Software: ScriptoPro
Reviewer: Matthew Siegel

ScriptoPro is a flexible, web-based learning management system suitable for both online and face-to-face educational and training contexts. The instructor can use ScriptoPro as a stand-alone system or in conjunction with the institution's own learning management system through the process of uploading and downloading of student data. In addition to supporting all major web browsers, ScriptoPro can be used on laptops, desktops, tablets, or mobile devices.

When initially setting up a class, the instructor enters student and course data, including student name and email address, course name, grade scale (with or without plusses and minuses, or pass/fail), course description, office hours, and location. As an alternative to inputting student data, students may self-register for a course after receiving an invitation (with link) through an email account. The instructor also has the option to upload content, including PowerPoint, Word, pdf, audio, or video files. A training course format can also be used, allowing courses and   e-learning content to be created around existing materials. Compatible with multiple platforms, public and private options can be chosen, allowing full access control with passwords. Student progress can be tracked, and a variety of statistics and reports can be generated. Calendar options allow the instructor to schedule events, assignment deadlines, and so on.

Although ScriptoPro is a comprehensive learning management system, there is an emphasis on assessment tools, which account for a sizable portion of the available features. One of the system's primary strengths is the capabilities and options associated with designing *quizzes and tests*. In addition to quiz format (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, and short answer), quizzes may include images, media, and video files. Security options can be set by the instructor, who also has the ability to randomize questions. Grading is automatic, and results, feedback, and explanation is immediate. Individual question analysis is also available to inform further instruction. In the spirit of Web 2.0 collaborative capability, ScriptoPro provides a quiz library which allows users to share and use assessment materials created by others.

In addition to creating tests and quizzes, ScriptoPro has other features that make it a useful learning management system. *Polls* and *surveys* can be delivered, containing both quantitative and qualitative data from students; data can be exported, files can be uploaded, and both audio and video can be embedded. *Flashcards* can be generated as well, including an image uploader, control auto-flip, and optional time limits. A unique feature is called *Vocabulous*, which utilizes a database of academic vocabulary (Academic Word List, or AWL) to create web-based cloze exercises. Another interesting feature, *Mark-It*, allows a text file to be imported, identifies textual elements, providing for annotation and marking of text; this has particular applicability for non-native speakers of English, who may use this feature to improve reading comprehension.

The pricing plan is simple and straightforward. After an initial 30-day free trial, one can pay either monthly ($19) or yearly ($192). There is no tiered pricing, meaning that any purchaser has immediate access to all options and capabilities of ScriptoPro. No contract is required, and the system is free for students—only the course instructor needs to pay. Student data is archived at the completion of the instructional term/semester. However, this data would be lost if there is any interruption in membership; therefore, it is important to remain a paid member at all times (even

over holidays), and not allow membership to lapse. User support is available 24/7 by email, live chat, or phone; although I cannot vouch personally for the quality of user support, the variety of ways to reach support personnel seems to indicate both availability and flexibility.

What I like most about ScriptoPro is its overall *flexibility*. It can be used for a wide *variety of learning contexts*. This learning management system is suitable for instruction at the K-12 level, higher education, employee training, or adult education. It can also be used with either face-to-face or online courses. The reports and statistics that are generated from assessment results give the instructor real-time information on the effectiveness of instructional delivery, allowing quick response and adaptability of *instructional decision making*. Question analysis features provide instructors with a flexible, if imperfect, way to gauge assessment validity as well. The *web-based nature and compatibility* advantages give the student flexibility in hardware/software requirements; if a laptop is unavailable, the student can use his or her mobile phone.

Ease of use is another advantage of the ScriptoPro learning management system. It is relatively simple to understand and very user-friendly. *Tutorials* are provided in both a video and a printable pdf format to assist the instructor and students in all necessary functions, from setting up a class, to designing a quiz, to navigating ScriptoPro itself. *Navigation* is both intuitive and clear, with pictorial as well as textual descriptions. *Uploading* of course materials, whether the files are audio, video, or text, is a simple matter for the instructor. Finally, *24/7 availability of user technical support* provides peace of mind for both instructor and student in case there are any questions or issues with the use of ScriptoPro.

ScriptoPro has a *collaborative Web 2.0 technological orientation*, which makes a lot of sense when one considers the shifting demographics of learners and their digital competence. The typical learner, if there is such a thing, is more likely to be a non-traditional student—older, employed, and saddled with more responsibilities. Learning contexts are more likely to be online; distance learning is an increasing trend (and less expensive for the institution). Students are more technologically savvy than in the past, and collaboration is the rule rather than the exception (corresponding to the emergence of Web 2.0 technology). All these changes make ScriptoPro relevant to learning management. As an example, the quiz library that is available to instructors (and students) can be expanded through user collaboration.

In conclusion, I would recommend ScriptoPro for instructors and program designers. It is a reasonably priced, adaptable, user-friendly, and technologically up-to-date way to manage instruction, course material delivery, and assessment. The 30-day free trial gives the user an opportunity to try the system without any risk or long-term commitment.

Matthew Siegel, *formerly a high school mathematics teacher, became interested in second language acquisition after teaching in Xi'an, China. Subsequently, he earned a MA in TESOL from Notre Dame of Maryland University, and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Technology in Education and Second Language Acquisition (TESLA) at the University of South Florida.*

Email: msiegel4@mail.usf.edu