

# Askalot Meets Harvard's Online Courses on edX

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## Motivation

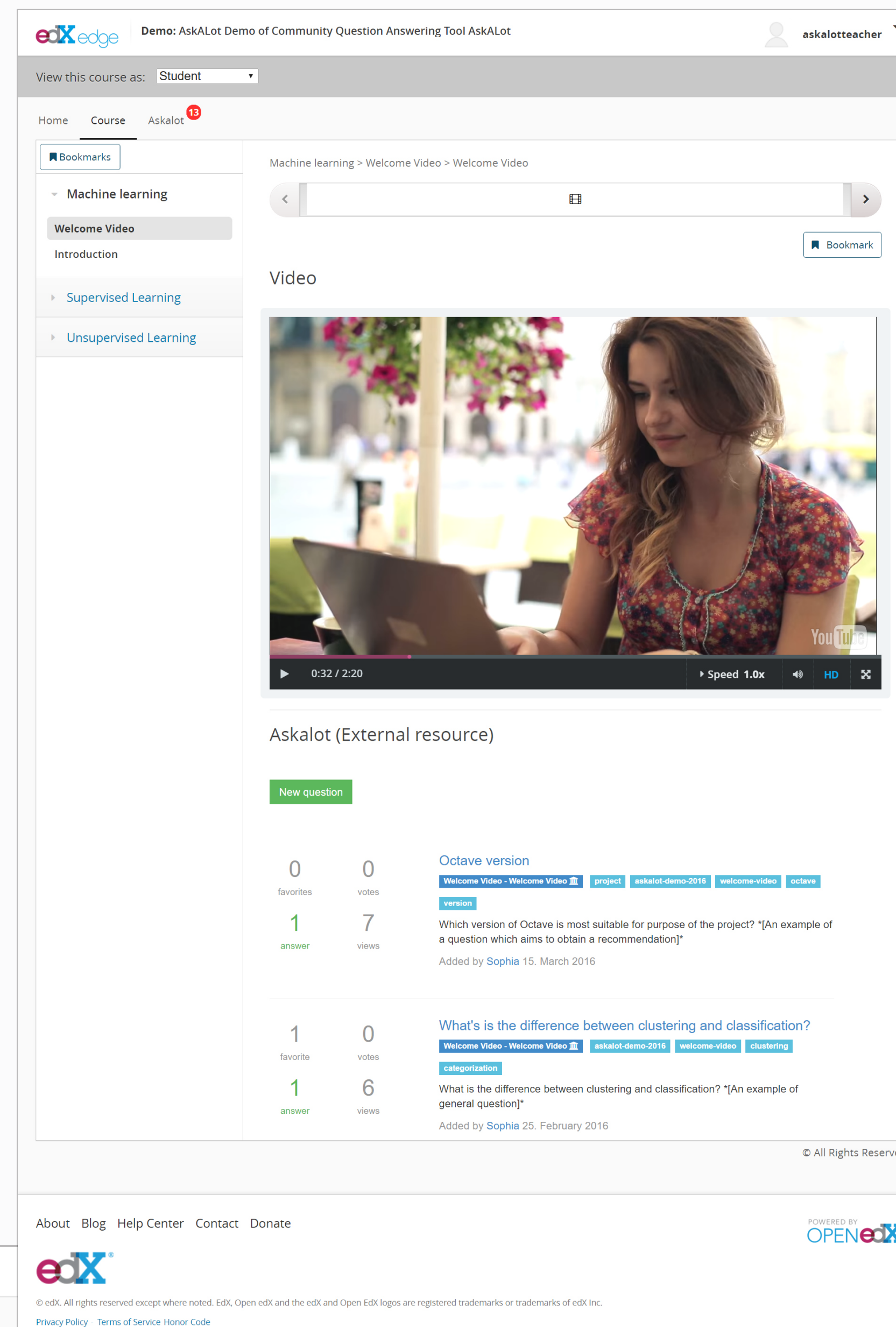
- Students' communication in online courses
- Discussion **forums** in **edX** have many **problems**:
  - No notifications
  - No activity feed
  - Low engagement
  - Bad User Experience
  - Weak Question-Answer structure
- Course instructors tend to use 3rd party discussion systems that lack native integration

## About Askalot

- **Community Question Answering** system for educational domain
- Teacher supervision
- Feedback and evaluation
- First version developed by TP Cup winners in 2013/2014
- **1 126 users**, 401 questions, 548 answers
- Ruby on Rails
- Open Source on Github

## Contributions

- **Modular architecture**
  - Rails engines
  - University, MOOC, and Shared components
- **Flexible design**
  - Hierarchical categories
- **Automatic integration with edX**
  - LTI (Learning Tools Interoperability standard)
  - Iframe resizer
  - Course structure parser
- **3rd party component**
  - Allows Askalot usage in any external service



## Process

- Services integration into Slack:
  - Github
  - Codeship
  - Redmine
- Accent on following conventions
- Thorough code review process
- Automated tests
  - **90% code coverage**
- Cooperation with Harvard University

## Research

- Poster presentation NetSciX 2016
- Research paper ICWE 2016
  - Design of CQA Systems for Flexible and Scalable Deployment and Evaluation.

## Future work

- A/B testing by **Harvard University**
- Deploy at **University of Lugano**

## - Three environments

- STU FIIT
- edX
- University of Lugano

## - Forum

- Separation of questions from other content