Increasingly, digital ecosystems are infrastructure—more like common gauge rails than differentiating features of a university.
Motivations for Universities to Create Unizin:

• Digital content, software platforms, and data analytics (collectively, “Service”) are essential and strategic capabilities that enable universities’ core mission of education.

• We have a vested interest in staying in control of our data, our students, our content, and our reputation/brand.

• Directing these integrated capabilities as an academy-owned set of loosely coupled services is an important means to protect universities’ interests over time. Ownership affords control.
Teaching/Learning Ecosystem in the Traditional Physical Environment
Teaching/Learning Ecosystem in a Digitally Mediated World
1. Approach technology platform decisions as a **strategic decision**, not just feature set comparisons.

2. Approach **control of the digital ecosystem** like we approached control of the network ecosystem (Leverage the lessons/successes we’ve had from Internet2)

3. Favor (demand) a **loosely coupled ecosystem**

4. Take advantage of **scale and collaboration**—aggregate demand and requirements to acquire services/technology on favorable terms.

5. **Build only where you must**. Invest development in pushing standards and creating reference implementations for easy-to-use and valued services.

6. Unizin is about **synchronizing capital and demands**, not about community development.
One Platform, Multiple Uses

Unizin
Digital Education Ecosystem
Make it easy, make it useful!

Faculty & Students

- Residential Tuition
- Online Degree
- Badges & Certifications (for fee)
- MOOC Free
Unizin Services Roadmap
Unizin selected Instructure’s Canvas LMS as the first service.

What was attractive about Canvas?

- Largely open-source. Where it isn’t, they will provide source code if we part ways.
- Aggressively pushing standards-based approaches to tools and data (e.g., LTI, common cartridge, caliper). If you want LTI apps, they have the first store.
- It’s the best in class LMS, judging by adoption rates
But Unizin is much more than a LMS—it’s about the digital ecosystem that links content, applications, and data.
Unizin Roadmap through Spring 2015

Content Sources

Spring 2015

- Institutional Repositories
- Open Education Repositories
- Hathi Trust
- Blackboard xPlor (PILOT)
- Canvas Commons (PILOT)

Unizin Content Relay
Spring 2015

Fall 2014

Unizin Extensions
Spring 2015
Unizin Roadmap through Fall 2015

**Content Sources**
- Spring 2015: Institutional Repositories, Open Education Repositories, Hathi Trust
- Fall 2015: Extend Existing Sources
  - Faculty-developed Content
  - Commercial Content Publishers
  - Chronopolis

**Analytics Sources & Tools**
- Fall 2015: Unizin Shared Data Warehouse, E² Coach, GradeCraft
  - Institutional Databases
  - Commercial Analytics Tools
See www.Unizin.org