

# Forma LMS Basics

Technical information for system setup and maintenance

- [Requirements](#)
- [Installation and Upgrade](#)
- [General architecture and definitions](#)

# Requirements

## Server Specifications

- Server type: Linux, Windows, MacOS, Unix, Sun
- Apache 2.2.x or above (on Windows also IIS can be used)
- PHP version:
  - Forma 2.x: PHP 5.4.x to 7.0.x
  - Forma 3.x: PHP 7.4.x
  - Forma 4.x: PHP 7.4 to 8.1
- PHP settings:
  - Fileinfo support : ON
  - Openssl support: on
  - Multibyte Support: ON
  - mime\_content\_type() support: ON
  - magic\_quotes\_gpc : OFF
  - register\_global : OFF
  - allow\_url\_fopen : ON
  - allow\_url\_include : OFF
  - upload\_max\_fsize : 8M or higher
  - post\_max\_size : 8M or higher
  - max\_execution\_time : 30s or higher
  - memory\_limit = 256M or higher (advised 512 MB fore large files management)

## Database

- Forma 1.x - 2.x: Mysql 5.0 or higher, mariadb 5.5 or higher.
  - Forma 3.x : MySql 5.6 or higher, MariaDB 10.0, 10.1
  - Forma 4.x: MySql 5.7, MariaDB 10.3
- Note: db server engine must have transaction support (innodb recommended)
- Database Driver: MySQLi
  - Sql encoding: utf8

**WARNING - MySQL Strict Mode**

**Until version 2.4.2 Forma LMS requires MySql strict mode set to OFF.**

**Please make sure your hosting provider allows this configuration**

**This restriction has been removed since version 2.4.3**

**WARNING - MySQL 5.7 Settings**

**Using MySQL version 5.7 requires some specific configuration. Check [this thread](#) for details**

# Installation and Upgrade

## INSTALL PROCEDURE

1. Create the database on your dbserver:
  - If the db user has permissions, the installer can create the database for you
  - You can use any db admin tool, such as phpmyadmin  
If you use a prepackaged webserver on your PC, the default db admin link is <http://localhost/mysql/> or <http://localhost/phpmyadmin>
  - Be sure you have your database parameters available (host, user, password, dbname)
  - The database must be defined with **UTF-8** encoding
2. Upload all the files in your root directory or subfolder.
  - If you want use at runtime FTP upload features, be sure you have your ftp parameters (host, user, password)
  - forma.lms web is protected with apache.htaccess files from unauthorized use. Often, dot-files are hidden from view. Check your environment and be sure that these files are also uploaded
3. Launch <http://www.yoursite.com/install/> (*of course you should type your domain, not "yoursite.com"*)
4. Follow installation instructions. Note: during installation, a **config file is created** in the application root directory. In case your root is missing writing permissions, you can download it from the link provided on the last installation step, and upload it manually.
5. To secure your installation, at the end of install, **remove or rename** the *install* and *upgrade* folders

### Note:

**During the install procedure, the system will load XML file languages. Depending on number of language chosen, this operation can take some time in order to complete**

## UPGRADE PROCEDURE

1. Make a full backup of db and files, and make sure that you have a full backup that you can trust and recover if needed
2. Export the language files (if you did any customization), to import them again after the upgrade
3. Delete all files and directories excluding
  - the `/files` folder and *all its subfolders and files*
  - the `customscripts` folder
  - your own templates in `templates/<yourowntemplate>` (if you have any)
  - the `config.php` file in root folder
4. Upload the new files
  - The upgrade procedure needs resources under install folder, so make sure to also upload this one
  - Forma.lms web is protected with `apache.htaccess` files from unauthorized use. Often dot-files are hidden from view. Check your environment and be sure that also these files are uploaded
5. Launch <http://www.yourwebsite.com/upgrade> (of course you should type your domain, not "yourwebsite.com")
6. Follow upgrade instructions.
7. As a final step of the upgrade, the procedure imports and updates all languages previously defined with the standard translations.
8. At the end of the upgrade, go to the "Administration panel/Language" to import your own language files
9. To secure your installation, at the end of upgrade, remove or rename the *install* and *upgrade* folders.

The procedure may change the `config.php` file for you, or it may ask you to download it and upload to the web root folder, if not writable.

## Upgrade to version 4.x

Forma 4 introduces a completely rewritten install and upgrade component based on the Doctrine ORM.

Since it is a **migration**, upgrading to Forma 4 will be only possible starting from version 3.3.25. Upgrading from previous versions you'll need to upgrade to version 3.3.25 first, and then to Forma 4. An external legacy upgrade component is planned to be released to manage direct upgrades from previous versions.

## Upgrade from version 2.xx

During upgrade from forma.lms 2.x to forma.lms 2.2 and later, pay attention to

### a) Template

Template 2.0 and 2.1 are not compatible with 2.2

During the upgrade, the site template is updated to “standard”.  
Minimum template version required (see release notes)

## Upgrade from version 1.xx

During upgrade from forma.lms 1.x to forma.lms 2.xx, pay attention to

### **a) Database**

after upgrade the DB are not full compatible with forma.lms 1.xx, and there is no path to go back.  
Made a backup before upgrade

### **b) Template**

Template 1.xx are not compatible with 2.xx

During the upgrade, the site template is updated to “standard”

### **c) Dropped feature**

### **d) Customscripts**

All customization made through customscripts/ must be reviewed and ported to the 2.0 current version. forma.lms does not check base version file with your customized version in customscripts folder. There is no version check support for customscripts files

**e)** The update detects the use of the **mysql / mysqli driver** and changes the configuration appropriately

At the end of the upgrade process, check all the system configuration settings to validate your needs. The update procedure tries to keep the settings, but new options have been added and others have been removed

Please, double-check the above release notes before upgrading

## Upgrade from docebo ce 3.x, docebo ce 4.x

You can directly upgrade your old docebo (either series 3.6.x and 4.x) installations to forma.lms 2.x  
The config.php file is completely changed from D36 and with more config options since D4.x  
The upgrade procedure changes the config.php for you and writes it (if writable), or requires you to download it and upload to the web root folder.  
Coming from D36, review the config.php and add your own settings, if needed.

# General architecture and definitions

## Login and Registration

The screenshot shows the login and registration interface of the forma.lms platform. The page has a white background with a red header and footer. The main content area is white and contains the login and registration forms. The page is annotated with five numbered circles (1-5) indicating key elements:

- 1. Language selection: "Change language: English" with a dropdown arrow.
- 2. Course Catalog: A button labeled "COURSE CATALOG".
- 3. Social Login: A Facebook login button and links for "social login", "Register", and "Lost password".
- 4. Platform Description: A paragraph describing the platform's features and compliance.
- 5. Footer: Links for "About" and "Other Services".

**forma.lms**

Change language: **English** ▼

[COURSE CATALOG](#)

Username

Password

**LOGIN**

social login

[f](#)

[Register](#) | [Lost password](#)

forma.lms is an open source e-learning platform (LMS and LCMS) used in corporate and higher education markets

The Platform supports 26 languages, it's compliant with the SCORM 1.2 and 2004 standards, and supports different didactic models, including: Blended, Self-Directed, Collaborative and even Social Learning through Chat, Wiki, Forums and other different functions.

[READ ALL](#)

[About](#) | [Other Services](#)

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Powered by forma.lms CE

&lt;&lt; BACK

From this page you can register to the platform; follow the instructions below and fill in the fields properly.

Username \*



Email \*

First name \*

Last name \*

english ▼

Password \*



Retype the password \*



Text Field \*

### Collection of your personal information

There are many aspects of the site which can be viewed without providing personal information, however, for access to future Forma Association customer support features you are required to submit personally identifiable information. This may include but not limited to a unique username and password, or provide sensitive information in the recovery of your lost password.

### Use of your personal information Accessing Your Personal Information

You have a right to access your personal information, subject to exceptions allowed by law. If you would like to do so, please let us know. You may be required to put your request in writing for security reasons. Forma Association reserves the right to charge a fee for searching for, and providing access to, your information on a per request basis.

E-mail: [privacy-policy@formalms.org](mailto:privacy-policy@formalms.org)

[REGISTER](#)[Back to login](#)[About](#) | [Other Services](#)

## Main Layout Elements

### 1. Language Selector

Change language for the login and registration page. This automatically detects the user browser language. Upon login, language will be set to the user profile language.

### 2. Course Catalog

Opens the catalog of courses. Feature must be enabled from System Configuration elearning [settings](#).

### 3. Login and social login

Standard login form. Social login features can be activated from the [plugin manager](#).

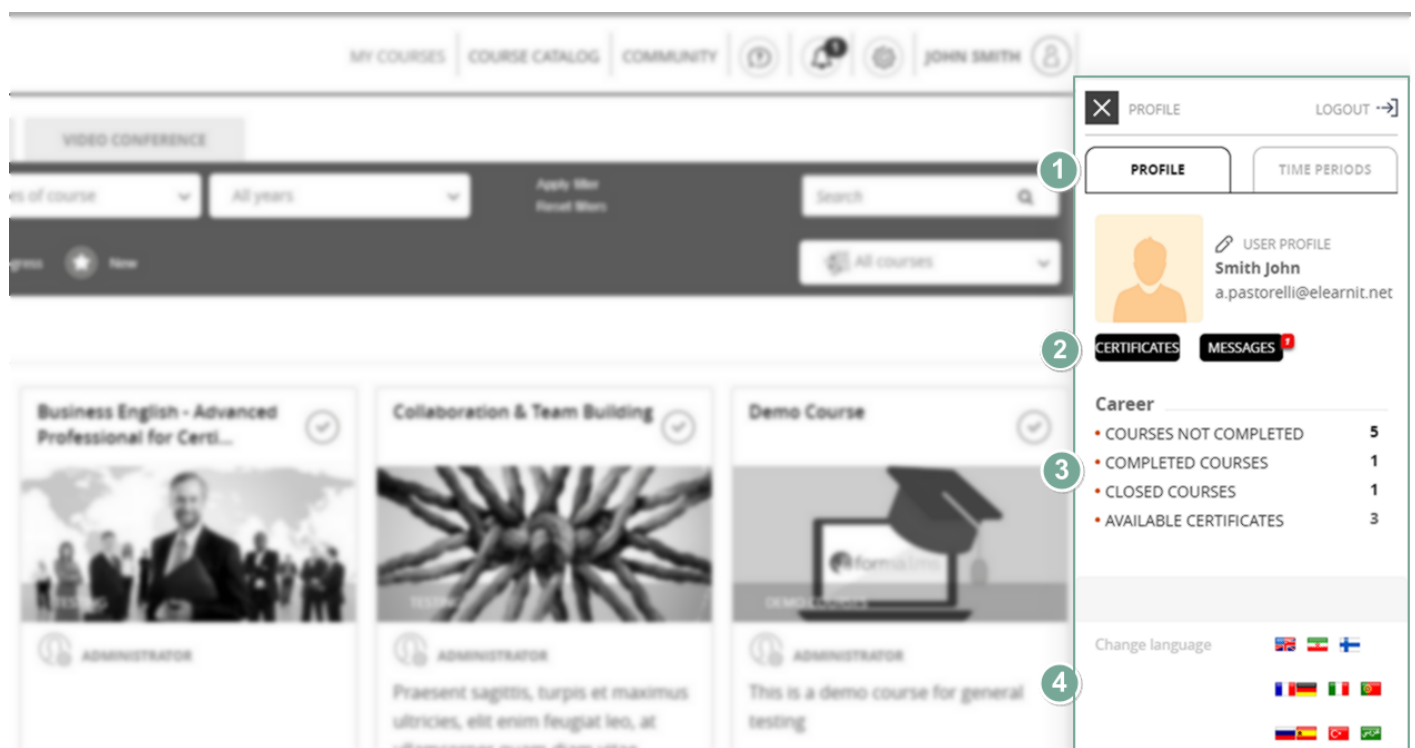
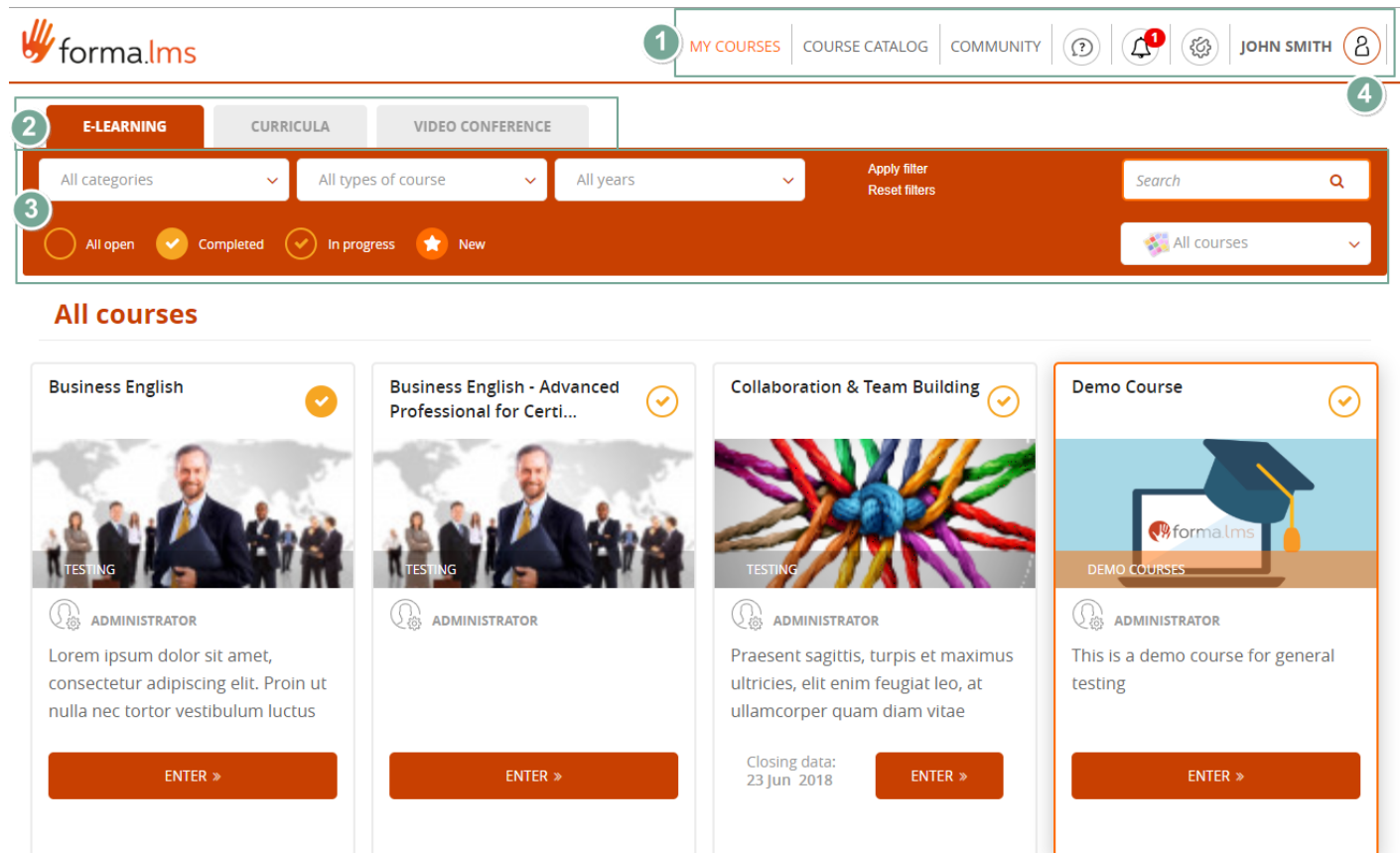
### 4. Privacy Policy

Default privacy policy text can be edited in admin settings

# LMS Frontend & User Panel



The frontend of the application hosts all the learning related features for both students and teachers.



## Main Layout elements

**1. Main Menu:** this is the main navigation menu, for all the general sections of the platform

- **MyCourses:** in this section the user will find all the courses, coursepaths and training activities he is directly enrolled to.
- **Catalog:** if enabled, this section will show the course catalog(s), with courses he can subscribe to
- **Community:** general platform community forums
- **Helpdesk:** a contact form to send support request to platform administrators
- **New Certificates:** notification icon and link to alert for new available certificates for download
- **Administration:** link to backend administration section, only available to administrators and superadministrators
- **User Panel:** click on the username to open your own user panel

**2. MyCourses Tabs:** access different areas of the MyCourses section, if enabled

**3. Filters panel:** here a user can filter and search among the courses he is subscribed to:

- Filter by course category
- Filter by course type
- Filter by year
- Filter by status. The page by default will show all open courses, but you could filter them based on the user status on the course
- Search by word on courses title, description, and category
- Filter by course label: the “label” option must be enabled. Check [system configuration](#)

## User Panel

This panel displays personal info and features for the user:

**1. Profile:** if allowed by configuration, user can edit his own profile

**2. User features:**

- Certificates: go to mycertificate page
- Messages: access the private messages feature

**3. Career:** some basic stats about user activities

**4. Language selector**

# Backend Administration

This is the area of the application where most of the administrative operations happen, such as user management and course creation.

## Quick links

### USERS

- User Profile
- Change password
- New user
- Import users

### CERTIFICATES

- Download or generate certificate

### REPORTS

#### Select

0 ▾

View

Export

### FORMA.LMS ONLINE

- forma.lms Official Website
- forma.lms open source community

### COURSES

- Subscribe
- New course

### CONTENTS

- Communications
- Contests

### DETAILS

- Version: **2.4.1**
- Changelog
- SQL scripts log
- Server configuration

## Users

- Registered users: **73**;
- Suspended: **0**;
- Waiting users: **0**;
- Users registered in the last 7 days: **1**;
- Inactive users (for at least one month): **56**;
- Online users: **1**;
- Super-admin users: **25**;
- Administrator users: **3**;

### Accesses

### Registered users



# Terms and Definitions

## USER LEVEL

it's the main permission level that determines which part of the application a user can access, and his level of permissions. In Forma LMS users might be registered as one of the following levels:

### 1. User

can only access the frontend

### 2. Administrator

can access the backend with limited functionalities and permissions over users and courses

### 3. SuperAdmin

is a "GodAdmin" that can access both the frontend and the backend with full permissions

## User ROLE

users of any level can be subscribed to courses with different roles, determining what they can do and see within a course based on course menu configuration and their level

## Admin Profile

the admin profile defines which features an admin can access in the backend menu, and what he can do. The admin profile works together with admin permissions that can be set over specific courses, catalogs, user groups, user nodes, etc.

## Registration

user is registered to the platform with a specific level

### **Subscription**

user is enrolled to a course with a specific role