Flash to HTML5 E-learning Conversion

The 4 'R's That Matter

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UNIT 1:

FLASH IS DYING!

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON E-LEARNING?

Adobe Flash is on its way out and will be dead by the end of 2020. Major web browsers such as Google Chrome and Mozilla have decided to phase out Flash before 2020.

When Steve Jobs decided not to support Flash in any iOS device including Apple's iPads and iPhones, the tide began to turn. The reasons behind this decision include:

Incompatibility of Flash with mobile devices, especially courses not resizing in mobile screens

Poor security of the information sent or received

Heavy usage of the device's battery power

As for other mobile platforms, issues with Flash were drainage on battery, consumption of memory, and otherwise buggy behavior.

WHY USE HTML5?

Most of us are aware that HTML5 is better suited to deliver mobile learning. But, what else?

HTML5 is an open web standard, which means it is available to all software developers without any restrictions or a license, as in the case of Adobe Flash. It does make sense to invest in licensed authoring tools that produce HTML5 output, instead of coding your entire e-learning course in HTML5.

Unlike Flash which requires a Flash player, HTML5 does not require any additional plug-ins to display e-learning content across various browsers.

What is the Business Impact of HTML5-based E-learning?

Promotes a Learning Culture

Offers Ways to Future-proof Learning

Has a Positive Effect on ROI

The best way to improve return on investment (ROI) from training is to refurbish legacy courses. HTML5 has made it possible to make use of interesting strategies and techniques to deliver learning.

For example, offering a microlearning module or a performance support solution that can be accessed on-demand was impossible to think of when restricted to developing e-learning courses in Flash.

Opting for legacy course conversions boosts employee productivity and offers long term benefits to the organization.

UNIT 3:

4 FLASH TO HTML5 CONVERSION STRATEGIES – THE 4 'R'S

REBUILD – Ensure Cross-Platform Compatibility

When to Opt for the 'Rebuild' Conversion Methodology?

When courses are developed in obsolete software.

Legacy courses can be rebuilt in new authoring tools for HTML5 output.

Original media elements and content can be retained and reused, if valid.

If courses need to run on various browsers and devices

Rebuilding courses would help organizations get rid of browser and device-based compatibility issues.

Redevelop courses in new tools using existing media with similar or moderately enhanced interactivities, record complex animations and publish to HTML5.

LECTORA FOR FLASH TO HTML5 CONVERSION

There are a variety of rapid authoring tools that are capable enough to carry out the Flash to HTML5 conversion job. Out of these, Lectora stands out as one of the most popular, easy-to-use, feature-rich tools among eLearning courseware designers. It has long been used for Flash to HTML5 eLearning conversions and the latest updates in Lectora has made it the industry's favorite.

1. Create Responsive Courses for Device-Agnostic Access

It's highly likely that when organizations decide to convert their Flash courses to HTML5, they want it to be accessible on Android smartphones and tablets, iPhones, and iPads as well. The Responsive Course Design (RCD) feature of Lectora enables eLearning designers to convert Flash courses to device-agnostic, HTML5-based learning courses and helps cater to the new-age learner's preference for on-the-go learning.

RCD depends on two features – Page Layout and Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG). The Page Layout feature allows organization of content structure and flow as per different devices. Each Page Layout in the tool is specifically designed to provide the best look on each device. You can create your own custom page layouts for better flexibility. SVG technology allows published content to remain crisp and scalable despite changing screen size, orientation and resolution.

The Solution

The Process

On analyzing the Flash courses, it was **identified** that they could be clustered into a few groups, based on commonalities in their functionality. Wireframes were developed accordingly for each group, to aid the conversion process. Wireframes are functional placeholders – that can be populated with onscreen text and other graphical elements.

As Lectora Online allows for online collaboration, stakeholders could share their feedback right within the course, and it became seamless for our developers to work accordingly and take approvals.

Each screen was designed for 5 device layouts:

- Desktop
- iPad Landscape
- iPad Portrait
- Mobile Landscape
- Mobile Portrait

A birds' eye view of the process

| Getting Started | Templates Designing | Courses Development | Project Lead Review | Client Review | Feedback Update | Device Compatibility Testing |

UNIT 6:

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT BIG STEP?

HERE IS WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW!

READY FOR CONVERSION? HERE IS A CHECKLIST!

For a smooth transition from Flash to HTML5, it is always helpful to have a checklist in place.

Collect
all e-learning
resources such as
courses, video
tutorials, and digital
resources.

Organize courses
based on the
availability of source
files and relevant
content.

Evaluate
the Flash based
e-learning
resources.

Formulate an
action plan and
prioritize
the courses to be
converted.

Plan the conversion
strategy.
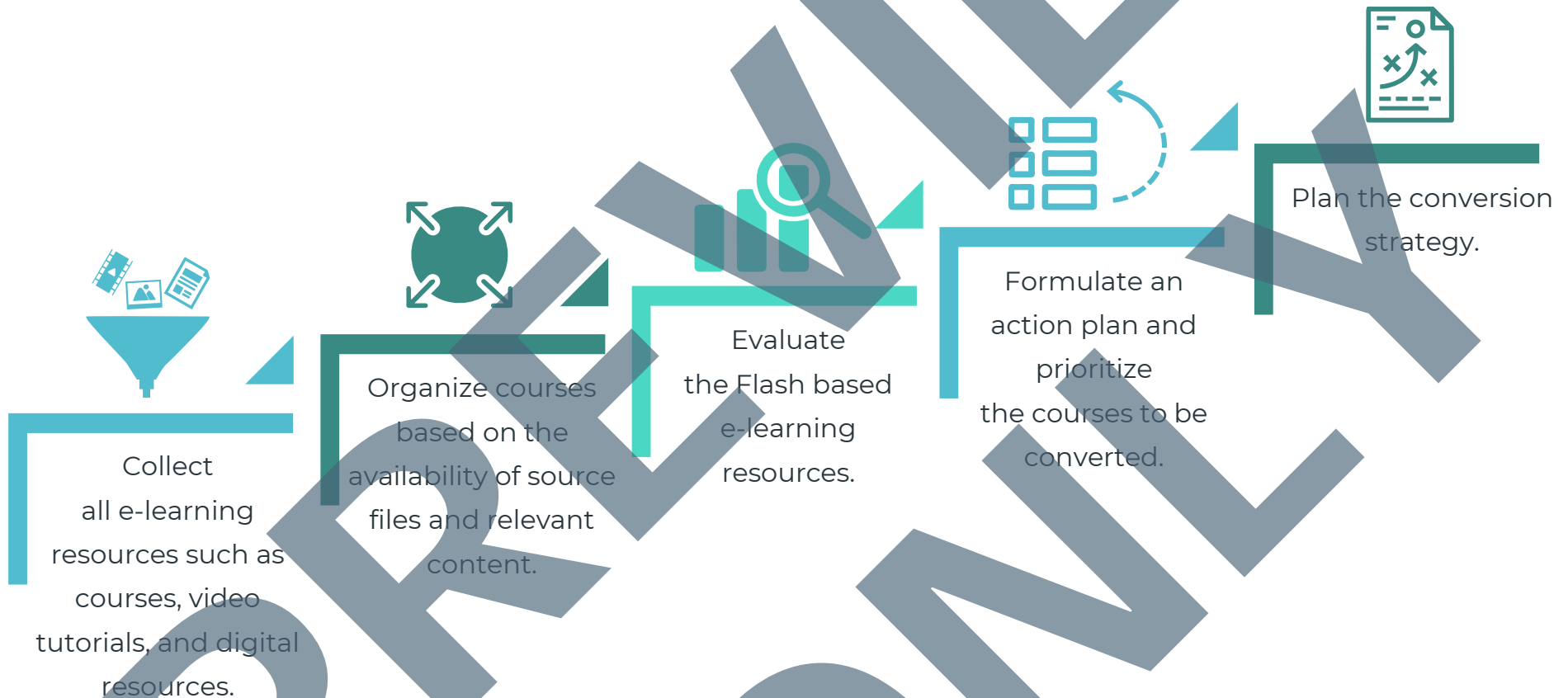
2. Organize and Group Content

Courses can be categorized as:

- Courses with no source files

- Courses with relevant content

- Courses with useful components that are to be converted to the HTML format

- Courses that need a design overhaul

3. Evaluate the Content

The next step is to evaluate the content and separate it into two groups:
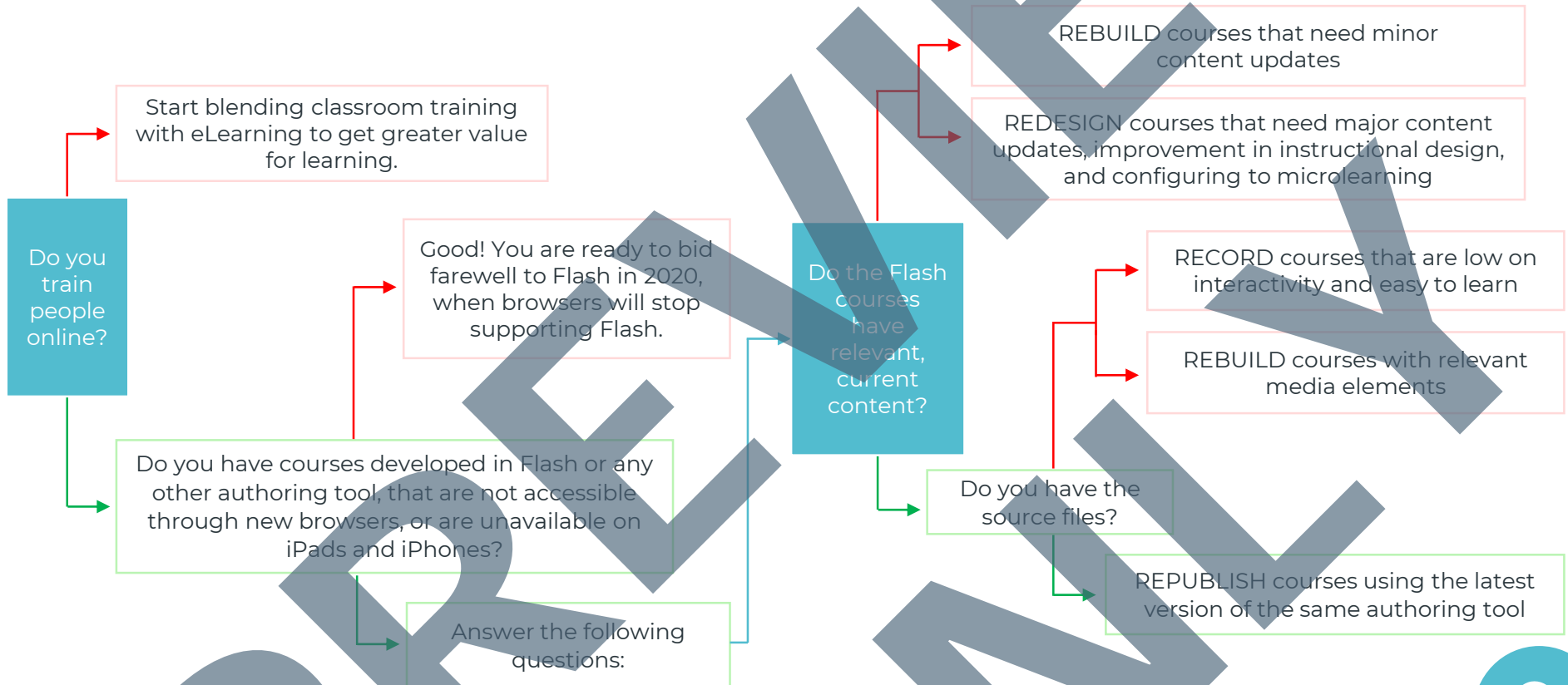
Courses to be archived

Courses to be converted

Archived courses can later be replaced with new ones but a plan of action is required for the courses to be converted.

6. Choose the Right Conversion Strategy

Flash to HTML5 E-learning Conversion Decision Maker: Find Out What's Next for You

REBUILD courses that need minor content updates

Start blending classroom training with eLearning to get greater value for learning.

REDESIGN courses that need major content updates, improvement in instructional design, and configuring to microlearning

Do you train people online?

Good! You are ready to bid farewell to Flash in 2020, when browsers will stop supporting Flash.

Do the Flash courses have relevant, current content?

RECORD courses that are low on interactivity and easy to learn

REBUILD courses with relevant media elements

Do you have courses developed in Flash or any other authoring tool, that are not accessible through new browsers, or are unavailable on iPads and iPhones?

Do you have the source files?

Answer the following questions:

REPUBLISH courses using the latest version of the same authoring tool

Click here to download this Decision Tree.

—— NO

—— YES

PARTNER WITH THE BEST FOR THE BEST RESULTS

If you have 5-10 courses to be converted from Flash to HTML5, you can do it in-house. However, if you have anything between 150-1500 courses, it is better you outsource the conversion. But before you decide to outsource your Flash to HTML5 conversion, take a close look at the pros and cons of both outsourcing and doing it in-house.

Doing it In-House

Pros:

As your team will be handling the conversion, there will be fewer chances for miscommunication. Sudden changes in the scope can also be addressed immediately.

Cons:

If you lack the right resources, or if the planning is not spot-on, there are high chances of the conversion process missing timelines and even being a sloppy, poor-quality affair.

A 5-Point Checklist for a Successful Partnership

If organizations decide to outsource Flash to HTML5 conversion, they need to find the right eLearning vendor. Here are 5 simple steps to help:

1. Analyze Vendor's Expertise in Flash to HTML5 Course Conversion

Ending up with a less-experienced vendor with not much experience in Flash to HTML5 conversion can lead to the failure of the entire endeavor. There are several eLearning vendors who are boutique companies, not skilled in legacy course conversions. Organizations have to focus on the vendor's ability, rather than the size of the organization. They have to ensure the vendor has ample experience working with large clients in their industry and is comfortable with global audiences. Ask questions like:

?

How many Flash to HTML5 conversion projects have they completed?

What is their expertise in authoring tools?

Do they have expertise in a particular authoring tool or can they work with all?