

Launching xAPI content without an LMS

xAPI published content can be run from an LMS, but it also has the ability to run from a standard Web server while reporting to an LRS. When the content is launched from an LMS, the LMS provides all of the information that the content needs on the launch URL. That same information can be used when the content is loaded from any Web server, as long as the information is known beforehand.

Lets take a look at an example launch string for a xAPI published title (shown without URL encoding and with line breaks for readability):

```
http://myserver.com/mytitle/a001index.html
?endpoint=http://someendpoint.com/TCAPI/
&auth=Basic FjFjMGY4NTYxNzUwOGI4YWY0NjFkNzU5MWUxMzE1ZGQ2
&actor={"name":["John_Blackmon"],"account":[{"accountServiceHomePage":"http://lectora.com/"
,"accountName":"myemail@gmail.com"}],"objectType":"Agent"}
&activity_id=http://www.my_companies_url.com/content_id
```

Lets look at each of these items on the launch string.

- endpoint - this is the URL within the LRS that the content should be reporting to. All communications from the content will go to this URL. It should be provided by your LRS, and generally ends with "/TCAPI".
- auth - this is the authorization token. It can be formatted as either Basic or OAuth. A Basic authentication consists of the word "Basic" followed by a space and then the id and password from the site, separated by a colon, base 64 encoded. Your id and password should be provided by your LRS. Concatenate these two, separated by a colon, and then plug it into a base64 encoder, such as <http://www.opinionatedgeek.com/dotnet/tools/base64encode/>.
- actor - The actor defines the "who" in a xAPI conversation. There are several required sub items within the actor item:
 - name - The identity of the person reporting
 - account - consists of:
 - accountServiceHomePage - a URL that refers to the homepage for this actor/course.
 - accountName - the email for the user
 - objectType - Should always be set to "Agent"
- activity_id - The unique identifier for this content. It is very important that this identifier be globally unique for this content, so that the information can be uniquely reported on no matter where it is stored. Generally, it should take the form of the URL of your company, followed by the unique identifier for the content

So, an example URL launch string that has all of the encoding preset would be:

http://myserver.com/mytitle/a001index.html?endpoint=https://mylrs.com/TCAPI/&auth=Basic%20fmYJoQzhHFYUrVjJYbEh5a2QwNkc6NFp^CvSINPV0Z4WVNEYWI%3d&actor={%22name%22:[%22John%20Blackmon%22],%22account%22:[{%22accountServiceHomePage%22:%22http%2F%2Flectora.com%2F%22,%22accountName%22:%22myemail%40gmail.com%22}],%22objectType%22:%22Agent%22}&activity_id=http%3a%2f%2fmyserver.com/mytitle

There are a few LRS's available on the Web that support disconnected content that you can try for free:

WaxLRS from Saltbox

WaxLRS allows for only disconnected reporting of xAPI statements, it does not host any content natively.

<http://www.waxlrs.com/>

SCORM Cloud by Rustici Software

Scorm Cloud allows for AICC, SCORM and xAPI content to be hosted and tracked, as well as allowing disconnected content to report directly to the LRS.

One note, when using SCORM Cloud in a disconnected manner, you need to use your AppID and Secret Key as your id and password in the auth token above.

<http://cloud.scorm.com>