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LMS support of Open Badges

imc Learning Suite

im-c.com

Open badges

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Document	Description
Version	1.0
Status (Draft / Verification/ Final)	Final
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1 Introduction

The Open Badges is a badge portability standard managed by IMS Global, that allows learners to share their achievements with interested third parties who have the possibility to verify the achievement by using certified Open Badge validator tools.

An Open badge is a png file which contains embedded information about the issuer, recipient, and badge.

For this purpose, it is required that this data is accessible remotely without authentication.

The LMS supports the Open Badge standard 2.0 for issuers.

Via imc's LMS, open badges can be issued to learners based on various criteria, like completing a course, passing a test, or contributing to a forum. The learner is able to access their badges, download them and upload to an open backpack from where they can further share their achievement to the world.

Open badges are a great way to boost a learner's motivation to continue learning and collect further achievements, while the sharing experience is both increasing the motivation of other learners while also promoting the training provider or issuer. The validation aspect allows interested third parties to verify with the issuer that the learner has indeed gained the achievement.

2 Badge provider

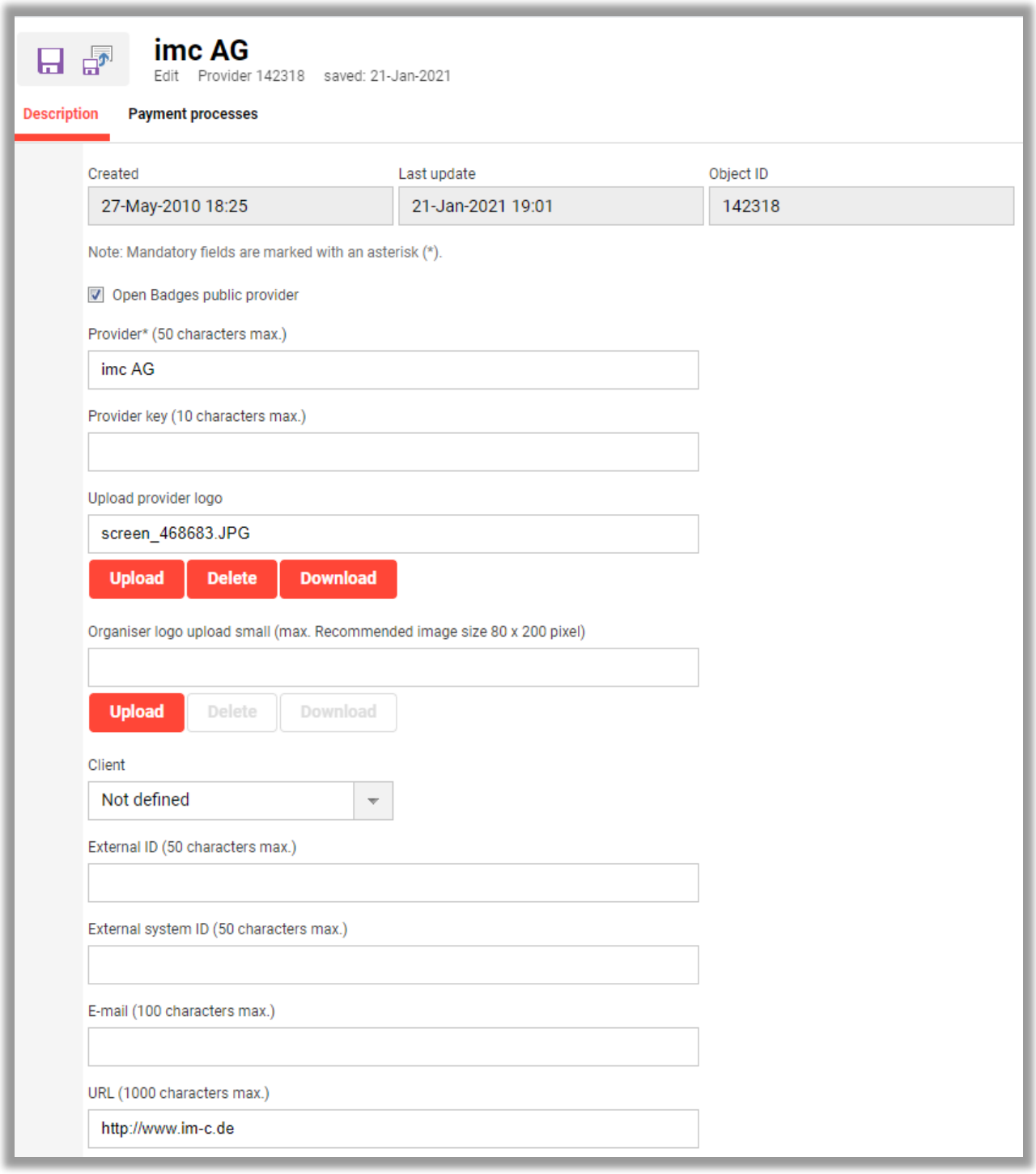
The LMS makes use of the Provider entity as badge issuers.
Providers are now configurable with an option that allows making the details of the provider public.

In addition, an open badge provider must specify a URL and a contact e-mail address. These fields are now available for providers in the LMS.

Badges have now also the possibility to display the provider image, if a provider is associated with the badge.

For the badge cards in the badge panel, the provider small logo will be displayed on the back of the badge card.

The badge details page will display the provider large logo.


imc AG
Edit Provider 142318 saved: 21-Jan-2021
Description
Payment processes
Created
27-May-2010 18:25
Last update
21-Jan-2021 19:01
Object ID
142318
Note: Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk (*).
Open Badges public provider
Provider* (50 characters max.)
imc AG
Provider key (10 characters max.)
Upload provider logo
screen_468683.JPG
Upload
Delete
Download
Organiser logo upload small (max. Recommended image size 80 x 200 pixel)
Upload
Delete
Download
Client
Not defined
External ID (50 characters max.)
External system ID (50 characters max.)
E-mail (100 characters max.)
URL (1000 characters max.)
http://www.im-c.de

3 Open badge configuration

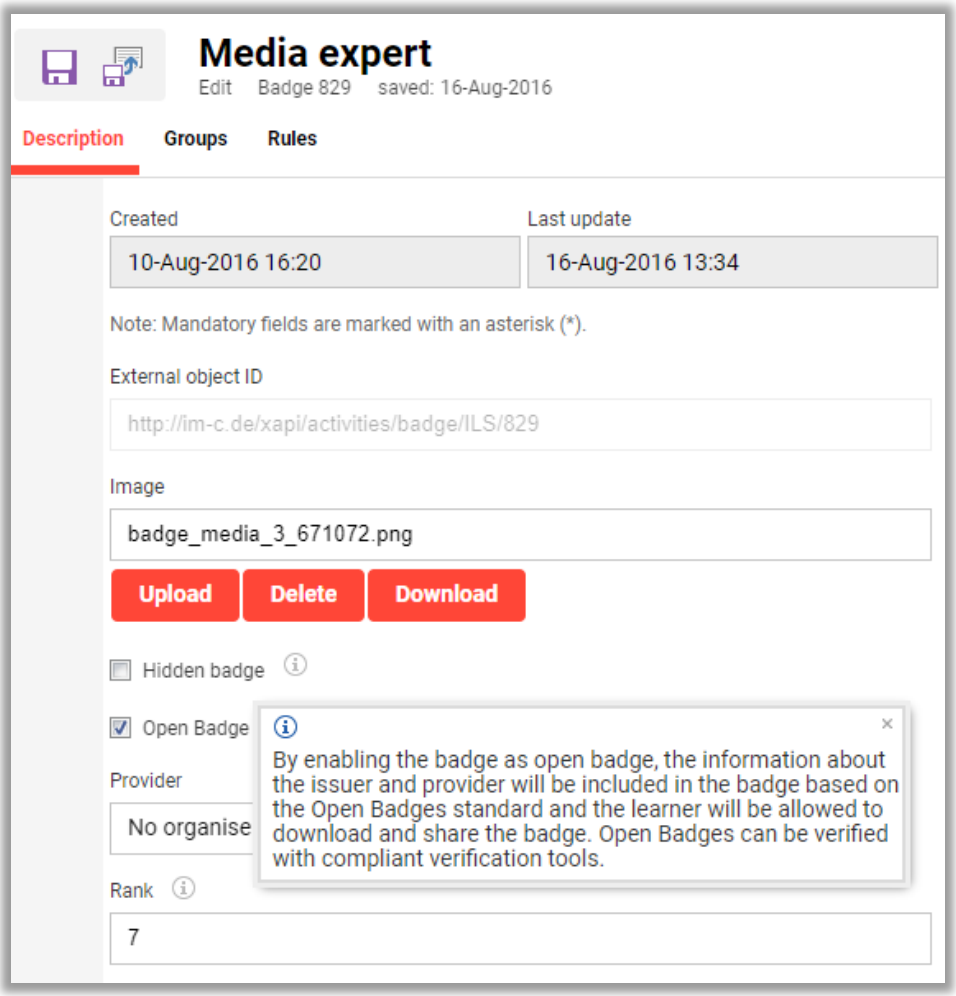
In the systemintegration.xml file, a configuration is required in order to enable the open badge functionality:

```
<openBadge secretKey="aesSecretKey" initVector="anArbitraryInitV"/>
```

This entry must be placed inside the contentServer tag.

LMS badges can be configured as open badges. Information about badges marked as “Open badge” will be made public for the purpose of compliance with the Open Badges standard.

The badge now also supports adding a provider.



The provider will be mandatory for open badges but can also be used optionally for simple badges.

4 Learner experience

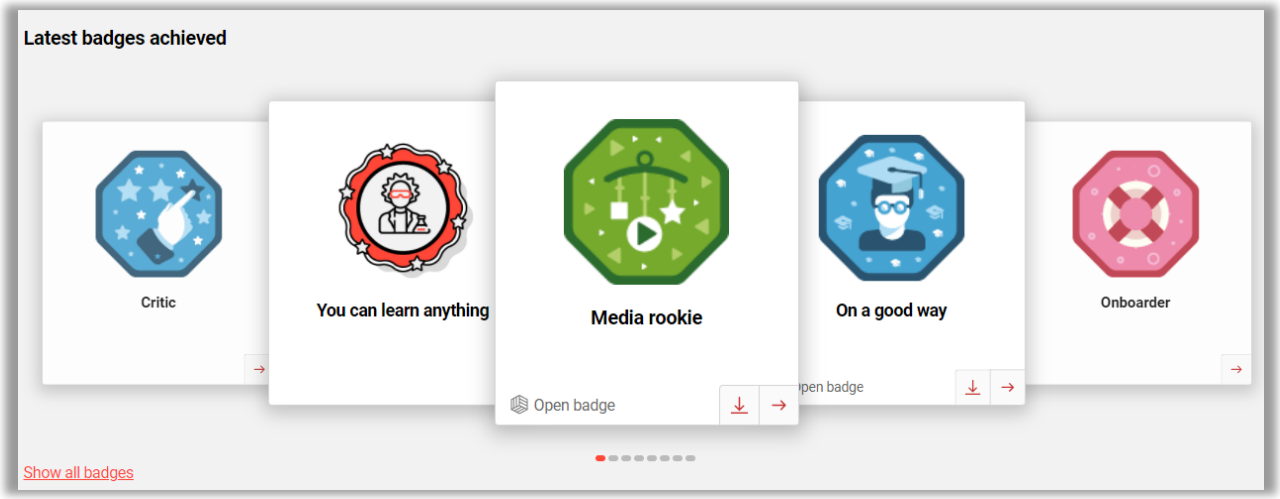
Learners can earn open badges by fulfilling the conditions defined for the badge.

Once the badge is earned, the issue date is recorded.

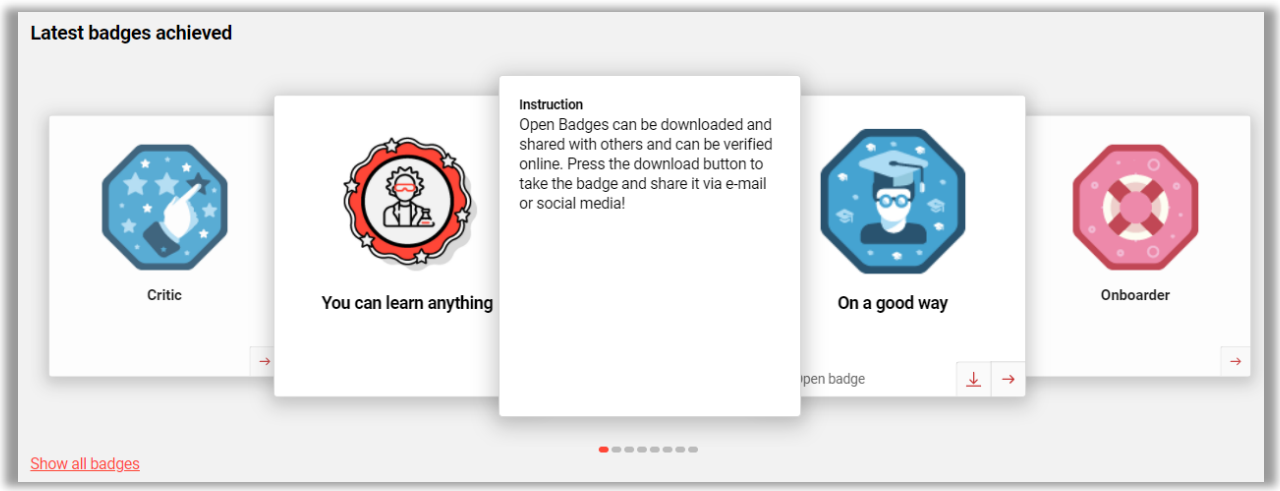
4.1 Badge panel

The badge panel displays the latest badges achieved by the learner in an interactive slider.

The badge cards display the name, issue date and image of the badge and in addition, for open badges, the possibility to download the badge.



The back of the card contains the provider, if available, and, for an open badge, instructions on how to download and share the achievement.

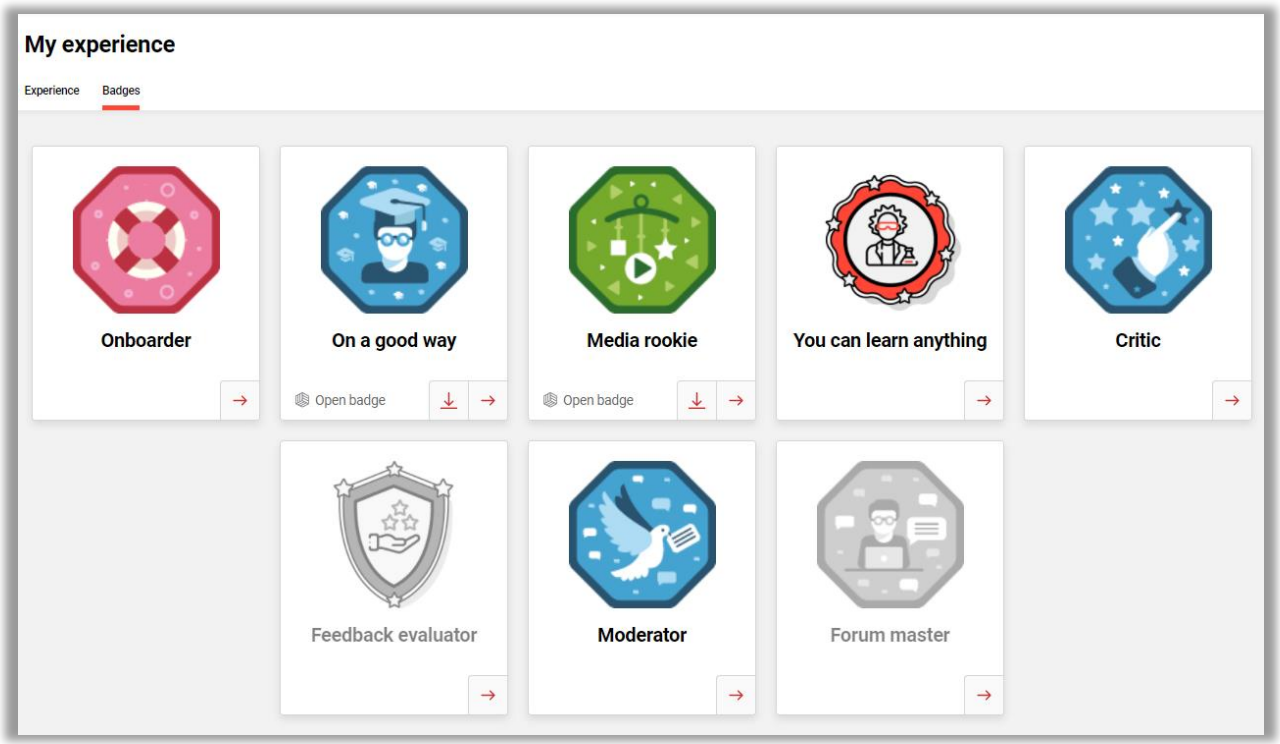


From the panel, the learner can navigate to the experience area to see all the badges, including potential badges not yet achieved.

4.2 Experience area

In the experience area, the learner can see all the achieved badges. Similar to the panel, open badges are identified via a special icon and can be downloaded.

The cards can not be flipped in this section.



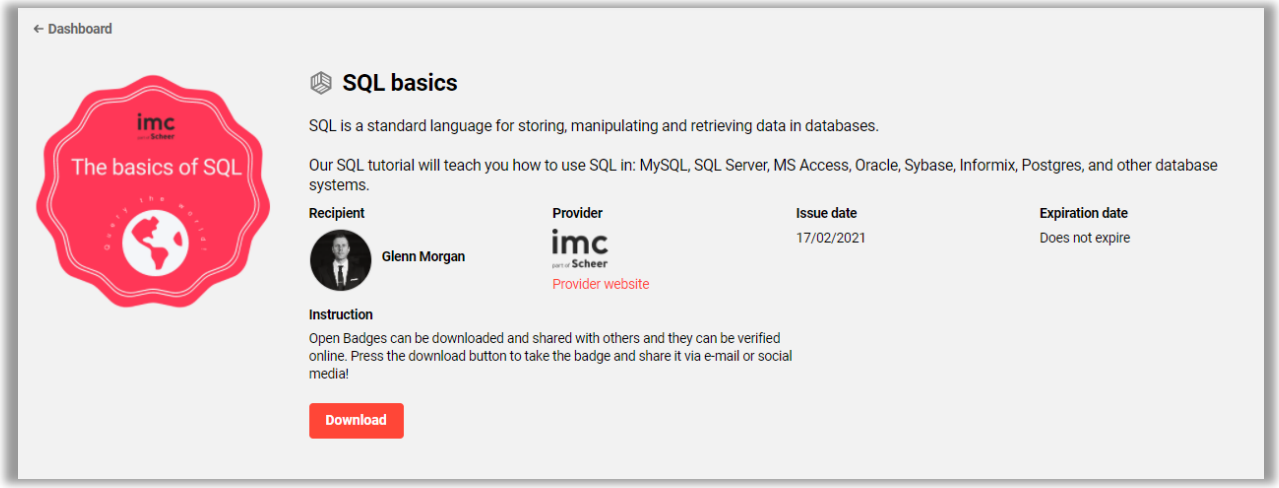
4.3 Badge details page

Both from the badge panel as well as from the badge section in the experience area, the details page of the badge can be reached

On the badge details page the learner can see the badge image, the issue date, the provider if available, and for open badges instructions about the download of badges and the possibility to download the png file.

The recommended size for the badge is 250px or a multiple of this size.

Customers who are already using badges and are updating to the 14.9 version of the LMS are advised to check the size of the badge images to ensure that the images will be correctly displayed on the details page.



5 Badge structure

The png file represented by the open badge contains a URL to the LMS which, when accessed, provides a response in json format containing all the information required by the standard to allow validator tools to verify the badge.

In turn, the response contains URLs that return information, in the same format, about the badge: the name and description of the badge, the issuer: the name of the provider, and the assertion: the issue date, expiration date and identity of the badge recipient.

The identity will contain the hashed value of the e-mail address of the user. Therefore, it is important that customers who wish to make use of the great potential of issuing open badges must ensure that the e-mail address is unique across the platform.

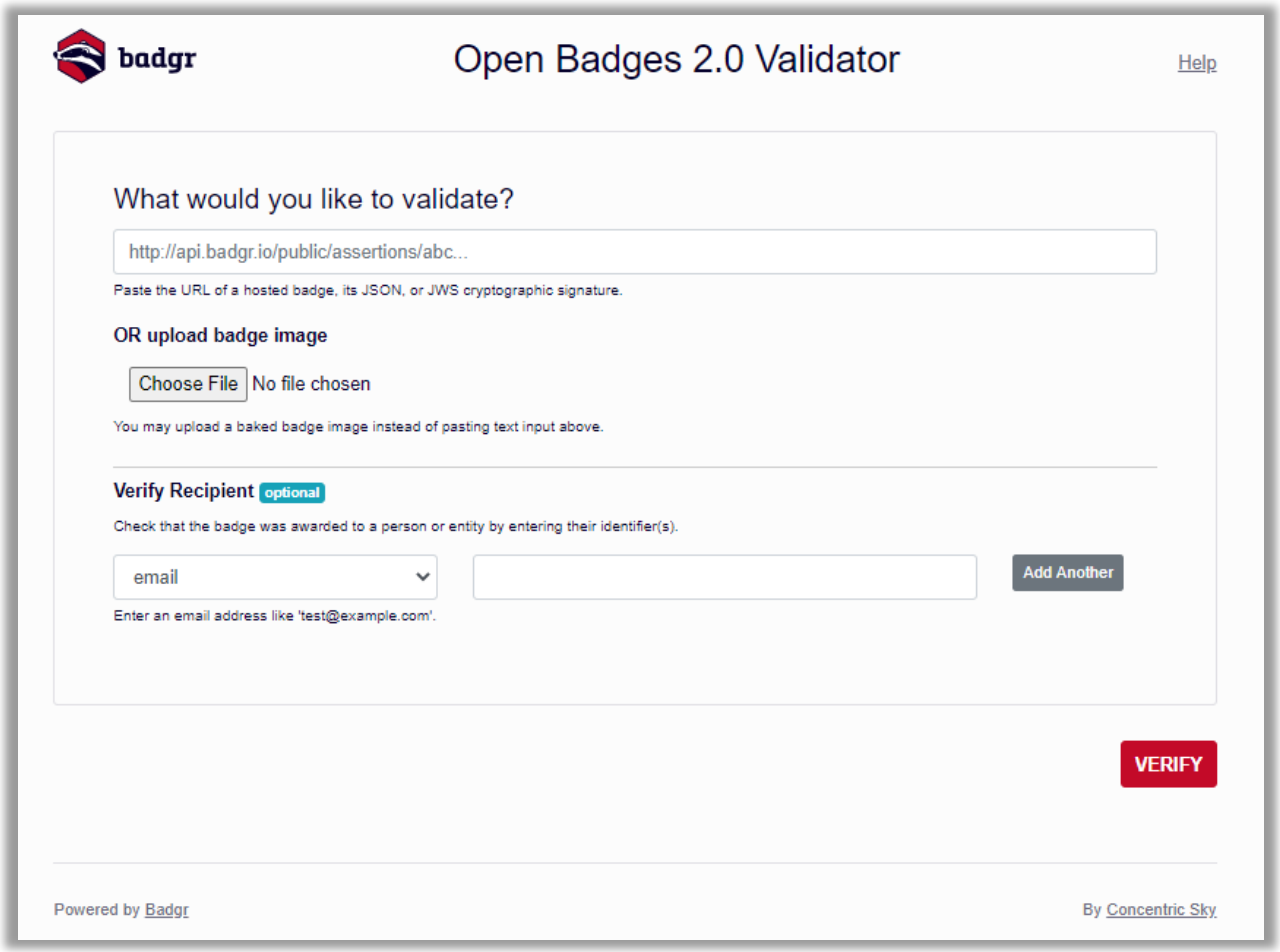
6 Badge validation and backpack

A badge validator tool is a tool that resides outside of the LMS and implements the open badge standard for verifying badges.

An open badge can be checked for validity by uploading the “baked” png file which was previously downloaded from the LMS. It is also possible for most validator tools to specify the e-mail address for which it is desired to validate the achievement.

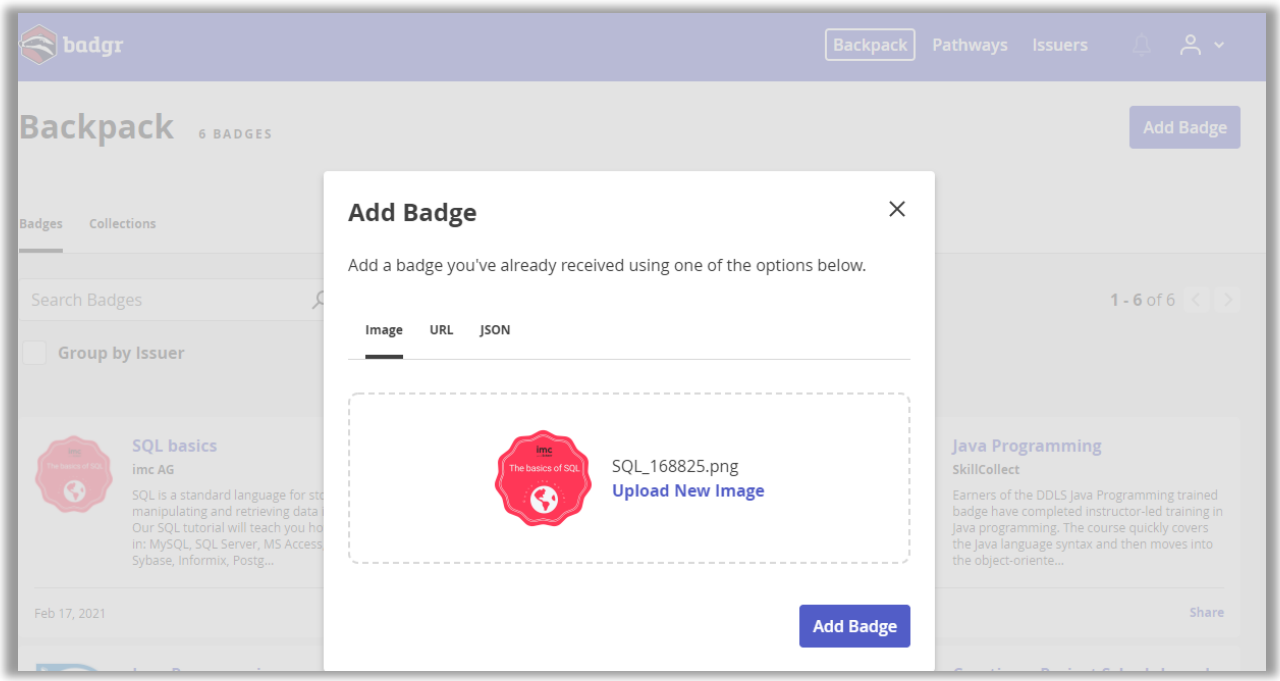
The validator tool will extract the require information from the badge, will access the URL provided to the LMS and will match the data to the specified e-mail address.

A common validator tool is the one found at https://badgecheck.io/

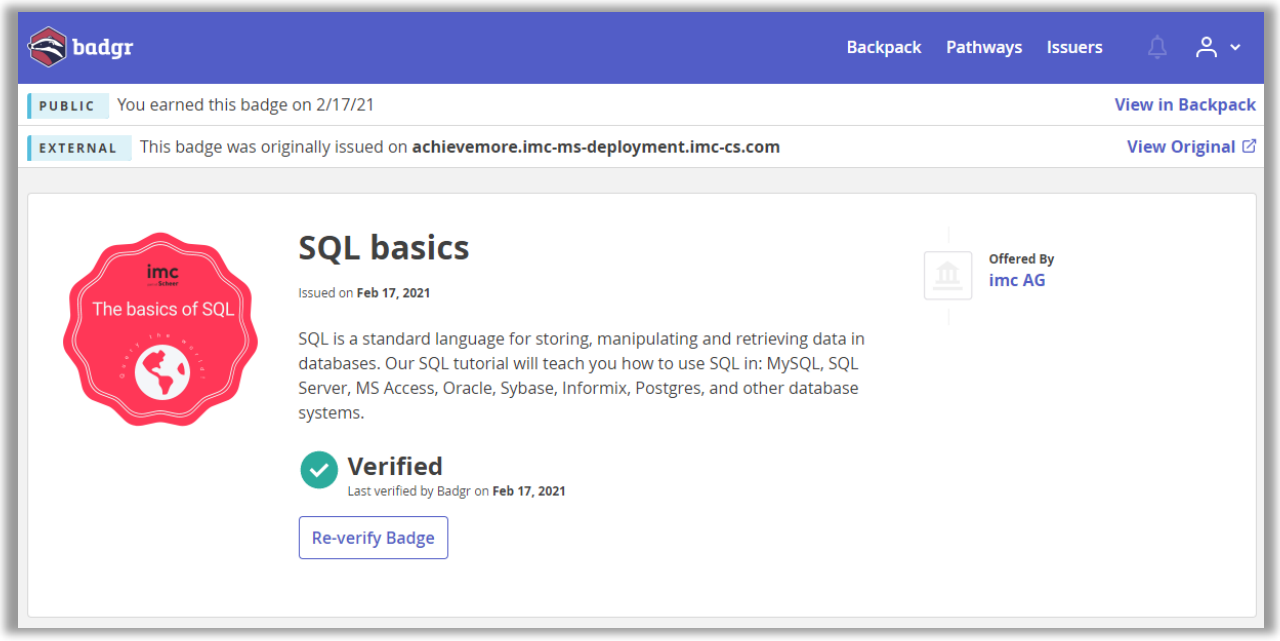


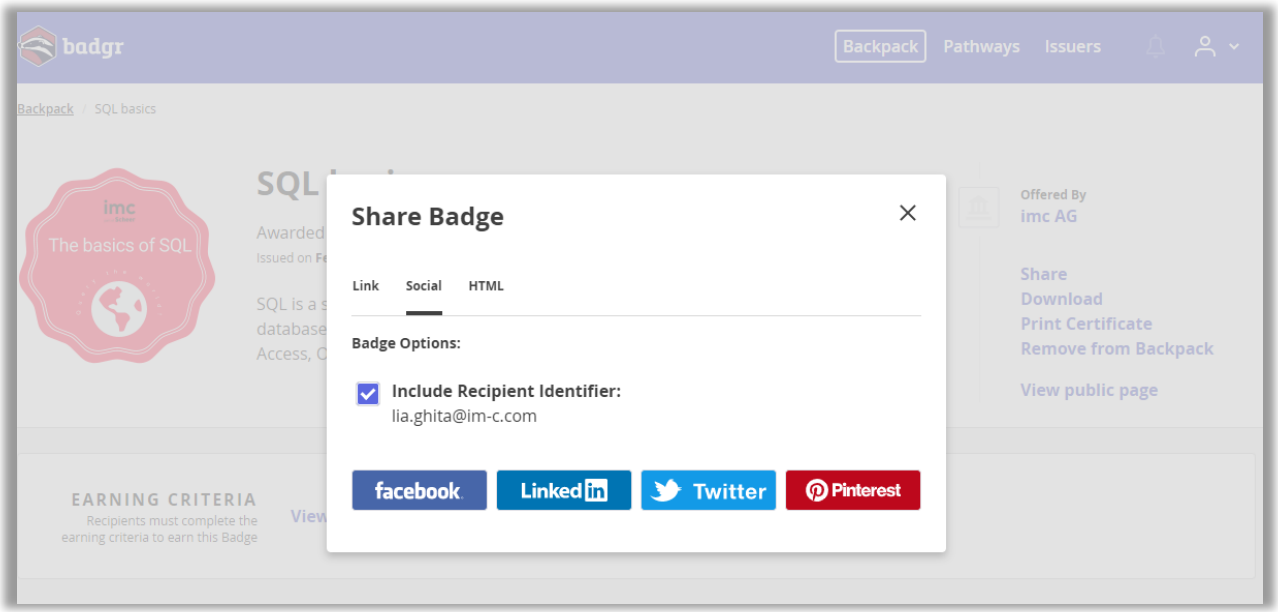
Learners can also upload badges earned via the LMS to a badge backpack from where they can take advantage of additional sharing functionalities.

An example of a backpack is available at https://badgr.com/backpack



From the backpack, the learner can share their badge further to social media.




badgr
Backpack
Pathways
Issuers
Backpack / SQL basics
The basics of SQL
Share Badge
Link
Social
HTML
Badge Options:
Include Recipient Identifier:
lia.ghita@im-c.com
facebook
LinkedIn
Twitter
Pinterest
Offered By
imc AG
Share
Download
Print Certificate
Remove from Backpack
View public page
EARNING CRITERIA
Recipients must complete the earning criteria to earn this Badge

7 Out-of-Scope

Functionalities related to open badges other than the ones specified in this document are not supported within the LMS.

The badge details page is not supported in IE11.

8 Effects on other components

No effects on other components.

9 Data migration

No data migration necessary.

10 Data protection and security

No impact on data protection and security

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