AICC or SCORM: Which Is Best for Packaging E-Learning Content?

ABR has extensive content expertise that provides the foundation for truly engaging training. *Here's a little taste of that, just for you.*

Both AICC and SCORM have a place in developing e-learning content and the best one depends on your development requirements. Here are some pros and cons of each:

› **SCORM**

- Pro: There's a standard set of functions to send and retrieve information.
- Con: There are issues with cross-browser scripting. The content and LMS must be on the same server.

› **AICC**

- Pro: AICC allows content to exist on a separate server and supports secure information transfers with HTTPS.
- Con: Organization of data is more complicated and it requires multiple functions to remove information from the string returned by the server.
- Con: AICC-compliant LMSs only have to support specific features, so the content developer is required to write all of the functions for communication.

Amy E. Fox, President
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> **When considering which specification to use, you should focus on a few factors:**

1) **What tool will you be using to develop your e-learning content?**

   If you are using a rapid e-learning development tool, then either is fine because these tools come with single button publishing to both specifications. Flash has an AICC/SCORM template that you can publish, but you still have to write the function(s) to break apart the string returned from the LMS if you use AICC, so a SCORM-compliant course would be faster in this case.

2) **Will you be allowed to place your content on the server hosting the LMS or will it have to be on a different server?**

   If the LMS you are developing content for does not supply you with some kind of server-side program to get around the cross-browser scripting issue that hinders SCORM, then you will need to use the AICC method.

3) **Does the information you are passing between the LMS and the course have to be sent over a secure connection?**

   If you need a secure connection, then AICC is your best choice because it will allow you to send information over secure HTTP (HTTPS). SCORM uses JavaScript functions, so the information is not secure.

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