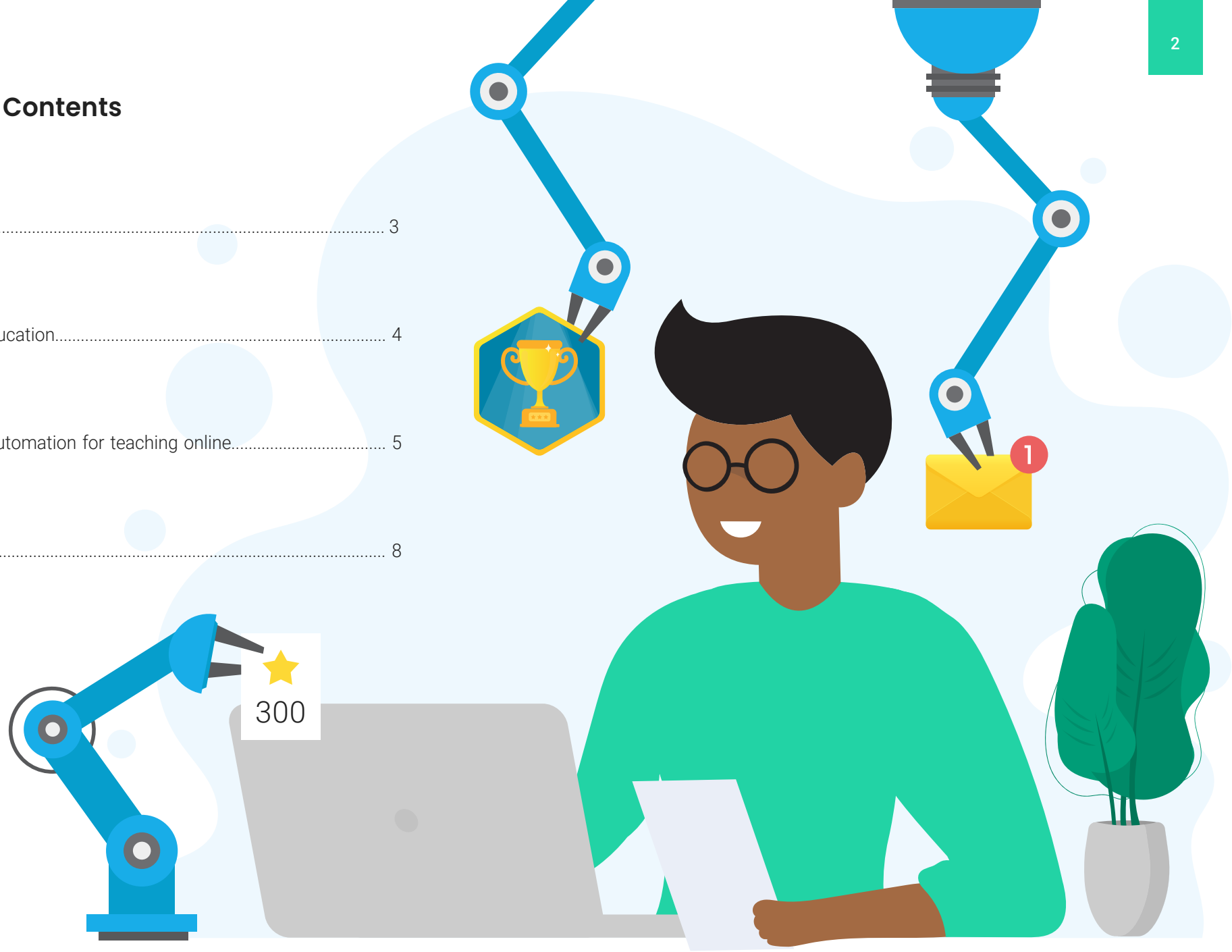CYPHER Learning®

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ONLINE TEACHING AUTOMATION

How automation saves time and reduces teacher workload

May 2023

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Introduction

A teacher's job is never done.

Whether teaching remotely, face-to-face or a combination of the two, educators usually work long hours. A good chunk of this time is spent **planning**, **grading**, and doing other **administrative tasks**.

It's no wonder that the field is full of dedicated people. You have to love teaching to make this commitment. However, this also puts them at risk of burnout and dissatisfaction with their work.

That's why finding solutions to make the **workload more manageable** should be done sooner rather than later.

That's where **automation** steps in.

Automation in education

How would a teacher's day look like if some of the administrative tasks were to be taken care of?

Automation doesn't have to be a scary technical feature that's beyond reach. Many **digital tools now feature automation** as part of a package, so schools don't have to start a lengthy implementation process.

For example, **learning management system (LMS) automation** takes care of repetitive actions that teachers usually do manually, such as **awarding points for learning progress** or sending messages to inactive students.

This frees up a lot of time to take care of more important things, such as **creating engaging classes** and interacting with students, online or offline.

Think of it as an **online assistant** that does the tedious work, except make coffee (sorry, we're not there yet).

However, automation can do much more than that, which we discuss in the next section.
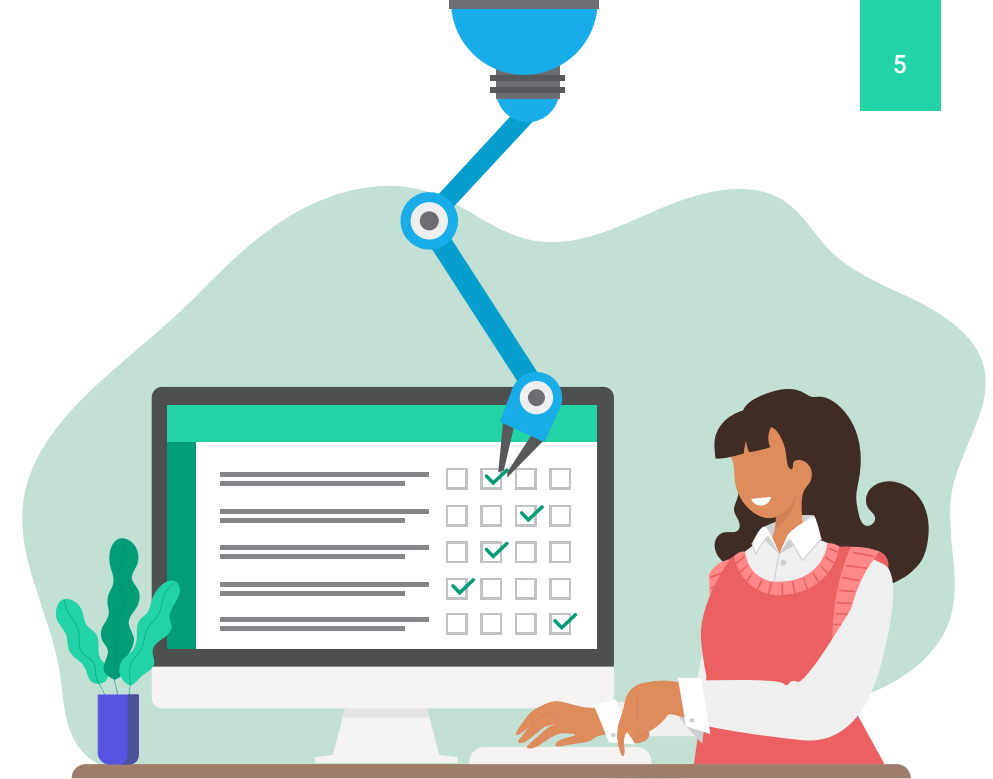
The benefits of automation for teaching online

Imagine that you're teaching five classes a week of 20 students each. That's a total of 100 students per week. You want to send a "Congratulations!" message whenever a student completes a class section. How much time would that take to write and send at the exact moment the action happens? No teacher has the time to do that, but automation does.

A teacher has to manage different classes, with their own particularities. Automation makes this process so much easier. Here are a few examples:

Help with organizing classes

Managing the class flow can be a hassle, but it's quite simple with automation. For example, each time a new class is created, teachers can automatically **enroll students**, no need to add them manually.

Plus, instructors can **send reminders** before a class starts and ends or manage inactive students. You can even schedule lessons to be released whenever you need them to, a feature known as **drip content**.

Save time spent grading assignments

Grading is time-consuming, and many teachers use their spare time to grade papers. It doesn't have to be like this anymore, with the help of **auto-graded quizzes**.

All instructors have to do is create quizzes with predefined answers and assign them to students. Then, students can see the correct answers, read your feedback, and check out their grades since these quizzes can **show their scores** immediately after they click "submit."

Support communication and collaboration

All teachers want to be there for their students. However, offering individual attention is challenging. That's why **sending reminders** and **custom messages** in addition to regular interactions helps establish a good teacher-student rapport.

For example, students can receive a message of encouragement whenever they reach a learning milestone. Teachers can also automatically **add students to groups** to encourage them to collaborate and help each other.

Track learning progress

Staying on top of everything is difficult unless teachers have a system to alert them whenever something important happens, such as **students falling behind in class**. With automation, teachers can automatically receive a notification whenever the level drops below a specific threshold.

For example, suppose a student gets a below 80% score on a specific competency for more than ten days. In that case, the platform sends a notification so teachers can help the student **improve their performance**.

Personalize the learning experience

Each student is different and learns at their own pace. Automation helps **personalize learning** so they can have a different experience. A good example is **showing or hiding specific lessons** or assignments based on their performance.

If a student makes quick progress, they can move ahead with more challenging content. The same is true for students who advance more slowly and see lessons that can help them understand easier concepts before moving on to more difficult ones.

Motivate students to achieve more

Rewarding students for their work increases their motivation. That's why it helps to **assign badges** immediately after a student makes progress.

Creating learning games is a fun way to **award points and badges** to students, complete with difficulty levels and the ability to customize games. Advanced gamification is impossible without automation.

Conclusion

Automation **helps teachers save time and decrease their online teaching workload**. Online instruction is easier to manage than face-to-face classes and **automating repetitive tasks** is a welcome addition to any type of class, whether it's instructor-led, blended, self-paced, or micro learning.

That's why schools can benefit the most from **choosing digital tools** that already have an automation feature, such as an LMS. However, not all LMSs are the same, so learning more about such systems and what they offer is a first step in selecting the right one for your school.

CYPHER Learning is an LMS that makes it easy to manage all learning activities, such as building online classes, assessing students, enhancing collaboration, or tracking student progress.

With an intuitive design and powerful features, CYPHER Learning has all the features schools and universities need for a great learning and teaching experience.

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