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Jackdaw

e-learning Rapid Authoring for the Professionals – **Jackdaw**

Version 5.x

Supplied by e-learning WMB

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Introduction

Jackdaw is e-learning authorware from e-Learning WMB which produces elegant e-learning courses which can be used without cost and in addition sold online.

The options for developing engaging e-Learning and selling it online has to date been costly. As such great training material has remained in the hands and heads of the trainers and those fortunate enough to have sat in their classrooms. Jackdaw aims to change this; the software, produced and used in house by e-learning experts, e-Learning WMB, allows its users to create e-learning featuring video trainers in virtual 3D rooms.

The e-learning produced is a step-change in sophistication from the standard e-learning development tools such as Captivate and Presenter in that the e-learning it produces has genuine 3D depth and is more similar to an actual chalk and talk training session than the Power Point style presentation of traditional e-learning. The system is also very easy to use with no coding skills necessary, simply select the appropriate template and customise for your own requirements. Examples of courses produced by the system can be found on e-learning WMB's website www.e-learningwmb.co.uk.

Users can download the Jackdaw editing tool for a 28 day free trial at www.jackdawcms.com. Good luck, should you have any questions when going through the manual or would like information on our installation, training, course creation or customization services please contact us on UK 00 44 1344 382 577 or US 00 1 (646) 461-6210.

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For more information on training and support contact t UK 00 44 1344 382 577 or US 00 1 (646) 461-6210 or email info@openelms.org. Related web sites are located at:

- www.e-learningwmb.co.uk – for additional bespoke development & customization
- www.e-officesafety.com – for ergonomics training & assessment packages
- www.e-start.co.uk – for tailored e-induction solutions
- www.openelms.org – for support, training and latest downloads.

Jackdaw

1 Introduction to XML: The Language of Jackdaw

XML, or Extensible Mark-up Language, allows you to organize and share data across platforms. The XML in this case defines how each e-learning course is arranged and what it contains. Text, videos, images, dimensions, animations and global settings are all controlled by the XML data.

The purpose of Jackdaw is to allow the easy editing and saving of the XML without having to resort to programming. The user friendly interface takes care of changing parameters, importing images/videos etc.

2 Features / Usage Instructions

2.1 Installation

Jackdaw can be installed on any PC or Apple Mac for editing or creating courses. The software is available for free from www.jackdawcms.com. Run the set up file and follow the on-screen instructions.

2.2 Creating a New Course

For the purpose of this manual we will demonstrate how to create a new course, the basic principles also apply to editing courses (you will need to make a copy of the course you want to edit into the "My Documents/My Jackdaw Courses" folder first.)

Select **[New]** to create a new course, type in a course name and a new tab will appear with the new course's name.



My Jackdaw courses

Templates

New Edit Publish Delete

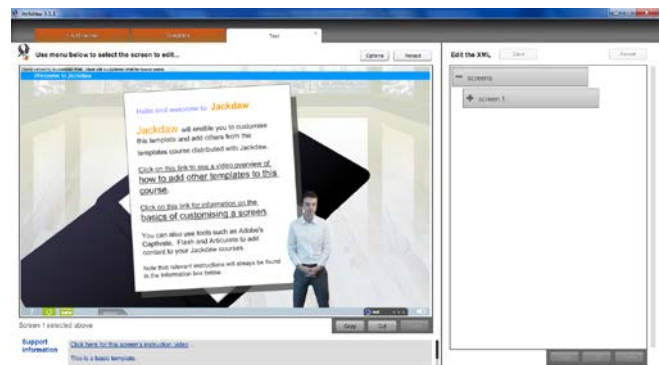
My Jackdaw courses folder

C:\Users\Tesco\Documents\My JackDaw Courses

Published courses folder

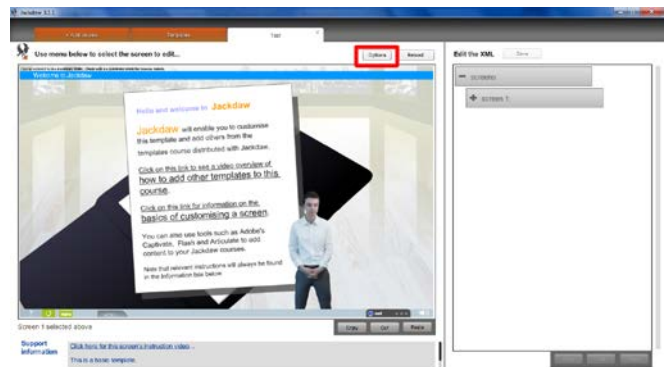
2.3 Editing the Course

Return to the home screen (press the **Add Course +** tab and select to **[Edit]** the "Templates" course (or any other available template pack if available), you will now see 2 courses open at the same time (see screenshot.)



2.4 Course Options

The first thing you may want to do is "brand" your course in line with your company's look and feel. To do this press the **[Options]** button at the top of the screen as is shown below.



Within the course options there are several options available to you, for the purpose of this tour we shall concentrate on the more visual elements for customisation.

Firstly you can chose to remove the Jackdaw logo at the start of the course. To do this set **Show intro before course** to **False**.

Then you can change the **Default menu thumbnail**. Do this by clicking on the **[Choose Thumb...]** button and selecting an appropriate thumbnail from our thumbnail library found in *My Jackdaw Courses/Thumbnails* else select an image of your own (these thumbnails will then appear in the menu and be applied to existing screens by pressing the **[Apply to All Thumbnails]** button.)

Contact Open Elms or the manual for support options

At the end of the course, set the status to:

Complete
 Passed

Screen video slides in

True
 False

Show intro before course

True
 False

Default menu thumbnail:

Choose Thumb... document_red.jpg

Default background:

Choose Background... corporate_room_empty5_lives

Title Background Color:

The following options affects the video presenter (not videos added to each screen):

Video presenter visible

True
 False

Presenter video name
(the name of the Adobe Flash video - minus the .flv/.fl4 extension)

Video streamed

Hosted (contact Open Elms for setting up a hosted video)
 Local Media Server (local Flash Media Server installed at "rtmp://vod/")
 No video streaming

To implement a new video trainer into your course you will need to edit the position values (narrator_x and narrator_y) as well as the timings (narrator_start and narrator_stop) and insert markers into the video timeline to correspond to the narrator_stop location. Contact Open Elms of the manual for support options.

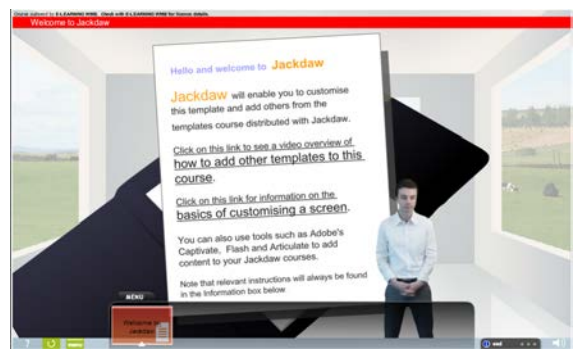
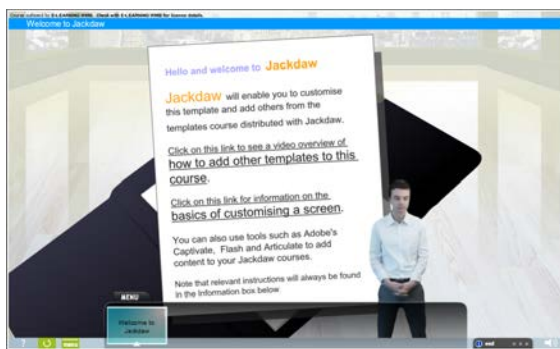
Copyright this course so other companies can not edit it

Select **[Default Background...]** to alter the background by selecting a background from the library in *My Jackdaw Courses/Backgrounds*. You can again apply these to any existing screens in the training by pressing **[Apply to All Screens]**. Note that you can change the backgrounds for each screen individually as well.

Finally select **Title Background Color** to alter the background of the title bar which appears horizontally across the top of each screen.

The changes made will change this...

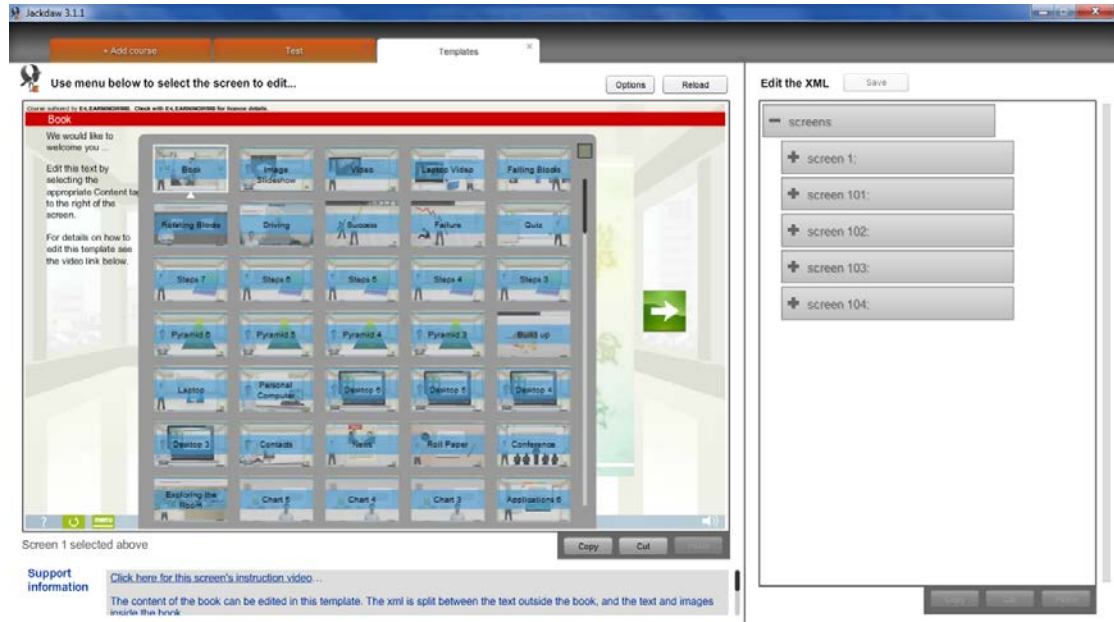
..to this (press the **[Reload]** button to see the new content.)



The course is now ready to add e-learning content.

2.5 Adding a Screen to the New Course

The method of adding a new screen to the new course is simply to go to the **Templates tab** (or perhaps one of the additional template packs called e.g. Housing, Law etc.) and maximise the menu. You can then select the screen you wish to include in your new course.

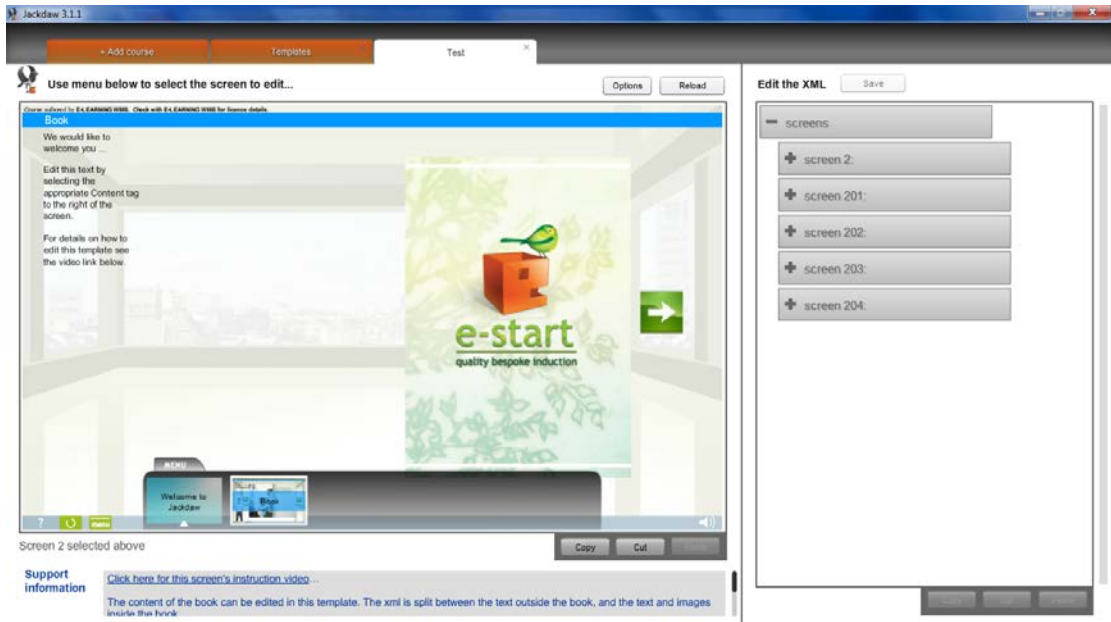


You can then **Copy** this screen by pressing the button under the screen preview.

NB Video tours giving you information about how to customise each template are listed below the screen preview under the heading "Support Information".



You can then return to the new course (using the tab menu at the top of the screen); select where you want the new screen to be added using the menu; and then press **[Paste]**, the new screen will be added to the appropriate location in the course as shown.



Now we have added a screen to our new course we should look at how we can customise it by editing the screen characteristics.

2.6 Editing Screen Values

Once the screen is in place it can be customised by editing the screen values listed on the right hand side of Jackdaw's interface. Below is a simple template called "News" (found in the **Templates** tab) which can be customised in the following way:



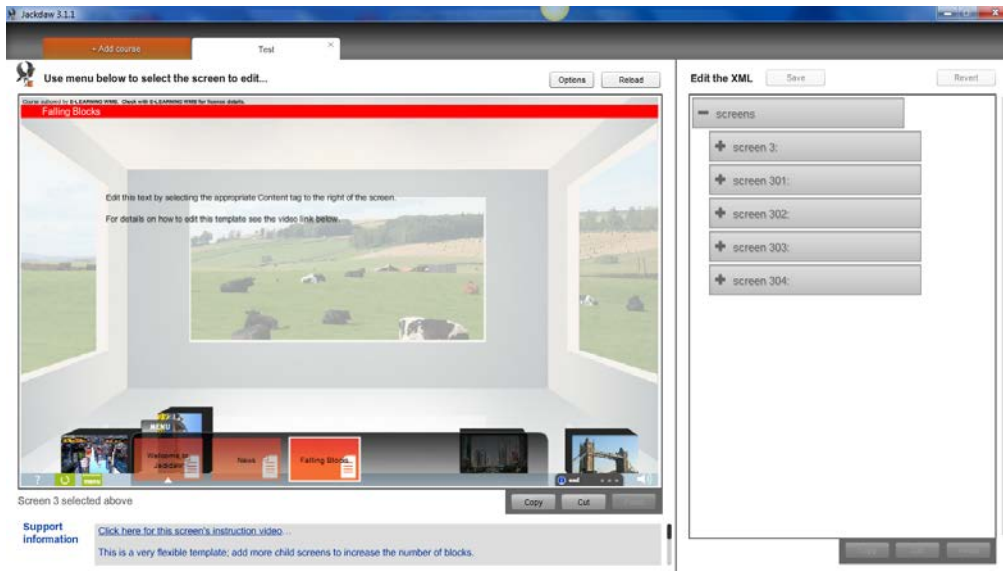
Each element of the screen is explained below:

Node Name	Example	Description
Section	<i>News</i>	This is the name of the title banner which swings on the top left hand side of the screen as well as the menu item's name.
Title	<i>Latest News</i>	This title appears above the content text. If you can edit the Properties to change the dimensions of the title and location.
Content	<i>Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Etc.</i>	The content in the message box. The Properties of this field can be edited.
Narrator	<i>Videos/Filename.flv</i>	Defines the video file used for the narrator. Voiceover can also be used here with mp3 files. Again the Properties may be edited to change timings and location of any video.
Image/Flash	<i>swf/news.swf</i>	Image or Flash which appears on screen. Edit the Properties to change the size and location of any Image file.
video	<i>empty</i>	This is an additional video to be loaded on the screen. In this case none is added.
Background	<i>images/corporate_room_empty5_li vestock.jpg</i>	This loads the default background image or photo. This can be changed from the default here.

2.7 Adding Screens with Multiple Selections or Steps

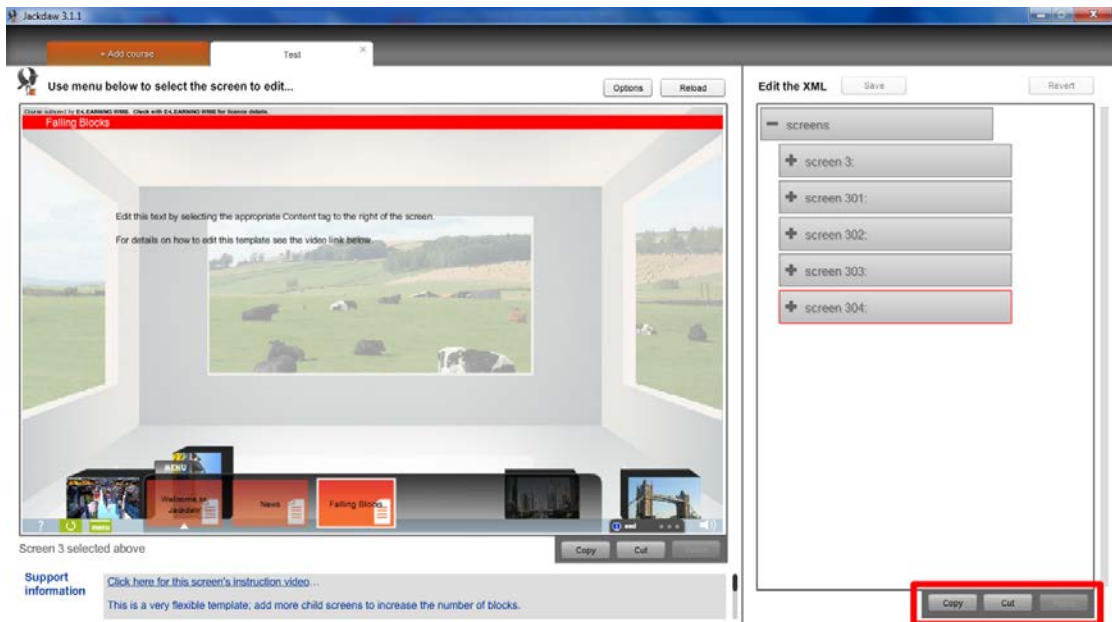
Most templates in Jackdaw can be expanded to include many selections (options from a menu etc.) or an enlarged number of sequential steps (by pressing the next button or adding more pages to a virtual book).

To achieve this, select a template called *Falling Blocks* which looks as below...



In this screen there is a main screen element called “screen 3” which contains the instruction text *“Edit this text by selecting etc.”* as well as four sub-nodes, one for each of the falling blocks.

The number of blocks (or options) that we can add depends upon the number of sub-nodes. To add a sub-node, click on any of the other sub-nodes (e.g. **screen 304** in this example) and **[Copy]** it using the button shown below.



Then **[Paste]** the same node immediately below it and once you **[Reload]** the content you will see an additional menu item.

Examples of template screens that work in this way are shown below, look out for the word “Flexible” in the support information at the bottom of the screen for evidence of this.

For support contact support@jackdawcms.com or UK 00 44 (118) 902 6825 or US 00 1 (646) 461-6210



Please note that training is available for the use of the Jackdaw as well as workshops where we will help you build your e-learning course.

For details of this and training in any other part of the Open Elms system contact info@openelms.org else visit the Open Elms website.

3 Buying/Selling Courses Online

The course you create can be used and distributed freely within your organization or sold through your usual sales channels.

If you wish to buy or sell these courses online via the **Jackdaw App Store** then contact sales at 00 44 1344 382 577 or US 00 1 (646) 461-6210 to enable this process, else visit http://www.jackdawcms.com/register_course.htm.

Contact Details

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us, a representative will be online to help you during office hours, else send an email to info@jackdawcms.com.

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