Skills for Health

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WHAT'S NEW IN TOTARA 14

Introducing centralized notifications, web conferencing integration and key enhancements to Totara Perform

Totara 14 enhances the fundamentals of the Totara Talent Experience Platform with a major update to the system notifications functionality, many exciting new features within Totara Perform and additional and refined integrations with other learning and business-critical applications.

CENTRALIZED NOTIFICATIONS SYSTEM

Keeping learners, managers, trainers and administrators informed about important learning and development events is a key feature of a Talent Experience Platform. That's why Totara 14 includes a new centralized framework for the creation, editing and management of all system-generated notifications.

Notifications are now grouped and configured using an event trigger (such as program enrollment) and include improved placeholder and multi-language interfaces - making it even easier to create automated, yet personalized, notifications.

The new centralized notification system also introduces system and tenant-level branding with new HTML header and footer options, so you can add organization or team branding to outgoing messages.

Users also have a new user-friendly interface for setting their notification preferences, so they can easily choose how they receive different messages, whether that's online, via email, through Microsoft Teams or via the Totara Mobile app.

The new notifications system has been implemented across programs and certifications as a first phase of work, with the remainder of notifications due for release within v15 (scheduled for Q4 October 2021).
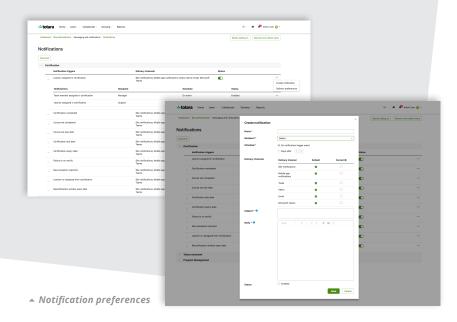
UPDATES ACROSS COMPETENCIES

Totara Perform has seen a range of updates across the competency management functionality within Totara 14.

There are a number of new reporting options including a new competency ratings report, allowing you to search across a group of users holding a certain level of competency for a particular skill, area of knowledge or behaviour.

In addition, when creating a learning and development path for achieving a competency, administrators automatically receive a warning of any invalid achievement paths, preventing learners from being accidentally blocked from completing or obtaining a particular competency.

Alongside custom competency scales, Totara Perform now offers different proficiency requirements based on the competency assignment. Users in different organizations or departments, or those holding different roles and responsibilities, can have a customized proficiency requirement level, tailored to their individual learning and performance needs.

▲ Notification preferences

ENHANCED MULTITENANCY PHASE 2

Building on our initial release of enhanced multitenancy in Totara 13, we've added the ability for administrators to set custom default images for courses, programs, certifications, resources and workspaces per tenant - further personalizing the user experience.

In addition, tenant admins can now create set and dynamic audiences within their tenant group, allowing them to quickly assign access to Totara Engage workspaces and bulk enroll users into courses, programs and certifications.

NEW PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES QUESTION TYPES

Alongside the competency updates, Totara Perform now features several new question types for appraisal, feedback and check-in performance activities.

Questions and responses from a performance activity can now be redisplayed in the same or another activity, allowing participants to review and compare previous responses and ratings.

Totara Perform also now includes an aggregation option, allowing you to calculate and display averages, maximums, medians and minimums of scale values given by performance activity participants.

A new content review element within performance activities allows you to display, comment on and optionally provide a rating across an assigned competency. This new option displays competency records as a snapshot in time, allowing you to easily track professional development and growth across your team, and use performance activities to capture important discussions and decisions between participants.

MICROSOFT TEAMS AND ZOOM SEMINAR INTEGRATION

In order to provide greater support for remote learning, we have introduced a tighter integration with Microsoft Teams and Zoom and Totara Learn 14's seminar tool. This allows you to connect your Totara site to your Microsoft Teams and/or Zoom accounts to automatically create corresponding virtual spaces for your seminar events and streamline online event creation.

Alongside this new functionality, we've built new APIs to support the integration of other web conferencing tools, allowing our partner network to build connections to your preferred web conferencing tool with your Totara 14 site.

RECOMMENDATION ENGINE IMPROVEMENTS

In order to generate more relevant and personalized resource, workspace and course recommendations, Totara 14 features a number of improvements and refinements to the machine learning-based recommendations engine within Totara Engage. One such addition is the inclusion of user profile information in generating recommendations.

REPORTING ENHANCEMENTS

Following the recent overhaul of the reporting functionality, we've implemented a number of additional updates across Totara 14. This includes adding a direct link to assignment submissions within the assignment report source, in order to streamline submission reviews and grading.

We've also added current enrollment information to the course membership report, enabling course managers to easily identify both past and current learners and offer them tailored support and follow-up activities.

Totara 14 also sees an update to the scheduled reports functionality, preventing blank attachments from being sent to report subscribers.

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