COMPARISON GUIDE

HeyLoopy vs CYPHER Learning: When Breadth Comes at the Cost of Depth

CYPHER Learning is an AI-powered platform that spans corporate training and academic education. But a platform built for every type of learner may not be optimized for the one thing corporate teams need most: lasting knowledge retention.

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Executive Summary

This comparison guide is written for training leaders, L&D professionals, and operations managers evaluating learning platforms for their teams. It presents an honest, data-driven comparison of CYPHER Learning and HeyLoopy - two platforms that approach corporate training from fundamentally different angles.

CYPHER Learning is an AI-powered learning platform that serves corporate, K-12, higher education, and training company markets from a single product. It carries a 4.6/5 rating on eLearningIndustry (33 reviews) and a 4.3/5 on Gartner Peer Insights (33 reviews across all markets). It offers AI-assisted course creation, gamification, competency tracking, and a wide range of integrations. Brandon Hall Group calls it "a supercharged next-generation technology platform."

HeyLoopy is an AI-powered micro-learning platform designed around a different premise: that the goal of training isn't completion - it's retention. Rather than hosting static courses, HeyLoopy generates personalized daily micro-lessons from your existing documents, uses spaced repetition to combat the forgetting curve, and provides an AI coach that answers employee questions directly from your institutional knowledge base.

Both platforms leverage AI, but for different purposes. CYPHER Learning uses AI to **create courses faster**. HeyLoopy uses AI to **ensure employees actually remember what they learned**.

> **The core question**
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> Organizations spend an average of $1,280 per employee per year on training (ATD 2022). Without reinforcement, learners forget 70% of new material within a week. If your platform creates courses faster but delivers them in a format the brain naturally forgets, are you solving the right problem?

CYPHER Learning: Platform Profile

4.6/5	4.3/5	4.4/5
eLearningIndustry rating (33 reviews)	Gartner Peer Insights rating (33 reviews)	Gartner Product Capabilities rating

What It Is

CYPHER Learning is an AI-powered learning platform designed to serve multiple markets from a single product. It supports corporate training, K-12 education, higher education, training companies, and extended enterprise scenarios. The platform emphasizes AI-assisted course creation, personalized skills development, and gamification. Customers span academic institutions, large enterprises, SMBs, non-profits, and public administrations across industries including education, financial services, healthcare, and IT.

Core Strengths

- **AI-assisted content creation:** Generates course outlines, assessments, and gamification elements automatically, freeing instructors to focus on content validation. Forbes Advisor highlights its "comprehensive platform that's simple to use."
- **Multi-market coverage:** A single platform handles employee training, compliance, customer training, K-12, higher education, and extended enterprise - reducing vendor count for organizations that span these use cases.
- **Gamification and engagement:** Badges, leaderboards, and multiple reward mechanisms. The intuitive UI "keeps employees engaged" according to Forbes Advisor.
- **Integration ecosystem:** Connects with Salesforce, Zoom, Zapier, Google Workspace, Office 365, PayPal, Stripe, and more. Gartner reviewers rate Integration & Deployment at 4.4/5.
- **Standards compliance:** SCORM 1.1 through 2004 (4th Edition), xAPI/Tin Can, IMS LTI, IMS QTI, IMS Common Cartridge, and Section 508 accessibility.
- **Skills-based learning:** Competency mapping and personalized skills development paths. Brandon Hall Group calls it "a supercharged next-generation technology platform that rocks competency and skills-based learning."

Known Limitations

Based on Gartner Peer Insights reviews and industry analysis:

- **Complexity and usability:** A Gartner reviewer describes the platform as "clunky, unintuitive, complex, has weird limitations and bugs." Another notes frustration when "things are not working as they should be."
- **Reporting accuracy:** One reviewer found reporting "laborious and somehow inaccurate," choosing instead to build custom reporting through the API. Another notes that "monitoring and evaluation still needs improvement."
- **AI content quality:** A reviewer characterizes the AI offering as "redundant, generating slop" - suggesting AI-generated course content may require significant human review and editing.
- **Support accessibility:** Reviewers note the need to "look for a reference guide or enter a support ticket" for common issues, wishing they "could pick up the phone and speak to someone."
- **No AI coaching:** Lacks an AI layer that can answer employee questions from training materials or institutional documentation on demand.
- **No retention science:** No built-in spaced repetition, adaptive review scheduling, or forgetting curve countermeasures beyond standard quizzes and gamification.

Pricing

CYPHER Learning offers custom pricing. A free trial is available. Pricing details are not publicly listed - prospective buyers must request a quote. Enterprise and volume pricing available for larger deployments.

The Fundamental Gap: Course Creation vs. Knowledge Retention

CYPHER Learning and HeyLoopy both use AI, but they apply it to fundamentally different problems.

CYPHER Learning uses AI to create courses faster. Their AI generates outlines, content, and assessments - reducing the time instructors spend building training. This is genuinely valuable. But the delivery model remains course-based: learners complete modules, pass assessments, and move on.

HeyLoopy uses AI to ensure knowledge sticks. Rather than speeding up course creation, HeyLoopy generates personalized daily micro-lessons from your existing documents, delivers them using spaced repetition, and adapts to each learner's performance over time. The AI also serves as an always-available coach that answers questions from your institutional knowledge base.

The distinction matters because faster course creation doesn't solve the retention problem. A course built in 10 minutes with AI is still forgotten at the same rate as one built over 10 hours - if the delivery format doesn't incorporate learning science.

What cognitive science tells us

The forgetting curve (Ebbinghaus, replicated extensively): Without reinforcement, learners forget approximately 70% of new material within one week and 90% within one month. A single training session, no matter how well designed, cannot overcome this.

Spaced repetition produces 200%+ better long-term retention than massed practice (cramming or one-time delivery). This is one of the most replicated findings in cognitive psychology.

Active recall - retrieving information from memory rather than re-reading it - strengthens neural pathways and produces stronger, more durable learning than passive review.

Micro-learning (5-10 minute sessions) produces equivalent or better comprehension than longer sessions while dramatically reducing time away from productive work.

> **The AI paradox**
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> Using AI to create courses faster is like using a faster printer to produce documents nobody reads. The bottleneck in corporate training isn't content creation speed - it's the gap between what

> employees are taught and what they actually retain. AI that doesn't address retention is optimizing the wrong step in the process.

Feature-by-Feature Comparison

Dimension	CYPHER Learning	HeyLoopy
Learning approach	Course-based modules for corporate and academic audiences	AI-generated daily micro-lessons with spaced repetition
Content creation	AI-assisted course building, SCORM/LTI import	Upload documents; AI generates training automatically
Retention method	Quizzes, gamification badges, completion certificates	Spaced repetition + active recall, adaptive per learner
AI capabilities	Course content generation, assessment creation	AI coach from your knowledge base, content generation, adaptive difficulty
Learner time	Full course modules (variable length)	5-10 min daily micro-sessions
Admin time	AI-assisted but requires review and validation of generated content	Upload docs once; AI handles ongoing training delivery
Knowledge verification	Completion tracking + quizzes + competency mapping	Continuous mastery assessment with gap identification
On-demand help	Search course library manually	AI coach answers questions from your institutional knowledge
Compliance	Certificate tracking, competency records	Continuous reinforcement + verifiable mastery records
Market focus	Corporate, K-12, higher ed, training companies	Purpose-built for corporate knowledge retention
Standards	SCORM, xAPI, LTI, QTI, Section 508	API-first; integrates with existing LMS as a complement
Best for	Organizations spanning corporate and academic use cases	Teams that need training to produce lasting, verifiable knowledge

The Retention Argument

HeyLoopy's approach is built on three proven learning science principles that course-based platforms - even AI-powered ones - don't implement:

1. Spaced Repetition

Instead of delivering all training in one session, HeyLoopy spaces content over time. Key concepts reappear at scientifically-optimized intervals - just before the learner would forget them. This transforms the forgetting curve from an enemy into an advantage: each retrieval strengthens the memory further.

2. Active Recall

Rather than asking learners to re-read or re-watch content, HeyLoopy requires them to retrieve answers from memory. This is harder than passive review, but it produces dramatically stronger retention. Every interaction is an assessment and a learning event simultaneously.

3. AI-Powered Personalization

The AI adapts to each learner's performance. Topics they've mastered appear less frequently. Topics where they struggle get more reinforcement. This means two employees working with the same training materials will have different daily experiences - each optimized for their specific knowledge gaps.

AI Course Creation (CYPHER Learning)

- AI generates course content faster
- Learner completes module in one sitting
- Passes quiz, earns badge
- Never revisits the material
- Forgets 70% within a week
- Re-takes annually for compliance

AI Micro-Learning (HeyLoopy)

- AI generates training from your documents
- 5-10 min daily sessions
- Active recall on every interaction
- Spaced repetition prevents forgetting
- AI adapts to individual gaps
- Always audit-ready, not just annually

Three Scenarios: How Each Platform Handles Real Training Challenges

Scenario 1: New Employee Onboarding

With CYPHER Learning: You use the AI to generate an onboarding course from your existing materials. The course includes auto-generated assessments and gamification. The new hire completes it during their first week - earning badges along the way. Two weeks later, they're asking colleagues the same questions the training covered because the one-time delivery didn't produce lasting retention.

With HeyLoopy: You upload your onboarding documents (handbook, SOPs, product guides). The AI generates a personalized training program. The new hire receives 5-10 minute daily sessions starting day one, covering the same material over 2-3 weeks with spaced repetition. They're productive from day one (sessions are short enough to allow real work), and the knowledge sticks because it's reinforced over time. When they have questions, the AI coach answers from your actual documentation.

Scenario 2: Product Knowledge for Customer-Facing Teams

With CYPHER Learning: You use AI to create product training modules when new features launch. The sales team completes them and earns competency badges. On the next customer call, they're still referring to cheat sheets because the AI-created course was a one-time event and the product changes faster than courses can be regenerated and reassigned.

With HeyLoopy: You update your product documentation. The AI automatically incorporates new material into daily training sessions. The team is drilled on current product knowledge continuously. When a prospect asks a question, the AI coach provides the answer instantly - no searching through modules or documentation.

Scenario 3: Compliance Refresher Training

With CYPHER Learning: Annual compliance training is generated by AI and assigned with gamification elements. Employees complete the modules, earn their badges, and check the box. Between annual refreshers, policy knowledge degrades. If there's an audit, you have completion records and competency scores - but not necessarily a workforce that actually knows the policies today.

With HeyLoopy: Compliance policies are reinforced daily in small doses. The AI identifies which employees have gaps in specific policy areas and increases reinforcement for those topics. When

regulators ask for evidence of training, you show continuous engagement data and per-employee mastery scores - not just annual completion timestamps.

Pricing Analysis

CYPHER Learning Pricing

- **Custom pricing:** Quote-based; not publicly listed on their website
- **Free trial:** Available to evaluate the platform
- **Multi-market scope:** Pricing may reflect the breadth of corporate + academic capabilities
- **Enterprise:** Volume pricing for larger deployments

Hidden Costs to Consider

The subscription price is only part of the total cost of ownership. With any course-based platform, factor in:

- **AI content review time:** CYPHER Learning's AI generates courses, but Gartner reviewers flag quality concerns. Someone must review and validate every AI-generated module before deployment.
- **Multi-market complexity:** A platform built for K-12, higher ed, and corporate training carries features and complexity that corporate-only teams pay for but never use.
- **Reporting workarounds:** If built-in reporting is "laborious and somehow inaccurate" (per Gartner), teams may need to invest in custom reporting through the API.
- **Ineffective training cost:** If 70% of training is forgotten within a week - regardless of how fast AI created it - the real cost is the wasted productive time, not the platform fee.

HeyLoopy's Value Proposition

HeyLoopy eliminates the content creation bottleneck entirely. Upload your existing documents - handbooks, SOPs, product guides, policy manuals - and the AI generates training automatically. But unlike AI course generators, HeyLoopy also handles delivery and retention. There's no separate step to review AI-generated content, assign courses, or hope employees remember what they learned.

> **The real ROI question**
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> The most cost-effective platform isn't the one with the lowest subscription fee or the fastest AI course generator. It's the one that produces the most retained knowledge per dollar spent. If your platform creates courses in minutes but produces training that's largely forgotten, the actual cost per retained knowledge unit remains high - regardless of how impressive the AI is.

Migration and Coexistence

HeyLoopy is not a rip-and-replace proposition. Many organizations use HeyLoopy alongside their existing LMS - including CYPHER Learning.

HeyLoopy complements your LMS

- **Keep your existing courses:** If you've invested in SCORM content, instructor-led training, or AI-generated courses, those remain in your LMS.
- **Add retention to existing training:** Feed the same content into HeyLoopy to generate reinforcement sessions. Employees complete the course in your LMS, then retain it through HeyLoopy's daily micro-lessons.
- **Use HeyLoopy for institutional knowledge:** SOPs, handbooks, and documentation that don't fit neatly into a "course" are ideal for HeyLoopy's document-to-training pipeline.
- **Gradual transition:** Start with one use case (e.g., onboarding) and expand based on results. No big-bang migration required.

Getting Started

1. Identify one training area where retention matters most (onboarding, compliance, product knowledge)
2. Upload the relevant documentation to HeyLoopy
3. AI generates a training program in minutes
4. Pilot with a single team and measure knowledge retention vs. your existing LMS approach
5. Expand based on data

Recommendation

Choose CYPHER Learning if:

- You need one platform for both corporate and academic learning
- AI-assisted course creation speed is your top priority
- You require K-12 or higher education features alongside corporate training
- Gamification and badges are central to your engagement strategy
- You need broad standards compliance (SCORM, LTI, QTI)
- Competency mapping across academic and corporate roles is a requirement

Choose HeyLoopy if:

- You need employees to actually remember their training
- You want to turn existing documentation into training without manual course creation
- Your team is drowning in repetitive training questions that could be automated
- You need continuous compliance readiness, not annual checkbox exercises
- You want data on what your team knows, not just what they've completed
- You value a platform purpose-built for corporate knowledge retention

Consider both if:

- You have existing SCORM or LTI content worth preserving but want to add retention to the mix
- Some training (instructor-led, academic) stays in CYPHER Learning while document-based corporate knowledge moves to HeyLoopy
- You want to run a pilot comparing retention outcomes before committing fully

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Next Steps

Ready to see how HeyLoopy handles your training content? Start a free trial at **app.heyloopy.com/signup** - upload a document and see AI-generated training in minutes. No credit card required.