



## White Paper

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"Online learning is not the next big thing; it is the now big thing."

*Donna J Abernathy,  
Training and Development Editor*

## Introduction

Before the printing press, students learned mainly by working one-on-one with teachers. Knowledge was a privilege for the rich and the few with the dedication to give up everything to learn. With the printing press, knowledge was made affordable and easy to distribute. One must wonder whether the industrial revolution was possible without the printing press and the learning freedom that it brought!

Since the printing press nothing has been as revolutionary in education as the internet and use of computer learning technologies. Modern learning technologies using computers and the internet are making headways in schools. Unfortunately in the Middle East, the cost, technological barriers and know-how limited the penetration of these technologies into the class room. E-Learning technologies are still a privilege for the elite. Schools are still relying on traditional methodologies and means to educate generations of students. With the population explosions and the need to compete with other nations, schools can no longer afford to remain prisoner to the old ways and must leap forward to achieve educational excellence.

HiView Technologies mission is to provide a set of e-learning solutions that make 21<sup>st</sup> century learning technologies affordable and within reach of every student. Our philosophy is that we take care of the technology so that schools and their staff can focus on what they do best; prepare the next generation leaders of the world.

## Product Introduction

**eduport** is the latest offering from HiViewTechnologies specifically designed to address the needs of schools in the Middle East. It is a fully integrated and affordable Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) offering everything a school needs to provide high quality interactive and innovative e-learning courses and material. With **eduport**, schools of any size can use modern technologies to advance learning.

Schools using **eduport** as part of the educational experience will get the benefits of 21<sup>st</sup> century educational technologies such as:

### Learning Freedom

With **eduport**, Students can access the learning material anywhere anytime and can learn at their own pace offering them the freedom they long deserved.

### Unlimited Innovation

With **eduport**, the teachers' innovation and creativity is no longer bound by the laboratory or classroom resources. Instead they can use unlimited resources to illustrate complex concepts and improve learning. Teachers using e-learning technologies will have endless means to exercise their creativity and innovation in the teaching process.

### Effective Collaboration

**eduport** provides collaboration tools for teachers and students. For example, students can share information and work with peers without time and space constraints helping them become an active participant in the learning process.

### Enhanced Communication

**eduport** provides all the advanced communication tools available today like email, chat, and forum. It will become the source of information about school issues and events for parents, students, teachers and staff.

### Educational Excellence

**eduport** provides administrators and school staff easy to use reporting and follow-up tools that enable them to measure and improve performance towards educational and organizational goals.

## Product Features

### Overview

**eduport** is a web-based application offering a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and school information portal. It has an advanced course management system that supports variety of course formats and a set of activities including forum, group activities, monitored chat, testing and feedback infrastructure.

Users of **eduport** can add and maintain course work and information via easy to use interface that requires only basic computer skills and no programming knowledge. The system offers multi-lingual user interface for both Arabic and English. Users of the system can edit and add e-learning resources online via an editor similar to Microsoft Word, and can keep new resources hidden until they are ready to be published.

**eduport** has all the popular online communication and collaboration tools including email, forum, chat, and blogs to enhance the interactions among users and provide seamless information exchange.

**eduport** offers advances infrastructure features including security, authentication, spam filtering, backup, archiving and exporting. Such features provide the insurance for the safety and security of school information.

In addition to all course information, school resources and activities such as clubs, departments and facilities (library, laboratory ... etc) can have specialized web pages. These web pages are customized by page owners and offer collaboration and information exchange platform for anyone interested. Maintenance of these web pages can be done by any user given the appropriate permissions to reduce the maintenance load.

### Course Management

**eduport** supports standard course formats including AICC, SCORM and IMS. It also supports all course types such as weekly, topic based, or discussion-focused social formats. Courses can be categorized into sub-categories as well as combined into meta-courses (*courses that are group of related courses*) for better listing and management of courses.

Course owner (typically a teacher) can have full control over the resources and activities of the course as well as the permissions and enrolment processes. The course owner can also group course students into learning groups for group type activities. All activities for a user within a course are logged and tracked. The loges are saved for later review and follow up.

Within the system courses have a set of resources and activities which can be customized to suite the need of the course. The following are the list of the resources and activities:

#### 1. Course Resources

Teachers can add any resources via an easy to use online editor including:

- Internal web-page
- Internal text page
- Links to external web pages, files or applications
- Local system files.
- Multimedia files including graphics, images, video and audio.

**eduport** identifies popular file types (.doc, .pdf, .xls, .ppt...etc) and displays their links with a suitable icon. Furthermore, it simplifies opening of these files if the client computer has the required application.

## 2. Lessons

In **eduport**, a lesson is a series of pages (like slides) which are presented in a linear or a non-linear branching manner. The order of the presentation of the pages can be controlled by the student's feedback to a specific question; correct answers lead the student to the next page, while incorrect ones take him to a previous page.

For better monitoring, user actions in lessons are logged and can be graded and timed. Navigation through lesson material can be linear, complex (conditional) or random.

## 3. Quizzes

In **eduport**, the teacher can create a bank of questions to be used in many quizzes. The questions can be categorized, for better retrieval. **eduport** offers a variety of question types including: multiple choice (shuffled answers), short answer, essay, true/ false, matching, calculated(based on formula),and embedded answer questions . The question body could be any HTML page (including images and text formatting) and the teacher can specify feedback that will be displayed to students for various answers.

The teacher is also able to specify time limits for quizzes and he can publish the quizzes for student self assessment. To reduce cheating, the quiz module can randomize questions and multiple choice answers.

## 4. Assignments

In **eduport**, the teacher can post assignments (homework, for example), specifying the availability and due dates and number of re-submission. When a student submits the response, it will be time-stamped for tracking purposes. The teacher can assess and grade all class assignments in one page and can append a personalized feedback for each one.

## 5. Chat

**eduport** has a Synchronous chat module. Users can include text, images, and similes in the chat session. All sessions are logged for the teacher or the chat moderator to review. Using the embedded chat module within **eduport** guarantees that students are only chatting with peers.

## 6. Choice

Used for voting or user feedback on any item in the system. This module stores each user's choice and displays the results in table or graphical format.

## 7. Forum

**eduport** forums are available in many options: teacher-only, open to all, news , and one-thread per user. **eduport** forums are ideal for discussions questions and answer or general information. Users can attach images which are displayed inline inside the posts. Users can choose to have forum posts to be emailed to them so that they get the information without logging into the system.

## 8. Glossary

**eduport** provides the users with an active glossary functionality which can be used to enrich the student information and ease the retrieval of important terms and definitions. Once a glossary entry is added the term will be highlighted whenever appear in the system so the user can access the definition simply by clicking the word(s).

Glossaries are fully searchable, and could be exported, imported, commented, and categorized.

## 9. Workshop

To Allow peer assessment of documents, while keeping the teacher able to manage and grade the assessment, **eduport** includes workshop activity that could be graded by teacher. Workshops are useful for group-based projects.

### **Grade Book**

In **eduport**, most of the users activities could be automatically marked and graded based on the scale provided by the teacher (1-100, 1-10, a-b-c-d-e-f ... etc). Additionally the teacher can specify partial credits for specific answers, and he can manually grade offline assignments and upload the grades in the grade book. The grade book has flexible display format and is searchable.

### **User Management**

In order to reduce the data-entry overhead, user information can either be imported from existing data base, entered by the users or populated by a system administrator. Each user has a profile page which contains system wide resources and information that he/she has access to.

User permissions for system resources are implemented similar to Microsoft Windows®. System Administrators or resource owners can assign permissions to individual users or groups of users.

### **User Homepage:**

Every user has a personal home page that allows him/her to access all resources and information within the system that applies to him/her. This home page also allows him to edit and update his/her personal information. The following are sample items that users can access from their home page:

- e-mail
- Calendar (with own events highlighted )
- Comments
- Courses
- Documents
- Children (for parents)
- Clubs
- Departments
- Contacts

### **Ease of Use**

**eduport** has an easy to use graphical user interface. Multiple user interface themes available to enable the administrator reflect the look and feel for each school.

For better understanding to the system features, **eduport** has a context sensitive help engine that once requested by the user, will display a help page related to the opened page.

Managing school's social activities and facilities is made easy. **eduport** allows the creation of non course related objects like clubs, facilities, and learning departments. Each object has

its own web page which can be managed by the system administrator, or an assigned supervisor.

### ***Safety & Security***

eduport stores the data in an enforced Database structure with all user passwords encrypted. Additional security is provided during logon to ensure that the system is secure and hacking proof. Moreover all forms are checked, input data is validated, and cookies are encrypted.

eduport implements Microsoft Windows-like users and security groups. This reduces management overhead, and simplifies permission assignment.

The system Administrator can specify words and phrases which are prohibited throughout the system. These words are not allowed in chat session, forum posts or even in e-mail messages.

## Licensing

HiView Technologies recognizes that to be successful in implementing e-learning technologies, schools must partner with capable organizations that provide them with the tools and services they need. The partner must be flexible to grow the level of partnership as the institutes needs change over time. **eduport** is provided in several packages with various set of features and services. Licensing of **eduport** is provided as a subscription model with prices being set per register student/per year. Prices for **eduport** are low not to overload the students.

Feature	Standard	Complete
Course Management System including: Course resources , Lessons, Quizzes, Assignments, Chat, Choice, Forum, Glossary, Workshop	✓	✓
Integrate with Existing School Information System	✓	✓
Bilingual Support (Arabic & English)	✓	✓
Special login for parents (1)		✓
Advanced Student Information System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade book</li> <li>Student Attendance Module</li> </ul>		✓
Workflow management for Coursework		✓
Integrated e-mail server with spam filtering		✓
Advanced Communication Features (SMS)		✓
Customized Look & Feel	✓	✓
Local hosting installation (server + firewall)		✓
Internet hosted installation	✓	✓
Fully populated school information	✓	✓
Yearly maintenance contract included	✓	✓
Converting traditional course to e-learning	(2)	✓
Special web pages for school resources and activities such as: Clubs, facilities, departments, and digital library (3)	✓	✓
Personal Webpage for each user in the system		✓

1. Allows Parents to access student information as well as communicate with teachers and school staff via the system.
2. Converting traditional course to e-learning is available for standard module as additional service.
3. In standard package, these web pages have to be created manually and are maintained statically.