

# MATRIX

BY CYPHER LEARNING

VS

TalentLMS

# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
User interface.....	4
Ease of use.....	6
Features.....	7
Cost.....	13
Summary.....	14



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Introduction

This is a detailed comparison between MATRIX and TalentLMS, taking into consideration the features, functionality, and cost of each platform.

MATRIX is a learning management system (LMS) for use by small and medium-sized businesses, as well as large corporations. MATRIX helps companies manage all training activities, such as creating and delivering training content, evaluating employee performance, training clients and partners, and selling online courses. MATRIX is a product of CYPHER LEARNING, a company that specializes in providing learning platforms for organizations around the world.

TalentLMS is a cloud-based learning management system for small and medium-sized businesses, owned by Epignosis LLC.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## User interface

The MATRIX interface has an intuitive and responsive design that automatically adjusts based on the type of device. The TalentLMS interface aims for simplicity, but it is unresponsive and not as visually attractive. MATRIX also has a unique “activity display” feature that indicates the level of activity within courses and groups using a pulsing indicator on their tiles together with real-time widgets that scroll through the latest activities.

For example, MATRIX provides tile-based dashboards for learners, instructors, and administrators and a graphical course, resources, and users catalog. The TalentLMS interface is mostly text-based and lacks a graphical users and resources catalog. There is no graphical dashboard for administrators.

MATRIX provides a simple pop-out navigation, that facilitates access to courses, groups learning paths, and other important areas of the site by simply hovering over the left menu.

The TalentLMS navigation is less intuitive. For example, users can access the main calendar and all events only from the home page where they can click on the calendar button that opens a separate page.

The student dashboard has a tile-based structure that displays the courses with just a limited set of information such as the title, a short description, and the overall progress. In the course, learners don't have access to a tile view of modules and they can't see an overview of the course content.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

When a learner is viewing a course page, it is hard to navigate between different areas of the course since it is missing the navigation bar. The platform also does not have a full-screen option, which might make it harder to navigate.

The **MATRIX** course layout offers an attractive way of organizing learning content into modules and sections, that can be displayed as rows or tiles. Learners can also see which courses and sections award badges, points, and certificates.

The **TalentLMS** course layout does not show the learners' progress through modules or units, they can only see their progress for the entire course. There is no separate section for resources, collaboration tools, and other important course areas that are visible to learners. They can only access a dropdown menu from the site header that displays the content outline of the course.

**MATRIX** is available in more than 40 languages and provides native mobile apps for iOS and Android. Companies can also choose to have their own branded mobile apps. **TalentLMS** has more than 30 languages and native mobile apps for iOS and Android, but no branded app option.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Ease of use

MATRIX is very intuitive and easy to use. In addition, it includes an online help center with videos, getting started guides, and searchable help content. MATRIX also has a rapid response support forum where staff members typically respond to questions within 15-30 minutes during business hours 24/5.

TalentLMS is relatively easy to understand, has a help center with guides and a support center where users can ask questions and make suggestions.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Features

MATRIX helps companies manage all learning activities, including delivering effective training, evaluating employee performance, facilitating collaboration, or selling online courses.

TalentLMS does not include many of the essential features that companies require for training such as competency-based learning to track learners' performance or an advanced automation feature.

### Evaluating learners

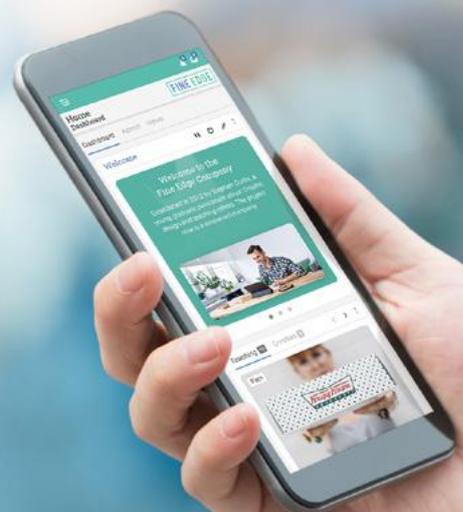
MATRIX provides 15 assessment types such as quizzes, surveys, essays, debates, team, Dropbox, and discussion. Instructors have few options for evaluating learners in TalentLMS, more specifically lacking essays, debate, discussion, offline, team assessments, and more.

MATRIX supports competency-based learning, helping instructors make sure course content is compliant with the competencies they want to train and assess. TalentLMS doesn't offer a method of measuring competencies.

### Collaboration and communication

MATRIX makes it easy for instructors and learners to connect through various tools such as messages, web conferencing, chat, forums, groups, blogs, and more.

TalentLMS lacks many essential collaboration tools such as chat, teams, wiki, and social networking.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Analytics and reporting

MATRIX has a comprehensive set of built-in reports for administrators, managers, and instructors and also offers the possibility to create ad-hoc reports on users, courses, paths, organizations, awards, and more. In TalentLMS, only site administrators have access to reports and they can customize reports to give a full overview of learners' performance.

Compared to TalentLMS, MATRIX offers more built-in reports including revenue, course attendance, missing work, compliance, and a more advanced custom reporting feature. In addition, MATRIX offers the possibility to add custom report widgets to the main dashboard that offer key information at a glance.

## Customization

MATRIX can be matched to any organization's brand by adding a personalized logo, URL, color scheme, terminology, custom CSS, and more. Companies can create their own custom MATRIX portal and use it as a central hub to showcase online courses, communicate company news, and manage events.

TalentLMS offers fewer customization options and the interface is outdated by today's standards. It offers a set of predefined themes, that are not so attractive, and the option to add CSS. There are no advanced color scheme customization options, and users can only change the main header color.

TalentLMS provides a customizable portal but is missing the many options that MATRIX has, such as the ability to use various panels, social media links, a public portal blog, a custom footer, and SEO features.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Engagement

MATRIX makes training more engaging for learners through cutting edge features such as automation, gamification, and adaptive learning. Through the automation feature, users can add rules to different site areas such as courses, groups, learning paths, accounts, mastery, and e-commerce.

TalentLMS has some automation, but it's not as comprehensive compared to MATRIX. You can only set completion rules for courses, learning paths, and groups.

The MATRIX gamification feature is also more complex. While both platforms support badges, points, levels, and leaderboards for gamification, the feature available in TalentLMS lacks certain functionalities such as automation for levels and the possibility of adding site-wide and learning path games. Instructors cannot add team games in which groups compete as a team as in MATRIX. In addition, TalentLMS relies on an external tool, Badgr Backpack, for badge creation. MATRIX offers badge creation as a built-in solution that allows users to create more visually attractive custom badges.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## E-commerce

MATRIX is a more comprehensive and flexible solution than TalentLMS when it comes to selling online courses. Companies can sell courses, learning paths, bundles, subscriptions, and even digital media through the built-in e-commerce feature. We also support more payment gateways such as PayPal, Stripe, PayUbiz, Authorize.net, PayU Latam, PagSeguro, and Purchase orders. Users can also market their courses through MATRIX by using course ratings and reviews, affiliate marketing, SEO features, and Mailchimp integration.

TalentLMS offers a smaller set of options as companies cannot sell digital media or learning paths. The only payment gateways available are PayPal and Stripe. At the same time, the only marketing tools available are course ratings and the ability to share the URL of the course, without offering support for an affiliate account type.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

Here is a list of some of the features included with MATRIX that are not supported by TalentLMS:

## User interface

- Graphical dashboards for all user types
- Terminology
- Activity display
- Customizable dashboard widgets
- Support for more than 40+ languages
- Automatic language translation of messages and forum posts
- Graphical resources catalog

## Content

- Learning paths with goals
- Prerequisite certificates
- Content sync
- Path templates
- Badge builder
- Graphical badges gallery
- Mastery and competencies
- Archiving learners
- Archiving courses

## Collaboration

- Chat
- Teams
- Social networking
- Public blog
- Wikis
- Public profiles

## Assessment

- Debate, team, Dropbox, LTI, discussion, attendance, and offline assessments
- Personalized assessments
- Rubrics
- Scores
- Competency-based learning
- Question banks
- Peer reviewed assessments



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## E-commerce

- Support for digital media
- Selling learning paths
- Selling subscriptions
- Affiliate marketing
- Course reviews
- SEO features

## Integrations

- Integration with your own email server
- Salesforce
- Office 365
- OneDrive
- LTI, QTI, and CCF standards
- Mailchimp
- CometChat
- Panopto
- MS Immersive Reader
- Go1
- Udemy
- LinkedIn Learning

## Web conferencing tools

- Webex integration
- Google Meet
- Kaltura
- MS Teams

## Payment gateways

- PayPal Payments Pro
- Authorize.net
- PayUbiz
- PayU Latam
- PagSeguro
- Flywire

## Other

- Super administrator, manager, affiliate, and teaching-assistant account types
- Resell under your own brand
- Learner help desk
- Waitlists
- Attendance tools
- Trash can
- Integration with your own email server
- Custom terminology



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Cost

MATRIX LMS plans range from \$549/month for 100 active learners (monthly billing), to \$4,699/month for 3,500 active learners (monthly billing). There is a discount for yearly billing. There are no setup fees, cancellation fees, storage fees, bandwidth fees, support fees, or other hidden costs. MATRIX offers advanced features, such as full e-commerce functionality in each of the pricing plans.

TalentLMS offers two types of plans, the standard type that limits the number of users registered on the portal and the active type that limits the number of active users on the portal. Active plans range between \$159/month (monthly billing) for 40 active users and \$599/month for 500 active users. The Premium Active plan costs an additional \$2 for each user above the 500 active users limit so the Premium Active plan for 1000 active users would cost \$1,599/month. They also offer an Enterprise plan for sites with over 500 active users/month.

Although MATRIX may seem a bit more expensive than TalentLMS, it provides a larger set of features for the same amount of users. In fact, all plans benefit from the full range of MATRIX features.



# MATRIX vs TalentLMS

## Summary

This was a comparison of the most important feature differences between MATRIX and TalentLMS.

MATRIX is a more intuitive solution than TalentLMS. The platform offers more features that help companies create, deliver and sell online courses, as well as the option to efficiently collaborate, track employee performance and make training more engaging.

If you require additional information on MATRIX, please contact us at [sales@cypherlearning.com](mailto:sales@cypherlearning.com).

[www.cypherlearning.com](http://www.cypherlearning.com)



This comparison was written in May 2021 based on publicly available documentation on both vendors' sites. It was prepared as a guide and is not intended to be exhaustive. The comparison information does not constitute any contractual representation, warranty or obligation on our part. Liability for errors, omissions or consequential loss is expressly disclaimed. If you find any information in this comparison guide to be inaccurate, please contact us and we will correct the information.

