

Google's Course Builder 1.9 improves instructor experience and takes Skill Maps to the next level

Thursday, August 13, 2015

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(Cross-posted on the [Google for Education Blog](#))

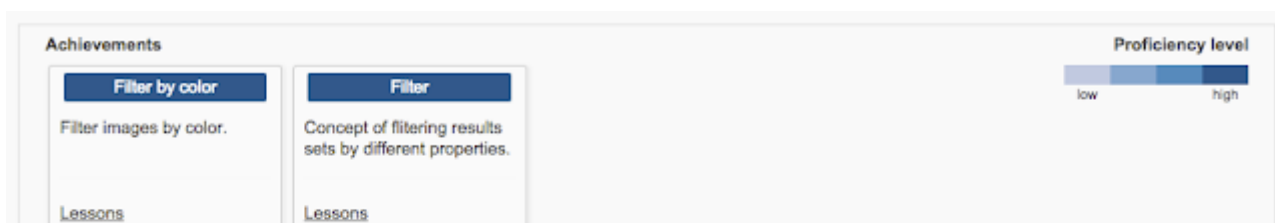
When we last updated [Course Builder](#) in April, we said that its [skill mapping capabilities](#) were just the beginning. Today's 1.9 release greatly expands the applicability of these skill maps for you and your students. We've also significantly revamped the instructor's user interface, making it easier for you to get the job done while staying out of your way while you create your online courses.

First, a quick update on project hosting. Course Builder has joined many other Google open source projects on GitHub ([download it here](#)). Later this year, we'll consolidate all of the Course Builder documentation, but for now, get started at [Google Open Online Education](#).

Now, about those features:

- **Measuring competence with skill maps**

In addition to defining skills and prerequisites for each lesson, you can now apply skills to each question in your courses' assessments. By completing the assessments and activities, learners will be able to measure their level of competence for each skill. For instance, here's what a student taking Power Searching with Google might see:



1.2 Filter image results b...
1. Lesson 1.2 Activity

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1. Lesson 1.2 Activity

Recommended Next

Identify property to filt...

Skill of figuring out which property you can use to filter that will give you the format. Example: should format.

Lessons

1.2 Filter image results b...

Search results

Lessons

1.2 Filter image results b...

Query

Question consisting of one or more words.

Lessons

1.2 Filter image results b...

Filter by similarity

Filter images by similarity.

Lessons

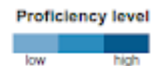
1.2 Filter image results b...

This information can help guide them on which sections of the course to revisit. Or, if a pre-test is given, students can focus on the lessons addressing their skill gaps.

To determine how successful the content is at teaching the desired skills across all students, an instructor can review students' competencies on a new page in the analytics section of the dashboard.

Units

- Introduction (23)
- Interpreting results (19)
- Checking your facts (18)
- Advanced techniques (14)
- Find facts faster (11)
- Putting it all together (8)
- (2)



- **Improving usability when creating a course** Course Builder has a rich set of capabilities, giving you control over every aspect of your course – but that doesn't mean it has to be hard to use. Our goal is to help you spend less time setting up your course and more time educating your students. We've completely reorganized the dashboard, reducing the number of tabs and making the settings you need clearer and easier to find.

Course Builder Create > Outline test@example.com | Logout

Power Searching with Google (1.9.0) ▾

Create ▴

- Outline
- Questions
- Skills table
- Skills graph
- Announcements
- Images & documents
- Labels
- Roles

Style ▾

Publish ▾

Manage ▾

Settings ▾

Help ▾

Site admin ▾

Add Unit
Add Link
Add Assessment

Course Outline	Skills
🏠 / Course - Power Searching with Google (1.9.0)	
🏠 / Pre-course assessment	
🏠 / Unit 1 - Introduction	
🏠 / 1. Introduction	Query Identify property to filter on Filter Filter by color Image
🏠 / 2. Filter image results by color	Document Index How search works Page rank Spider
🏠 / Lesson 1.2 Activity	Keyword choice Salient word Query refinement Effective qu
🏠 / 3. How search works	Special chars Caps Word order Stop words
🏠 / Lesson 1.3 Activity	find_text function Search search results
🏠 / 4. The art of keyword choices	
🏠 / Lesson 1.4 Activity	
🏠 / 5. Word order matters	
🏠 / Lesson 1.5 Activity	
🏠 / 6. Finding text on a web page	
🏠 / Lesson 1.6 Activity	
+ Add Lesson	
🏠 / Unit 2 - Interpreting results	
🏠 / 1. When search results suggest something new	Information summary Explore concept Type ahead suggestio
🏠 / Lesson 2.1 Activity	
🏠 / 2. Thinking more deeply about your search	Translate define function Deep understanding

We also added in-place previewing, so you can quickly edit your content and immediately see how it will look without needing to reload any pages.

Lesson

Title:

Rich text editor toolbar with icons for bold, italic, link, etc.

Rich text editor content area with text and a small image.

Buttons: Save, Close, Preview



Lesson

Title:

Preview of the lesson content, showing the text and image from the editor above.

Buttons: Save, Close, Preview

For a full list of the other features added in this release (including the ability for students to delete their data upon unenrollment and removal of the old Files API), see the [release notes](#). As always, please [let us know](#) how you use these new features and what you'd like to see in Course Builder next to help make your online course even better.

In the meantime, take a look at a couple recent online courses that we're pretty excited about: [Sesame Street's Make Believe with Math](#) and our very own [Computational Thinking for Educators](#).

