







# Learning Management Systems Matrix



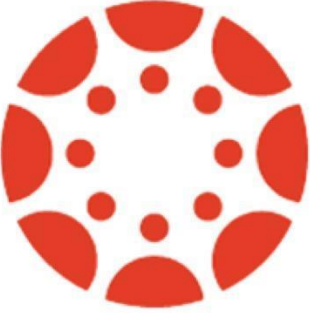
Before you explore this Matrix, ask yourself this; “What is your definition of a Learning Management System?” What do you feel that you need in a learning platform? These answers will help you when looking over the options in this matrix.

## Learning Management Systems Matrix

*Table 1: Learning Management System matrices*

<b>Learning Platform</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Ease of Use</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Compatibility</b>
Microsoft Teams 	Allows teams to share files, chat/message each other and quickly meet via video calls.	Free for the basic version with business modes purchased starting at \$5 a month.	Though good to have all office tools in one place and bots to assist with tasks, multiple tools with similar uses can cause confusion at times.	Multiple accessibility features across all tools	Available on all operating systems and compatible with Google tools, though a Microsoft email is required.
Zoom 	Meet with upwards of 100 people in an easy to set up face-to-face video chat room.	Free to use	Very easy to use as it houses a simple layout. Getting onto a call involves just a click of a link.	Very good as it includes features such as closed captions for the hearing impaired, keyboard shortcuts, and the ability to record calls to rewatch later.	Open to all phone and PC operating systems

<p>Google Classroom</p>  <p>Google Classroom</p>	<p>A learning platform created by Google for distributing, creating and grading student assignments that is integrated with other Google tools for a seamless classroom experience.</p>	<p>Free with a Google account</p>	<p>Very easy to use for Google friendly users, but not so much if you are not a Google user.</p>	<p>Like other G Suite tools, there is compatibility with screen readers, voice-to-text tools and braille displays</p>	<p>Compatible with other operating systems, but strictly requires a Google account.</p>
<p>Google Hangout</p>  <p>Google Hangouts</p>	<p>Primarily for teachers to use as a video communication tool to teach students in an education friendly virtual environment.</p>	<p>Free with Google account</p>	<p>Easy enough for primarily being a video chat platform</p>	<p>Like other G suite tools, there is compatibility with screen readers, voice to text tools and braille displays</p>	<p>Compatible but requires a Google + account</p>
<p>Google Meet</p> 	<p>Google's own primary video communication tool with noise cancelling and low light features that works with Google Calendars and Contacts.</p>	<p>Free with a Google account</p>	<p>Easy enough for primarily being a video chat platform</p>	<p>Like other G suite tools, there is compatibility with screen readers, voice to text tools and braille displays</p>	<p>Compatible with other operating systems but requires a Google account.</p>
<p>Moodle</p> 	<p>Can be used to create private and customizable online course websites for educators and trainers to help users achieve their goals.</p>	<p>Free to use</p>	<p>Can take more time for learners to get a handle on</p>	<p>Moodle itself not only strives for accessibility, but also offers to provide helpful tips for teaching users about it</p>	<p>Not compatible with mobile users</p>




<p>Skype</p> 	<p>A communication platform for video chatting and instant messaging, as well as file transferring.</p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>Similar to Zoom, Skype is simple to use and only requires downloading to start chatting</p>	<p>Not really, but is compatible with accessibility tools like NVDA and Jaws</p>	<p>Skype can be downloaded and used by any operating system or mobile carrier.</p>
<p>Discord</p> 	<p>A voice, video, and chat center that allows the set-up of designated servers.</p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>Tougher to navigate as it is primarily for gaming and recreational uses.</p>	<p>While housing a few options like text-to-speech, it is not the most accessible platform out there.</p>	<p>Being website-based, Discord can be accessed from any devices with support from a mobile app.</p>
<p>Canvas</p> 	<p>This web-based software allows institutions and educators to manage online learning materials such as rubrics, grades, quizzes, and assignments. It lets them monitor student work, both individually and in groups.</p>	<p>Free for the first 15 days. After that, a fee is required.</p>	<p>A user-friendly experience with support if issues should arise.</p>	<p>Very passionate about accessibility. They support many screen readers and keyboard shortcuts. They even have their own inhouse accessibility checker.</p>	<p>Compatible with all browsing software and phone operating systems like iOS and Android.</p>



Now that you have had a look at the matrices, we'd like to ask you; "Where are you now in your decision, and where do you think you want to go from here?"

## Chrome Extensions Matrix

Included below are two tables; the first lists accessibility software widely used by the learning community. This software, while helpful, can be expensive: for example, Kurtzweil 3000 is \$700 for just one license. That is the purpose of the second table, which offers a variety of Google Chrome extensions that act as free alternatives to the tools mentioned in the first table.

*Table 2 Chrome Extensions matrices*

<b>Accessibility tool</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Chrome Alternative</b>
Dragon 	A speech recognition software that converts spoken words into text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voice in Voice typing</li> <li>• Speech-to-text (Voice Recognition)</li> <li>• LipSurf – Voice control for the web</li> </ul>
Math remedial tools 	Provides users with the ability to perform mathematical functions online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EquatIO – Math made digital</li> <li>• Latex Math Equations for Google Chrome</li> </ul>
Text to speech 	With simple selection, the program will read out loud highlighted text on screen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pericles: Text to speech screen reader</li> <li>• Read Aloud: A text to speech voice reader</li> <li>• Readme – Text to speech reader</li> </ul>

<p>C-Pen</p> 	<p>A pocket-sized, portable device that can read written words out loud.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Natural Reader</li> <li>● Intelligent Speaker (Text to speech that brings productivity)</li> </ul>
<p>Kurzweil 3000</p> 	<p>It is an award-winning tool that helps students with literacy challenges such as learning disabilities and dyslexia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Open Dyslexic</li> <li>● Helper Bird</li> <li>● ATBar</li> </ul>




## Chrome Extensions Matrices in Depth

To download the listed apps, enter the “Chrome Web Store” via your choice of web browser or the bookmark bar of Chrome (if enabled) and select the “Apps” button. The user can then search for their desired extensions in the search bar. Accessibility appears as a category on the left-hand side of the page. There is even a shortcut under the “Advanced” section of the “Settings” page to take you straight to it.

To install an extension, click the blue “Add to Chrome” button on the top right of the page. A prompt will show up, and again you will need to confirm that you want to add the extension to your browser. To access your extensions, click on the little icon that looks like a jigsaw puzzle piece to the right of your search bar: This is the Extensions Menu. Users can pin the Extensions to the search bar for quicker access if they are more vital.



## Dragon Alternative Extensions Matrix (Voice to text)

*Table 3 Dragon Alternatives matrix*

<b>Extension names</b>	<b>Bio</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>
<p>Voice in Voice typing</p> 	<p>Rather than using a keyboard to do the typing, Voice In allows users to use their voice as the keys in writing up any online needs. It is as simple as pressing the button to activate and speaking out what you want to have written.</p>	<p>Voice in Voice typing</p>
<p>Speech-to-text (Voice Recognition)</p> 	<p>An easy-to-use voice synthesizer and voice recognition tool allowing for easy conversion of speech-to-text. The app is supported in multiple languages and dialects that only require the use of your microphone. You can select how it opens via a pop-up window or browser tab.</p>	<p>Speech to Text (Voice Recognition)</p>
<p>LipSurf – Voice control for the web</p> 	<p>With LipSurf, users have the power to control their online tasks with speech when one is multitasking. Using your voice with this speech program gives you the ability to open web pages, watch videos, scroll, click, and dictate emails with ease.</p>	<p>LipSurf – Voice Control for the Web</p>




## Math Remedial Tools Alternative Extensions Matrix (Math tools)

Table 4 Math Remedial Tools matrix

Extension Names	Bio	Hyperlinks
<p>EquatIO – Math made digital</p> 	<p>Math is made easier, accessible, and more fun with the assistance provided by EquatIO. Upon opening, a fillable bar at the bottom of the screen to allow you to enter formulas, equations, or show your work for a problem either by typing, handwriting, dictation, or taking a picture of it via mobile devices and sending it to the desired location for touching up.</p>	<p>EquatIO – Math made Digital</p>
<p>Latex Math Equations for Google Chrome</p> 	<p>Helpful for those who struggle with writing out complex math equations and symbols or have homework that needs completing online. Latex Math Equations is a math tool that allows formulas to be written in a user-friendly manner.</p>	<p>Latex Math Equations for Google Chrome</p>



## Text to speech Alternative Extensions Matrix (Text readers)

Table 5 Text to Speech Alternative matrix

Extension Names	Bio	Hyperlinks
<p>Pericles: Text to speech screen reader</p> 	<p>Pericles allows for easy reading of a screen of text aloud, saving time without the need to highlight or cut and paste walls of text to be placed in other software. Just click the extension tool on your browser, and off it goes to read whatever the reader desires.</p>	<p>Pericles: Text to Speech Screen Reader</p>
<p>Read Aloud: A text to speech voice reader</p> 	<p>This one-click, simple to use tool will automatically start reading a webpage upon activation and will continue to do so even if the user has another tab opened up at the time.</p>	<p>Read Aloud: A Text to Speech Voice Reader</p>
<p>Readme – Text to speech reader</p> 	<p>With the power of Readme, users will be able to have the contents of a webpage, an uploaded PDF or Document, or an eBook read out loud to them in over 40 simulated lifelike voices.</p>	<p>Readme – Text to Speech Reader</p>

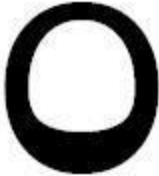

## Cpen Alternative Extensions Matrix (Screen readers)

*Table 6 Open Alternatives matrix*

<b>Extension Names</b>	<b>Bio</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>
<p data-bbox="186 468 444 499">Natural Reader</p> 	<p data-bbox="602 468 971 800">Sit back and allow Natural Reader to read out your emails, PDF files, webpages, and Google Docs for you. Just copy and paste the desired selection of text or upload your file of choice and listen.</p>	<p data-bbox="1018 468 1273 499">Natural Reader</p>
<p data-bbox="186 852 516 978">Intelligent Speaker (Text to speech that brings productivity)</p> 	<p data-bbox="602 852 984 1146">Intelligent Speaker is a text-to-speech tool that brings productivity by allowing users to save articles, blog posts, and files to a playlist to be read back no matter your location.</p>	<p data-bbox="1018 852 1354 978">Intelligent Speaker (Text to Speech that brings productivity)</p>

## Kurtzweil 3000 Alternative Extensions Matrix (Dyslexia and Disability assistance tools)

Table 7 Kurtzweil 3000 Alternatives matrix

Extension Names	Bio	Hyperlinks
<p>Open Dyslexic</p> 	<p>Open Dyslexic is an extension that can turn your web pages into a readable font that is friendly to users with dyslexia. Upon activation, users have a choice of three fonts that will completely rewrite the entire webpage in either the extension's standard settings or their choice between a bolded or italics version.</p>	<p>Open Dyslexic</p>
<p>Helper Bird</p> 	<p>Helperbird is an extension for users who may have trouble navigating the many web pages we browse every day. Not just being limited to a text-to-speech tool, Helperbird is a one-stop-shop for web browsing assistance for those who need accessibility.</p>	<p>Helperbird: Accessibility &amp; Dyslexia Software</p>

ATBar



ATbar was created to provide users with a web browser toolbar that can be used on any site to increase accessibility to the user's needs. Its purpose is to compress what you want across multiple extensions like text-to-speech, dictionary, font size adjustment, and spell check down to just one.

ATbar