LTI Advantage provides a way to add extended capabilities of tools and platforms using the core LTI standard. As you consider adopting LTI Advantage, here are 5 things you need to know.

**LTI Advantage: 5 Things You Need to Know**

1. **LTI Advantage Paves the Way for Richer Tool and Applica- 
   tion Learning Environments.**
   The new LTI Advantage service exten-
   sions allow for more personalization of 
   tools that work together and result in 
   better integration, better user experi-
   ence, and better learning.

2. **LTI Advantage Provides Multiple Service Extensions to 
   Choose From.**
   The service extensions, including Assign-
   ment and Grade Services, Deep Linking, 
   and Name and Role Provisioning 
   Services, will enhance the user experi-
   ence in the platform for faculty and 
   students while giving them the 
   peace-of-mind resulting from 
   enhanced security and data privacy. 
   These service extensions can be implemen-
   ted independently or as a group for more 
   customized functionality, depending upon 
   the needs of the organization.

3. **LTI 1.3 is the Prerequisite for LTI Advantage.**
   LTI 1.3 provides a foundation for the 
   LTI Advantage service extensions. LTI 
   1.3 is the updated version of LTI 1.1, 
   which is the most commonly adopted 
   LTI specification. “The recommended 
   LTI upgrade path is from LTI 1.1 to LTI 
   1.3...” Future versions will be built 
   upon the updated LTI 1.3 framework 
   which provides a compact core, 
   well-defined extensions, a separate 
   security model, and simpler migration 
   from version to version moving 
   forward.” ([https://www.imsglob-
   al.org/lti-adoption-roadmap](https://www.imsglobal.org/lti-adoption-roadmap)) Note that 
   LTI versions 1.2 and 2.0 have been 
   designated as legacy, and are not on 
   the recommended upgrade path.

   Upgrading to LTI 1.3 will enable your 
   organization to take advantage of the 
   additional service extensions of LTI 
   Advantage to enhance overall user 
   experience now and into the future.

4. **LTI 1.3 Uses a More Modern Security Model.**
   Educational institutions are invested 
   in the enhancement of security and 
   data privacy, especially in the case of 
   personally-identifiable information 
   (PII). LTI 1.3 employs a more modern 
   security model using JSON Web 
   Tokens (JWT) and OAuth2, enhancing 
   student privacy and security. In addi-
   tion, LTI 1.3 embraces the OpenID 
   Connect (OIDC) specifications and 
   makes the LTI launch an actual third 
   party initiated OpenID authentication 
   flow. By upgrading to LTI 1.3, and by 
   achieving LTI 1.3 certification, tools 
   (previously known as “tool providers”) 
   and platforms (previously known as 
   “tool consumers”) will be using the 
   latest security features.

5. **Upgrade Help is Available.**
   There are a variety of resources avail-
   able to help you get started:
   - Get to know LTI Advantage video. 
     This provides a good introduction to 
     LTI 1.3 and LTI Advantage.
   - Information about OAuth2 and 
     OpenID Connect, the most-up-to-date 
     industry-standard protocols for 
     authentication and identity verifica-
     tion.
   - IMS LTI Reference Implementation 
     can simplify the upgrade process. IMS 
     members can test their products 
     using the provided platform and tool 
     with the full set of services and mes-
     sages. A public version with basic 
     functionality is also available.
   - IMS Global website. This provides the 
     latest information from IMS Global 
     including:
     - Important announcements.
     - Stays tuned for IMS Global to 
       announce the public availability 
       of the LTI 1.3 specification and the 
       corresponding LTI Advantage 
       services, as well as platform & 
       tool certifications.
     - Information about IMS’s certifica-
       tion process in general, and 
       specifically the LTI certification 
       suite. Currently, IMS certification 
       must be recertified annually to 
       maintain compliance.

Unicon has over 25 years of experience in integrating open source, custom, and proprietary systems, 
including standards-based integrations with popular LMSs. As a Contributing Member of the IMS 
Global Learning Consortium, Unicon was an early implementer of LTI Advantage and assisted IMS with 
the certification testing process. To date, Unicon has been involved in multiple projects that touch all 
facets of the LTI Advantage effort, including both tool and platform implementations.

If you need assistance with your upgrade or LTI adoption, please reach out to us at www.unicon.net.