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CRAYONS®
Authoring & Learning Environment

»Crayons®«
Web-based authoring and learning environment

Fraunhofer Institute of Optronics, System Technologies and Image Exploitation IOSB

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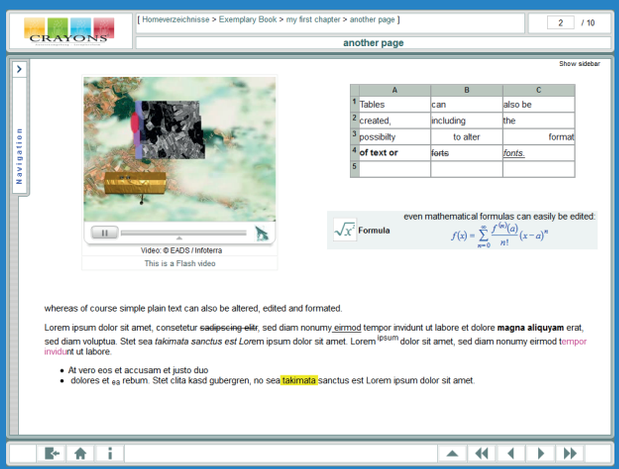
Crayons® is an authoring and learning environment for the web. It is based on the widely proven and efficient Content Management System (CMS) WebGenesis®. Both are developed by Fraunhofer IOSB. Crayons as authoring and learning environment pursues new approaches in the field of e-learning.

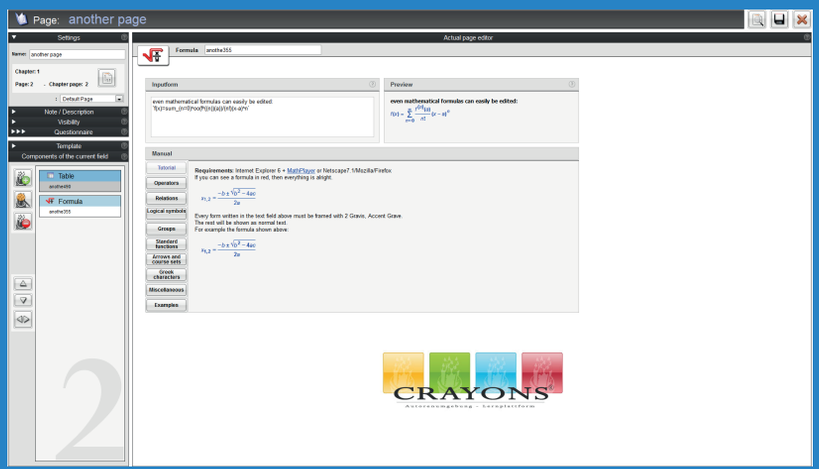
Need - Solution - Benefit

The competitiveness of a business is determined not only by the »management of content« but, more importantly, by the knowledge of that content. With the benefits of learning not limited in terms of time and place, e-learning scenarios became widely accepted.

Crayons is an application, which allows not only to create content but also to publish and use the content within the same system. This means learning courses can be created and edited directly without additional software. Authors don't need to export their content from the authoring environment to the learning environment.

The features of the authoring and learning environment are realized by up to date web 2.0 technologies in order to provide an efficient and pleasing work environment for both students and authors. By using a standard browser (such as Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer) multiple users can perform their authoring or learning tasks from all over the world and at the same time.





Crayons is SCORM compatible and because of the web based approach, it is also platform independent. Authors are able to create and format content without prior knowledge of HTML or other web technology. The intuitive authoring environment is based on a book metaphor:

- The author creates pages with the desired content and structures them via chapters.
- The content is placed on the page using various components (»crayons«).
- Application-specific text components, media components and exercise components are available to create and modify the content.
- Pages are formatted using templates (similar to those available in presentation programs).

Crayons also provides the possibility of individually adjusting a learning course to the student. The optional component »adaptive learning path« is able to adjust to the student's learning success and therefore create an individual path through the course.

The learning success of a student is determined by using questionnaires. For these questionnaires Crayons provides many exercise types, such as single- and multiple-choice, drag and drop or cloze texts.

Optionally Crayons combines the features of a Content Management System with modern e-learning scenarios. In its standard configuration Crayons uses the CMS WebGenesis only as runtime environment. Additional costs apply if WebGenesis is to be used with all CMS features. WebGenesis users can purchase Crayons for a special upgrade fee. WebGenesis is used successfully in over 30 projects.

Target Group

Crayons is the optimal solution for users interested in simply and quickly providing own training and further education courses. Where applicable, Crayons is also ideal to combine a learning environment with features of a CMS.

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