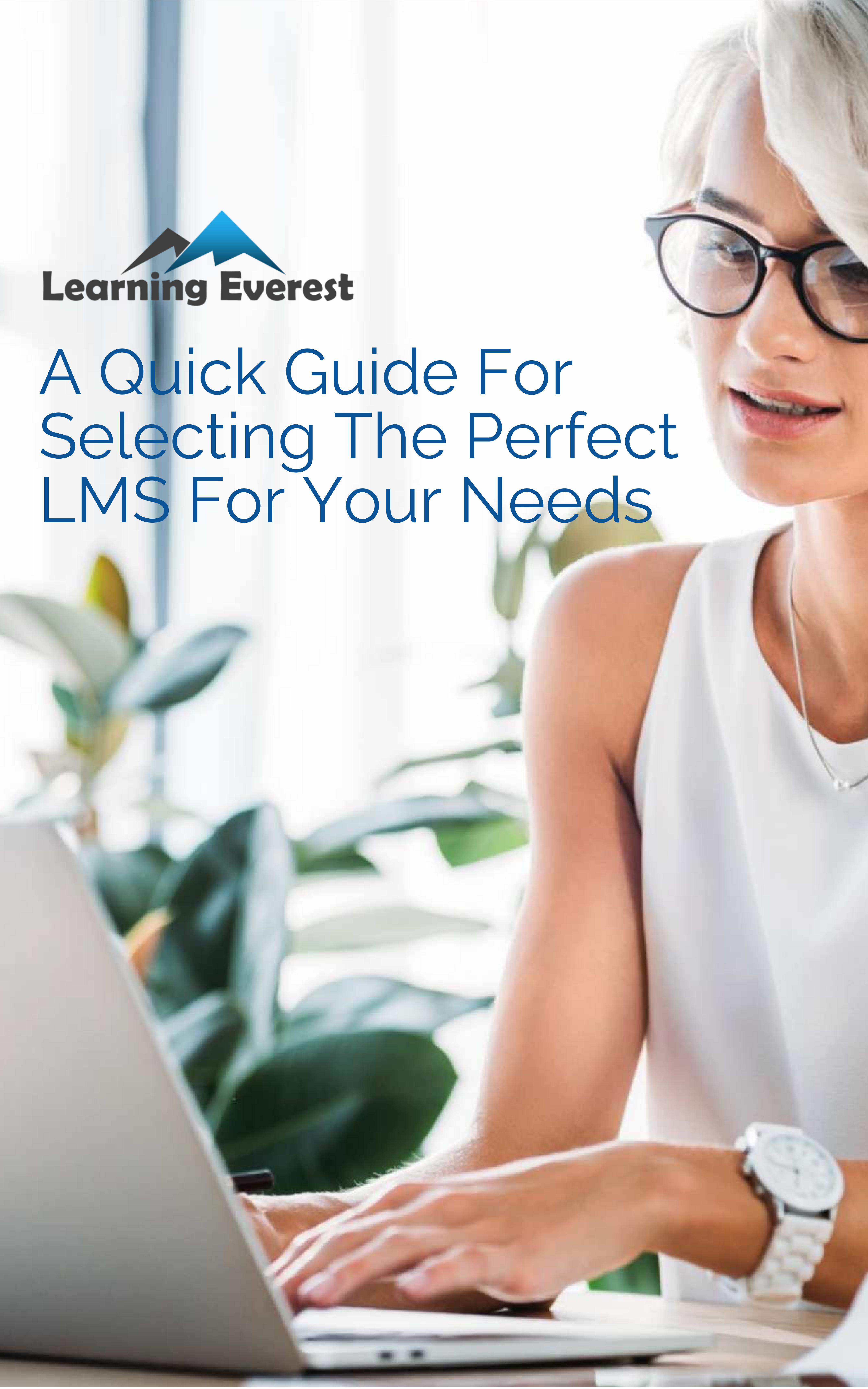




A Quick Guide For Selecting The Perfect LMS For Your Needs



About

LEARNING EVEREST

Learning Everest Private Limited (Learning Everest) is a leading eLearning company based out of Pune India. We are a one-stop solution to all your learning needs and are a committed and seasoned team of learning professionals who have worked for some of the finest companies in the world.

Learning Everest provides a complete range of learning solutions required to become a World-Class Organization. We specialize in Instructional Designing, creation of eLearning Courses in HTML5, Mobile Learning Courses, Instructor-Led Training, Flash to HTML5 Conversion, eLearning Course Localization, Video Based Courses, Learning Consultancy and Learning Management System (LMS) Management. So, if you are looking for an eLearning Company that can help you provide complete learning solutions, then we will be glad to help you.



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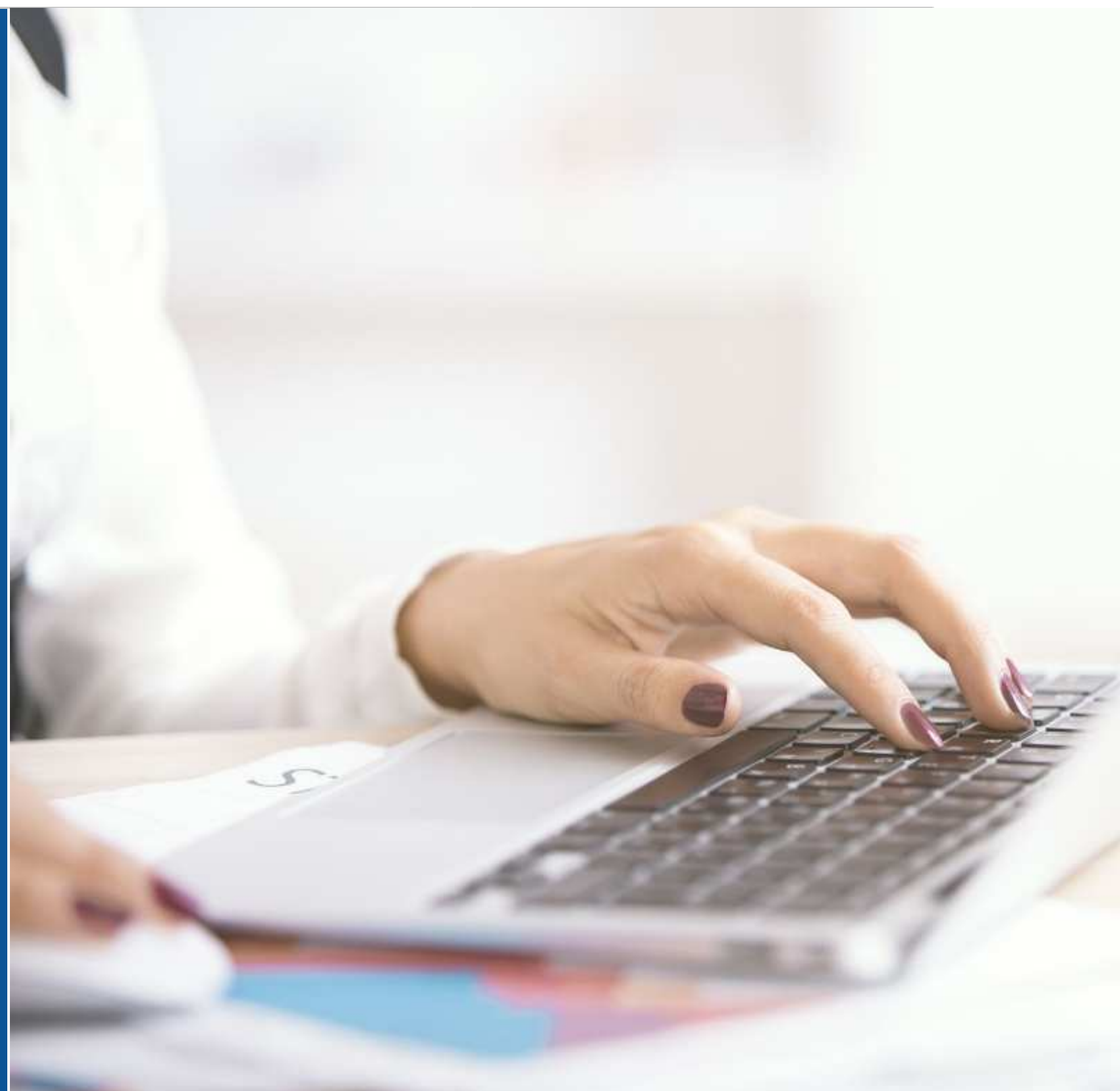
About LMS

Learning Management System is a software application used to create, distribute, and manage the delivery of educational content and training programs. The most basic of the LMS software contains a core platform that allows the administrator to upload learning content, deliver the lessons, give announcements, and share useful data with users.

The concept of learning management systems emerged from eLearning in the late 1990s. Even though LMS first appeared in the higher education system, it is most commonly used by corporates. Now, the global eLearning market is touted to reach \$370 billion by 2026. Many companies are planning to adopt LMS to increase the efficiency of their training and the profits of the company. Let us understand the different types of LMS.

Different types of LMS

Given below are the different types of LMS categorized based on your needs.



01 Enterprise and Individual LMS

A. Enterprise LMS

LMS made for large organizations is designed to track thousands of employees. It is designed to grow with the company through the addition of new courses. Most of the Learning management systems designed for enterprises have a vast array of built-in features to fulfill each company's needs.

B. Individual LMS

An LMS designed for small organizations or individuals may offer most of the course producer's features. This Learning Management System is built to utilize fewer human resources. These LMS platforms also provide freelancers with built-in collaboration tools to work solo or with a team.

02 Free and Commercial LMS

A. Free LMS

If you have budgetary constraints and are looking for low-cost options, you can go one of two ways. There are Open Source Learning Management Systems or free LMS options.

The Open Source Learning Management Systems are generally free and based online. You can modify the source code to suit your needs. There are also active online communities if you ever run into some problems. But you will need some amount of programming experience to customize it.

There are also many free LMS out there. Most of them offer a fair amount of features and advanced levels for its proper use. Anyone who has prior knowledge can deploy it reasonably effectively. The only problem is that a free LMS won't have the same support level as the paid ones.

Updating your Platforms is no easy task. It will require your attention and time. And there is no guarantee that they will even go smoothly. So either you should have good knowledge of these systems, or you can hire a specialist who can do that for you.

B. Commercial LMS

Most of the commercial LMS out there comes with top of the line features and 24/7 customer support. But remember, there is a monthly or yearly fee tag attached to it for their services. You can even purchase them as software. They may need more frequent updates and maintenance. So, you would probably be better off with hiring a specialist.





03 Software as a Service LMS and Licenced LMS

A. Software as a Service LMS (SAAS)

Software as a Service (SaaS) model is one of the most popular models out there. It is cloud-based, easy to deploy, and includes free upgrades. Even if it is initially limited in customization, it is perfect for developing organizations since it is scalable and can grow over time. The excellent point is that the companies provide technical support for your subscription period.

B. Licensed Product

This type of LMS allows you to use the software by either paying a monthly fee or buying it outright. This will grant you complete and unlimited access to all its features. It offers the best in terms of customization, customer support, and reliability. The highest cost in implementing it would be buying the user license. This makes the overall cost much lower when compared to SaaS solutions.

04 Cloud-based LMS and On-Premise LMS

A. Cloud-based LMS

A cloud-service LMS is hosted in a secure off-site server. It allows users to access the product using various computers and mobile devices, even offline, using apps. It includes all of the features you might expect in a modern Learning management system. A cloud-based LMS is also much more expandable in the long term.

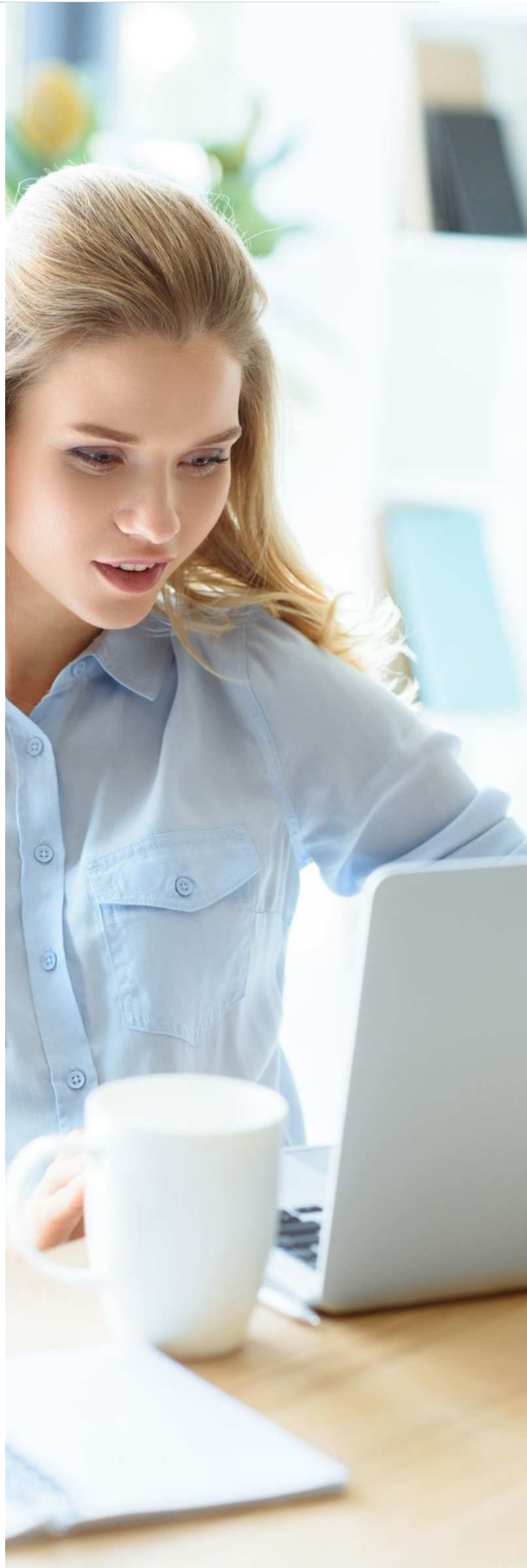
B. On-Premise LMS

On-Premise LMS is built as a standalone service according to the organization's specifications in the servers of their choice. Since access to the servers is provided only to the company authorized persons, this acts as an additional security level by ensuring that no one else can access the user and corporate data. But at the same time, remember, you might require more than one server for the smooth working of the LMS.

05 Other Options

A. Integrated LMS

Modern LMS can seamlessly integrate with the existing software and systems and provide learners with a great experience. The organization can also choose not to integrate the LMS and keep it separate. But this will disable some of the features in the LMS that are available with the integration.





B. Built-in Authoring Tools

Most course developers prefer having built-in authoring tools at their disposal. That enables them to create and revise their courses whenever they want.

Most LMSs have content authoring tools built-in or support the API/xAPI (or SCORM) standard, allowing developers to upload courses and lessons created earlier from authoring tools or LCMS/CMS. It can even include pre-authored content. Content like new modules, exercises, learning documents, tests, etc. can be integrated easily.

C. Pre-Written CMS

A content management system (CMS) is different from LMS altogether. But CMS is used to house learning materials and documentation of projects. It also provides a testing ground for L&D teams to work out their course designs before rolling out the actual courses. Pre-written courses can be developed in a CMS and imported into an LMS. However, it cannot be a real substitute for LMS.

How to select the best LMS for you?

It is essential to know how you can select the best Learning Management System suitable for your needs. When choosing an LMS, you should always consider these factors

A. It should be accessible and user friendly

An LMS should be accessible to all of its users. The entire process, starting from the sign-in page to the course, should be smooth and secure. Tools like AI and chatbots should enable learners to search and find new courses according to their interests. This is important with young people and multi-generational learners who may not be used to the latest formats. Even the fonts and the layouts should be easy to the eyes. And the text needs to be translatable.

B. It should produce results

If you are investing in an LMS, you will be expecting immediate results. In a competitive environment being able to train quickly and efficiently matters. The results should be displayed and easily accessible for both the users and the administrators in the form of stats about completed modules, scores, and the connection to the corporate objectives.

C. Adaptability

An LMS should be adaptable. The learners should be able to access it anywhere using any device. Therefore a multi-device LMS is necessary to ensure that the learners can access their course anytime & pick up from where they left off. With mobile phone usage on the rise, your LMS should be able to adapt to different screen sizes.

D. It should be secure

When you select your LMS, make sure that it is completely secure. You have to protect user-information as well as your proprietary data. Select an LMS with a single sign-on process (SSO). Ensure that additional protection is added using layers of security, which is linked to user privileges.





E. Customer support & Tutorials

When selecting an LMS, keep in mind that there will be instances where live customer support is needed. Select an LMS which has round the clock customer support. New users will also need an introduction or a tutorial to use the LMS properly.

Thoughts on LMS

In this time and age, an LMS is necessary to get the most out of your online courses. But managing an LMS is no easy task. This is where Learning Everest comes in. Learning Everest specializes in the Learning Management System's deployment and management, be it open source LMS or paid LMS. If you want Learning Everest to look at your training needs and suggest an LMS that suits your organizational needs, we recommend trying our Learning Consulting services.



www.learningeverest.com
contact@learningeverest.com
+91-7417419595