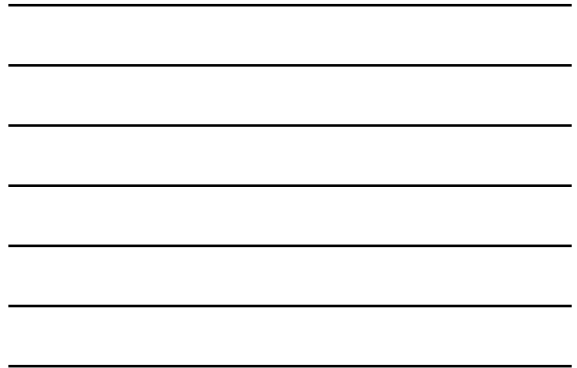


The Xerte Project

Xerte Online Toolkits and the Xpert Repository



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University of Nottingham
November 4th 2010



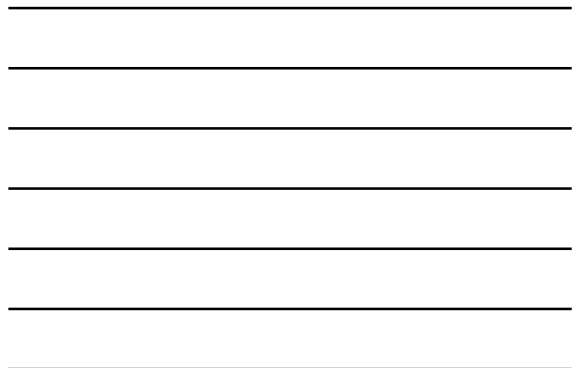
The Xerte Project

The Xerte Project provides a suite of free open source tools for developers of interactive learning materials.

- Xerte is a developer focused tool for creating rich interactivity. It requires skills in scripting and has strengths in rapid development and accessibility.
- Xerte Online Toolkits is a browser based tool for collaborative development, aimed at less technical users.
- Xpert is a repository of open content that integrates with Xerte Online Toolkits.
- Xerte 3.0 is an ActionScript 3.0 / Flex development tool currently in development.



<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xerte>



Xerte Online Toolkits

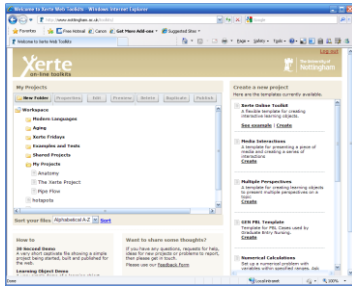
Xerte Online Toolkits is free, open source software designed for non-technical authors to create interactive and highly accessible learning materials.

It is in widespread use in the UK and around the world, with a growing community of users and developers.

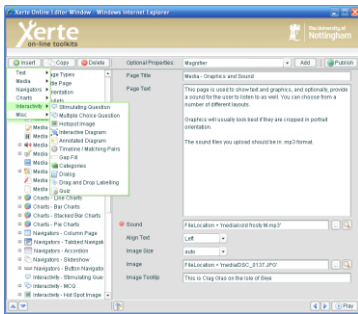
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/toolkits>



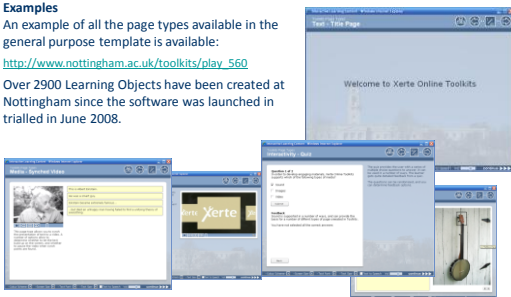
Browser Based Tools
 The tools are browser-based, making them very easy to access and use. The browser presents some new opportunities for content developers to collaborate on projects and readily share materials for adaptation and re-use. Projects can be easily copied and given to other users.



Creating Content
 Content is developed using a generic wizard, which makes it easy for developers to create new templates and extend the tools with new features. Content is assembled using this form-based wizard. A wide range of media is supported in a number of different ways.



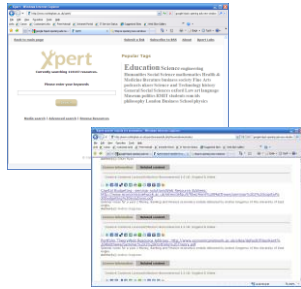
Examples
 An example of all the page types available in the general purpose template is available: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/toolkits/play_560
 Over 2900 Learning Objects have been created at Nottingham since the software was launched in trialed in June 2008.



Xpert Repository

The Xpert Repository is a database of open content. The repository does not house the content itself, but manages a collection of resources exposed by a wide variety of institutions via RSS, and licensed for adaptation and re-use.

In the development we discovered a vast amount of content exposed for re-use in this way: Xpert currently indexes over 114,000 resources.



Xpert: Media Attribution

Xpert also allows you to search open collections of images and have the image you want to use attributed correctly with copyright information.

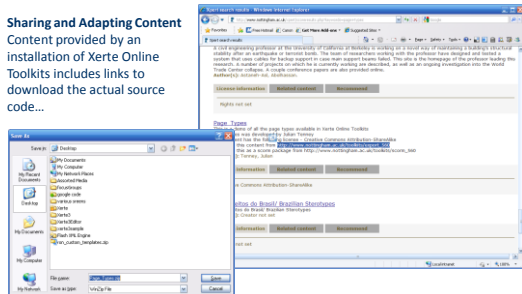
This makes it vastly simpler to find and safely re-use media projects, and this is integrated directly into Xerte Online Toolkits, allowing images to be chosen whilst working on your Xerte Online Toolkits project.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xpert/attribution>



Sharing and Adapting Content

Content provided by an installation of Xerte Online Toolkits includes links to download the actual source code...



Key Lessons

- Building tools has much greater impact than building content. Collaborative web-based applications bring major efficiencies. We are supporting content development on an entirely different scale than was previously possible.
- Much greater traction in developing tools for non-technical users. There is a tendency to over-estimate the technical skill out there.
- There is still a requirement of specialist support for graphic design and artistry, media development and interactive programming.
- Open source has been an invaluable source of feedback and allowed us to develop very positive relationships with others in the field. We would never have got the software to where it is today without the input we've had from the community.
- The Office of Wheel Invention is still open for business. There are new opportunities to share the development and use of high quality resources.



Facts and Figures

Over 2900 Learning Objects created at Nottingham since June 2009. 301 members of the Xerte mailing list, exchanged 412 messages in October 2010. Over 150 schools, colleges and universities using the software around the world. 5180 visits to <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xerte> from 109 countries in October 2010.

Resources

The Xerte Project: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xerte>
Xpert Repository: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/xpert>
Xerte Mailing List: <http://lists.nottingham.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/xerte>

Awards and Recognition

Finalist, WISE Awards 2009
ALT Learning Technologist Team of the Year, 2009
Platinum Award Winner IMS Global Impact Awards 2010