10 Things to Like About Moodle

Hans de Zwart Stoas Learning

A promise in advance...

No interactivity and no time for any questions...

I like to talk about:

- The Internet Revolution
- Popular science writing
- (E-)Learning
- Philosophy
- Open source software (Linux!)
- Nintendo (DS)
- Juggling
- Civil rights in a digital sociecty
- Myself (as you are starting to notice...)



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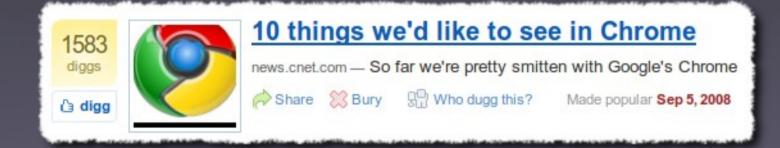


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TheTopTens - Top Ten Lists

TheTopTens was created as a place for people to view lists, add to lists or create entirely new lists for others to view. Check out our library of lists and add your input. The more people who add to the lists, the better our lists become.

Can't find a specific list? Then create a new one. Create your list, fill it with your top ten and make it available to all.

Featured Top Ten Lists



Top Ten Best American Idol Auditions created by ilovekelly75

<u>American Idol</u> is back and the new crop is giving their all to impress the four judges. From <u>Kelly</u> to Clay to Melinda, check out which auditions voters think were the very best.

Top 10 NFL Games of 2008



I have been with Moodle for a quite a long time...



General problems -> Problem when I try to read a forum or look at quiz

by Hans de Zwart - Wednesday, 11 December 2002, 11:05 PM

I have installed Moodle on my hosting provider and have it running now.

I can add courses, users, teacher, forums, etc. I just don't seem to be able to add any content. For example when I click on the news forum I get the following message:

"Warning: open_basedir restriction in effect. File is in wrong directory in /var/www/vhosts/hansdezwart.info /httpdocs/osbelo/mod/forum/view.php on line 3

Fatal error: Failed opening required '../../config.php' (include_path='.:/usr/share/php/PEAR') in /var/www/vhosts /hansdezwart.info/httpdocs/osbelo/mod/forum/view.php on line 3"

I have already try copying the htaccess file and renaming it .htacces

What to do now? I have no idea!

See this post in context

Why did I stick with it?

Alternatively: What makes Moodle so special?

10 (relatively arbitrary) reasons

More conceptual than functional & More as a project than as a piece of software

0. Moodle's philosophy

Constructivism, Constructionism and Social Constructivism

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	article page comments view source history		
Navigation			
Main Page Recent changes	Philosophy		
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Documentation About Moodle Teacher Administrator Developer	The design and development of Moodle is guided by a "social constructionist pedagogy". This page attempts to unpack this concept in terms of four main, related concepts: constructivism, constructionism, social constructivism, and connnected and separate. Contents [hide] 1 Constructivism 2 Constructionism 3 Social constructivism 4 Connected and separate 5 Conclusion 6 See also	 Background Philosophy License Features Release Notes 	
Search Go Search Toolbox		 Future Credits Case for Moodle Top 10 Moodle Myths 	
What links here Related changes Upload file	Constructivism		
Special pages Printable version Permanent link	From a constructivist point of view, people actively construct new knowledge as they interact with their environments. Everything you read, see, hear, feel, and touch is tested against your prior knowledge and if it is viable within your mental w		
In other languages	form new knowledge you carry with you. Knowledge is strengthened if you can use it successfully in your wider en just a memory bank passively absorbing information, nor can knowledge be "transmitted" to you just by reading s someone.		
Español Français Русский	This is not to say you can't learn anything from reading a web page or watching a lecture, obviously you can, it's ju there is more interpretation going on than a transfer of information from one brain to another.	ust pointing out that	
	Constructionism		
	Constructionism asserts that learning is particularly effective when constructing something for others to experience from a spoken sentence or an internet posting, to more complex artifacts like a painting, a house or a software pa		

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Abo Tea Adn Interact with their environments.			
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Documentation About Moodle Teacher	The design and development of Moodle is guided by a "social constructionist pedagogy". This page attempts to unpack this concept in terms of four main, related concepts: constructivism, constructionism, social constructivism, and connnected and separate.	 Background Philosophy License
Administrator Developer	Contents [hide]	Features
package.	et posting, to more complex artifacts like a painting, a house or a	a software
Upload file Special pages	From a constructivist point of view, people actively construct new knowledge as they interact with their environme	ante
Printable version Permanent link In other languages	Everything you read, see, hear, feel, and touch is tested against your prior knowledge and if it is viable within your form new knowledge you carry with you. Knowledge is strengthened if you can use it successfully in your wider en just a memory bank passively absorbing information, nor can knowledge be "transmitted" to you just by reading s someone.	r mental world, may wironment. You are not omething or listening to
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from a spoken sentence or an internet posting, to more complex artifacts like a painting, a house or a software package.

The teaching paradox

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lelp		About Moodle
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	nstructivism extends constructivism into social settings, wherei	n groups
this, one levels.	is learning all the time about how to be a part of that culture, o	n many
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Jpload file Special pages	From a constructivist point of view, people actively construct new knowledge as they interact with their environment	nts.
Printable version Permanent link	Everything you read, see, hear, feel, and touch is tested against your prior knowledge and if it is viable within your mental world, may form new knowledge you carry with you. Knowledge is strengthened if you can use it successfully in your wider environment. You are	
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Forums, forums, forums & the humane interface



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Yochai Benkler: *"Technology creates feasibility spaces for social practice. Some things become easier and cheaper, others become harder and more expensive to do or prevent under different technological conditions."*

Image: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:YochaiBenklerJI6.jpg



Course Facilitator:

This is by far the best online discussion we've had, in terms of participants responding to eachother. I think the most likely explanation is the overall appearance of the Moodle system (the Teletop facility wasn't that different, but somehow it didn't seem to encourage responses).

1. Moodle's Leadership

Martin Dougiamas

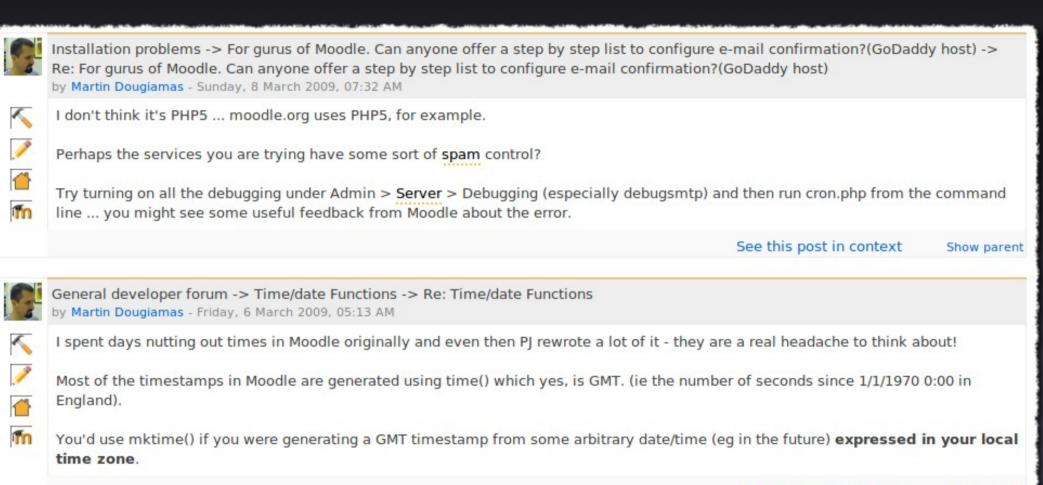
G'day!



Image source: http://anamartos.wordpress.com/2008/11/15/antecedentes-moodle/ He purposefully chose for and steered towards collaboration/shared effort

PHP Community General helpfulness Internationizsation

Leading by example

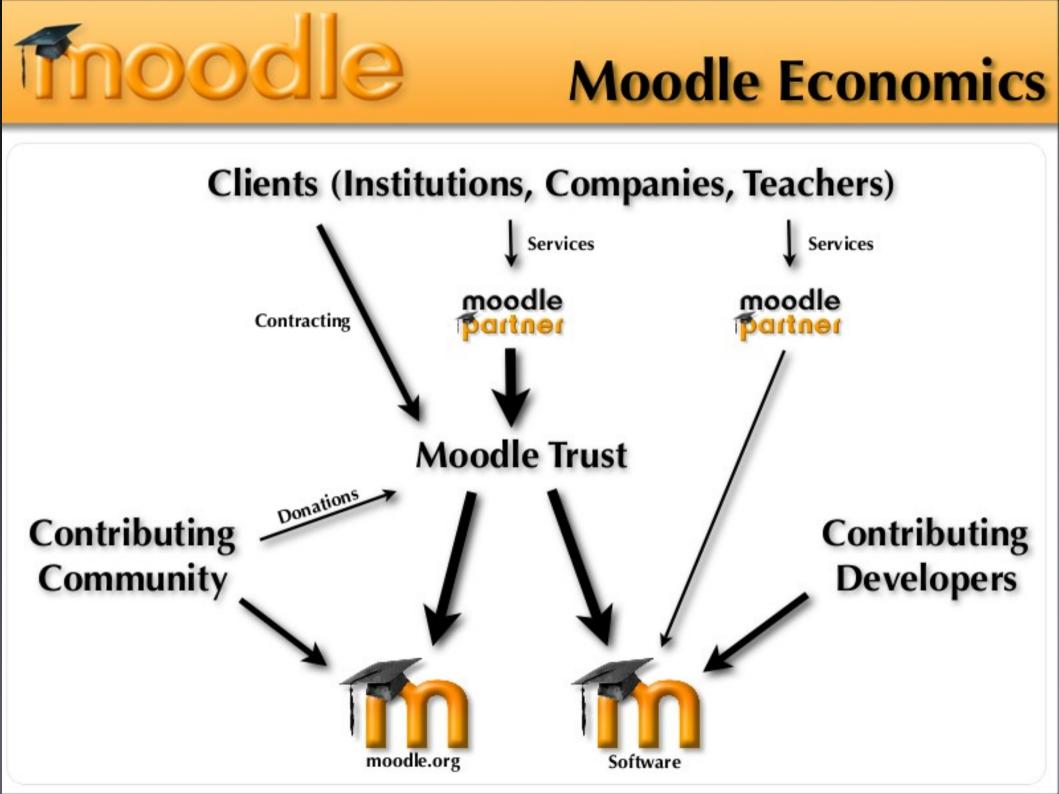


See this post in context Show parent

A recent favourite...

3	Concurrent Users by Udit Sawhney - Tuesday, 10 March 2009, 04:19 AM
	Hi,
	I have loaded Moodle on Windows XP machine with Pentium D 3.40GHZ and 2GB RAM and 160 GB HDD.
	I wanted to know how many concurrent users can this system handle without any speed loss?
	Please let me know
	Thanks
	Udit
	Rate 🗸 Reply
	Re: Concurrent Users by Martin Dougiamas - Tuesday, 10 March 2009, 06:19 AM
	72
1	(Just kidding the real answer is dependent on how you have the server configured, how you have the database configured, how you have Moodle configured, how many courses/users you have, and what the users are doing on Moodle)
	Rate 🗸 Show parent Reply

Partner network



2. Moodle's License

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To protect your rights, we need to make restrictions that forbid anyone to deny you these rights or to ask you to surrender the rights. These restrictions translate to certain responsibilities for you if you distribute copies of the software, or if you modify it.

Richard Stallman



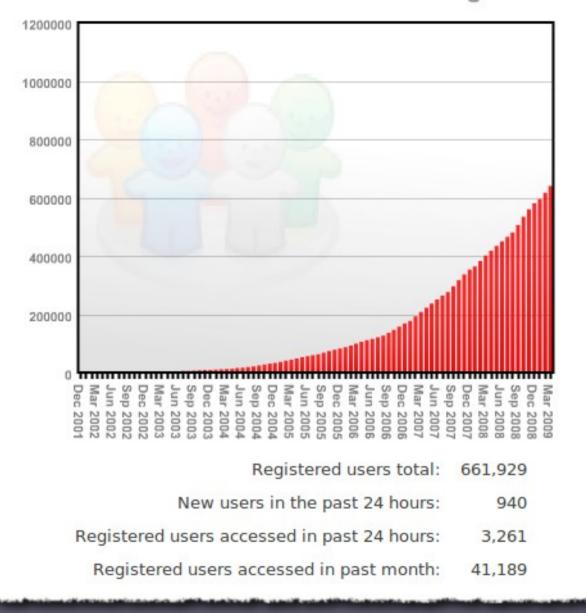
Image: http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrys/5592200

Free software is a matter of the users' freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software. More precisely, it refers to four kinds of freedom, for the users of the software:

- The freedom to run the program, for any purpose (freedom 0).
- The freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor (freedom 2).
- The freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements (and modified versions in general) to the public, so that the whole community benefits (freedom 3). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

3. Moodle's Community

Community Growth Total Moodle.org users



940/((24*60)/50) = 32.6

Truly exceptional for the Internet

Example 1: Debian

A question...

jaysons

DPosted: 2008-01-18 21:12 Post subject: cannot display video mode



After netinst install I did a startx and now I get cannot display this video mode 1280x1024 how can I change?

(quote

Joined: 18 Jan 2008 Posts: 10 Location: Col, OH

Back to top



The answer:

Issyer	DPosted: 2008-01-18 22:36 Post subject:	(aquote)
	Code:	
	man xrandr	
	It means RTFM.	
Joined: 23 May 2007 Posts: 1069 Location: Khakassia		
Back to top	🗟 profile) 🗟 pm) ổ www	

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RTFM

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Redirected from Rtfm)

RTFM is an acronym for the statement "Read The Fucking Manual". This instruction is sometimes given in response to a question when the person being asked believes that the question could be easily answered by reading the relevant "manual" or instructions. It is also used to tell someone to try to help himself/herself before seeking assistance from others. In clean texts, "Read The Fine Manual" is sometimes used.^[1] On other occasions, the F is simply ignored.

More recent variants are:

- STFW ("Search The Fucking Web")
- GIYF ("Google Is Your Friend")
- JFGI ("Just Fucking Google It")

Contents [hide] 1 Use and overuse 2 See also 3 References 4 External links

Use and overuse

An Internet forum where users read the FAQ before posting their questions is more likely to have a better signal to noise ratio than one that is filled with repetitive postings, and hence is more likely to attract continued participation. When evaluating whether it is acceptable to express sentiments like RTFM, one must consider the trade-off between maintaining the usability of an Internet forum for its existing users, and making a forum welcoming to newcomers.

Critics say that frequent users of the phrase (or similar variants) are simply expressing elitism, and that their attitude drives away newcomers without helping them. Their time could better be spent adding the question and answer to a FAQ, pointing the user to a helpful website, or simply not responding.^[2] They point out that **RTFM** is often used when it is not even clear which manual their correspondent should be reading.^[3] One of the most frequent criticisms of the open source community is lack of friendly support for newcomers. The Ubuntu Forums and LinuxQuestions.org, for instance, have instituted "no RTFM" policies to promote a welcoming atmosphere.^{[4][5]}.

RTFM [and] "Go look on google" are two inappropriate responses to a question. If you don't know the answer or don't wish to help, please say nothing instead of brushing off someone's question. Politely showing someone how you searched or obtained the answer to a question is acceptable, even encouraged. ... If you wish to remind a user to use search tools or other resources when they have asked a question you feel is basic or common, please be very polite. Any

Log in / create account

[edit]

Result:

Lavene Site admin	DPosted: 2008-01-20 12:58 Post subject:		
- A	Issyer wrote:		
Ť	It means RTFM .		
Joined: 04 Jan 2006 Posts: 3353 Location: Oslo, Norway	#¤@X¿Ø¬¢±#X!! 😼		
	Debian Women Need instant advice? Get BOFH's opinion		
Back to top	🗟 profile) 🗟 pm) 🌾 www		

Not very constructive...

Example 2: Moodle.org

A question...



Best reference for describing a metacourse

by James Gates - Thursday, 9 February 2006, 12:59 PM

I'm trying to get my mind around the concept of a metacourse. I've created a course, stipulating that it was a metacourse, but I'm still missing the spark of understanding about what it is and what it will allow me to do. On the moodledocs page (http://docs.moodle.org/en/Metacourses) were the diagrams that showed a metacourse as being both the "parent" of a group of courses, and the "child" of some courses. Just when I thought I was "getting it".... oof!> 😀

Can anyone suggest some good reading that will help me to get a handle on the concept(s) of a metacourse? I think I'm going to LOVE the idea once I get my mind around it.

Thanks in advance.

Reply

Rate... 💌

First answer:



Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse by Darren Smith - Thursday, 9 February 2006, 03:01 PM

The mantra is "Metacourses take their enrollments from other courses."

You can use use this to populate many courses from one enrollment or one course from many enrollents - that's when is starts to get confusing I agree. I don't think the name helps and I begged for something more meaningful at the time of creation but it looks like we are stuck with it 🖨

Darren

Show parent | Reply

Rate...

Another answer:



m

Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse by Anthony Borrow - Monday, 5 March 2007, 09:48 PM

When you indicate that a course is a metacourse then generally it is the parent. You enroll other course into the metacourse using the child courses link in the administration block. I hope this helps to clarify. Peace.

Show parent | Reply

 \mathbf{T}

Rate...

More...



Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse Re: Best reference for describing a metaco by Robin Mudge - Thursday, 17 January 2008, 02:36 AM

Hi Lucy,

I apologize for missing your reply! Even trying this method, the metacourse yes/no box does not allow me to change it. Anyhow, I have now gone through the tedious process of re-writing them, I won't make that mistake again.

Robin

Show parent | Reply

•

Rate...



Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse

by Lucy Brock - Thursday, 17 January 2008, 03:43 AM

Hi Robin,

Wow... so sorry for your trouble. I am still using 1.6 and the process worked for me. We are in the process of upgrading to 1.9 so maybe I should not count on this not working in the future.

Lucy

Show parent | Reply

Rate... 💌



Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse

by John Isner - Tuesday, 6 March 2007, 02:54 PM



Good explanation. I just wanted to clarify the meaning of "available to" in your last sentence. This availability is not transparent. That is, the resources and activities of the metacourse do not magically appear in the child courses. Students must enter the metacourse to see metacourse resources. Metacourses give you automatic enrollment, nothing more.

Show parent | Reply

2	Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse by Amy Groshek - Tuesday, 6 March 2007, 03:55 PM
	These two practical explanations are so helpful. Excelle Show parent R Rate
2	Re: Best reference for describing a metacourse by Randy Orwin - Thursday, 8 March 2007, 08:54 AM
	True. I should have clarified that a bit better. Show parent Reply Rate

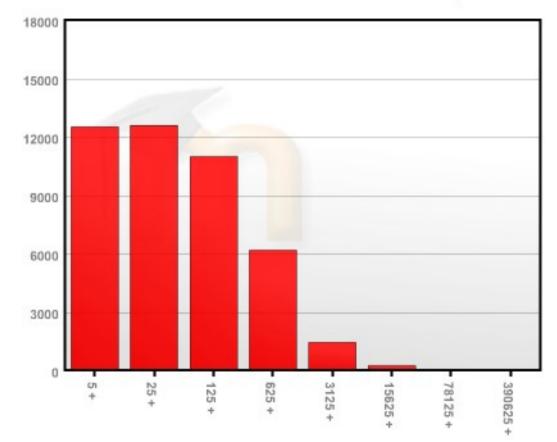
Very constructive!

It is a community of teachers!

4. Moodle's Adaptability (scalability/range/one pair of sox fits all/etc)

Moodle site sizes

Number of users per site



There are 453 sites with more than 10,000 users. The site with the most users is Moodle.org with 61 courses and 661,929 users. The site with the most courses is ATENEA - Campus Virtual de la UPC with 21,948 courses and 70,474 users.



One man band

Image: http://www.flickr.com/photos/22439313@N07/2443261127/

Every level of education:

Prenatal Primary Secondary Tertiary Adult

Multinational corporations: e.g. Shell, Google, Cisco

Large user base means a lot of problems have been solved already

5. Moodle's Accessibility and Diversity

A measure of civilisation

Moodle Accessibility Specification

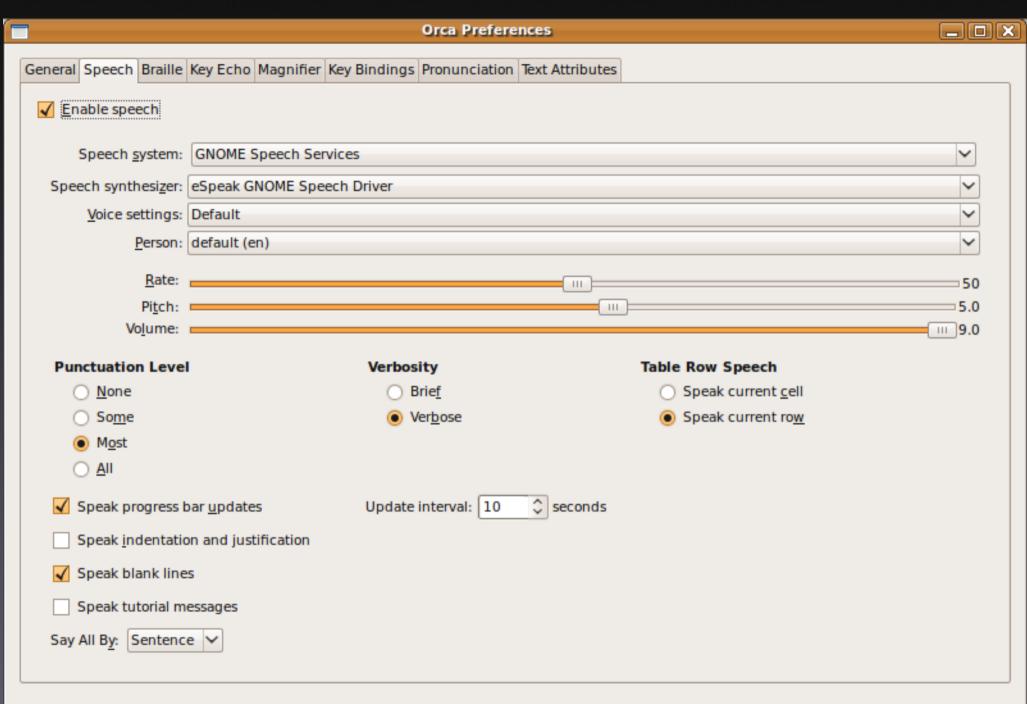
Introduction

This accessibility specification has been developed by accessibility experts and Moodle developers at the Open University (OU), UK. The OU has adopted Moodle as a core component of its VLE and is contributing to the continued Open Source (OS) development of Moodle. Accessibility is an important for the OU because: it currently has over 9,300 disabled students; it has long standing aspirations to promote widening participation in higher education; and because of its legal obligations. Further it is important for the whole Moodle community as further discussed under "Rationale" below.

Accessibility is a term that has particular meanings in different contexts; here it refers to design qualities that endeavour to make online learning available to all by ensuring that the way it is implemented does not create unnecessary barriers however the student may interact with their computer. Virtually anyone, irrespective of any disability, can be enabled to interact effectively with a computer. Some people with disabilities interact with the computer using methods other than the conventional monitor, keyboard and mouse, some require special tools, usually referred to as "assistive technology", and some need the way content is presented to them by the computer to be appropriate to their needs (for example in terms of font sizes and/or colour contrast).

There are well established design principles for accessibility in software design and electronic content. These promote compatibility with assistive technology and ensure that different ways of interacting with the computer can be accommodated. This specification highlights further development work required in Moodle if these principles are to be considered effectively implemented across its various tools and modules.

How do people who cannot see "view" a web page?



Help





moodle

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Home ► Downloads ► Moodle language packs

Moodle UTF-8 language packs

Search moodle.org

There are currently a total of 78 language packs.

These zip files are generated daily from the latest files checked into Moodle's CVS archive, and may be incomplete translations. The date beside each one shows when they were last updated.

For further information, please refer to the Translation documentation. Contact details for language pack maintainers are listed in the Translation credits.

Installation for Moodle 1.6 onwards:

In Moodle 1.6 and later you usually never need to use this manual page. In your Moodle admin menu under "Languages" you will find a utility that allows you to select, download and install these language packs directly from within Moodle.

If this doesn't work, you can install these languages manually into any recent version of Moodle by downloading the zip file below to a directory called *lang* in your *moodledata* directory and unzipping it there.

Installation for Moodle 1.5 and earlier:

Don't use the language packs on this page unless you really know what you're doing!. Older language packs are available for download on the Pre-Moodle 1.6 language packs page.

Language	Download	Modified	CVS	Forum
Afrikaans	af_utf8.zip (83.2KB)	2008-05-26	cvs	
Albanian	sq_utf8.zip (308.8KB)	2008-09-26	CVS	
Arabic	ar_utf8.zip (187.8KB)	2008-09-26	CVS	forum
Armenian	hy_utf8.zip (250.9KB)	2008-11-14	CVS	
Basque	eu utf8.zip (640.2KB)	2009-04-05	cvs	forum



6. Moodle's Support

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About Moodle Teacher Administrator Developer	Welcome to Moodle Docs , the documentation for Moodle that everyone may contribute to. In version, officially launched on 26 January 2006, we are currently working on 1,635 articles, in documentation of new features in Moodle 1.9. It's easy to edit pages - have a play in our sandbox!	2
Search Go Search	Please help us expand our frequently asked questions - see Category:FAQ. Moodle documentation	
Toolbox		
What links here	 About Moodle Teacher documentation 	
Related changes Upload file	 Administrator documentation 	
Special pages	 Developer documentation 	
Printable version Permanent link	Featured pages	
	For teachers: Grades and Notes	
In other languages	For administrators: Upgrading to Moodle 1.9 and Bulk user actions	
Català Česky Deutsch	For developers: Roadmap and Guidelines for contributed code	
Español Suomi	Moodle - the open-source software for collaborative learning	

4 Using Moodle for teaching

Teaching strategies
 Teaching tips and tricks
 Building learning communities
 Moodle stories
 Links to interesting resources
 Moodle in K-12 Schools



 \Box



7. Moodle's Transparency

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Home 🕨 Moodle [iocs ► English ► Roadmap	
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Documentation	This roadmap collects the best information about upcoming features in Moodle. It is not 100% certain - features may available funding and developers.	change according to
About Moodle Teacher Administrator Developer	Contents [hide] 1 Version 2.0 1.1 Major features	
Search Go Search Toolbox What links here Related changes Upload file Special pages	 1.1.1 Requirements 1.1.2 File handling improvements 1.1.3 Improvements to the organisation of courses 1.1.4 Changes to activity modules 1.1.5 Improvements to other parts of Moodle 1.1.6 Administrative improvements 1.1.7 Internal clean-ups 1.2 Hopefully 2 See also 	
Printable version Permanent link	Version 2.0	
In other langua Español Français	Expected mid-2009 or so. You can track our current progress on the Moodle 2.0 Planning document @. Please remem document is frequently updated and details can change a lot! Major features	iber that this
	Requirements ■ Moodle 2.0 will require PHP 5.2.8 as a minimum, allowing us to clean up the code in some areas and avoid some For more info see: gophp5.org &.	serious PHP bugs.

File handling improvements

File API - Moodle.com

maintains an internal repository of files and governs access to them

Moodle 2.0 Planning (constantly revised) : Data

	Estimated Days Work 100 150 180 80 100 30	Estimated Completion 90% 80% 92% 95%	14 30	Main Developers Petr, Eloy Petr, Dongsheng	TODO oracle and mssql support only	More
Database API File API Repository API	100 150 180 80 100	90% 80% 92%	14 30	Petr, Eloy	oracle and mssql support only	http://
File API Repository API	150 180 80 100	80% 92%	30			
Repository API	180 80 100	92%		r ott, Dongonong	Resource, file manager, form elements, mod conversions	http://
	80 100		17.7	Dongsheng, Jerome	Polishing, testing, clarify linking policy	http://
	100	5576		Penny, Nicolas	GUI polishing	http://
Community Hub interfaces		10%		Jerome, Martin	No code yet	http://
Conditional Activities		90%		Sam	more testing, possibly overview settings page	http://
Course Completion	10			Catalyst	Develop the spec with community feedback	http://
Progress Tracking	30				Refine and then implement spec	
Progress tracking	30	D 70	20.5	Catalyst	Depends on many other parts - text formats, comments, gradebook	http://
Wiki 2.0	30	0%		UPC, Petr	reports	http://
Feedback module	100	95%		Andreas	Just needs some polishing	http://
HTML Editor 2.0	40	95%	2	Mat, Petr, Dongsheng	Possibly some cleanups for better support of multiple editors	
Blog 2.0	40	60%	16	Jerome, Mat, Joey	Merge code, then implement commenting and external blog support	http:// main t http://
Messaging 2.0	40	90%		Martin, Luis	Needs firm documenting and more message events	http://
Secure RSS Feeds	20	30%	14	Petr, Askar	Needs to be merged into head and converted to new File API	http://
Backup 2.0	40	5%		Eloy	Needs a spec	http://
IMS CC	10			Eloy	Needs a spec to implement import/export	http://
Site-wide groups	10	10%		Petr	Depends heavily on enrolment improvements	http://
Gradebook improvements	60	45%		Nicolas, Helen, Petr	Publicise http://docs.moodle.org/en/Development:Gradebook_improvements_i	
Roles usability improvements	40	90%	4	Tim	Just minor items where there is no clear consensus. None are release blockers.	<u> http://</u>
Web Services	90	50%		Jerome, UPC	Implement API functions for all parts of Moodle, plus SOAP interface with WSDL, access control	http://
Enrolment improvements	25	0%	25	Petr	Petr is researching this now and coming up with a proposal	http://
Navigation/Blocks/Pagelib 2.0	100	10%	90	Tim + ???	A specification is emerging	
SCORM 1.2 Certification	60	98%	1.2		Just needs to be submitted.	
Privacy enhancements	25	95%	1.25	Petr	backup/restore improvements	http://
Upgrade and install improvements	20	95%	1	Petr	Petr's pet elephant	http://
Question bank improvements	15	50%	7.5	Tim	A few weeks?	http://
New quiz interface	60	98%	1.2	Olli, Tim		http://
Move grading to gradebook plugins	10	0%	10		Needs a meeting	http://
Text formats as plugins	15	0%	15	Eloy	Needs a spec	
Commenting 2.0	10	0%	10		Needs a spec	
JavaScript cleanup	30		24	Tim	Finish infrastructure, clean as much as possible	http://
Lesson 2.0	50			Moodlerooms?	Use questions database, usability, modernise code	http://
decide minimal moodle 2.0 requirements	1	10%	0.9		PHP version and extensions, databases, memory use, etc.	
			640.45			

Unstable development builds

Version	Information	.tgz	.zip
Moodle 2.0 dev HEAD	The development version is UNSTABLE and should not be used for production sites. For developers, testers and any other people who love helping us create the next generation of Moodle.	e moodle	t maadle
Built Daily 17 hours 10 mins ago	 Roadmap Bug fixes and improvements Upgrading notes Requires: PHP 5.2.8, MySQL 4.1.16 or Postgres 8.0 or MSSQL 9.0 or Oracle 9.0 	Download 22.2MB 36 today	Download 25.1MB 45 tod <i>a</i> y

8. Moodle's Modularity



Name:		
Long Description:		
Type:		~
Summary:		~
Screenshot:	Activity Module Admin Report	
Download:	Assignment Type	
Author:	Authentication Method Block	
Discussion:	Course Format	
Documentation:	Course Report Database Field	
Status:	Enrolment Method	H
Requirement:	Filter Grade Report	
CVS:	Integration	
Changelog:	Question Import/Export Format Question Type	
Tracker:	Quiz Report	
Download16:	Resource Type SSO Plugin	
Download17:	Major Patch	
Download18:	Small Hack	~
Download19:		
Author first name:		
Author surname:		

"Hooks" for adding functionality

hook

In programming, a hook is a place and usually an interface provided in packaged code that allows a programmer to insert customized programming. For example, a programmer might want to provide code that analyzed how often a particular logic path was taken within a program. Or a programmer might want to insert an additional capability. Typically, hooks are provided for a stated purpose and are documented for the programmer.

How many can you think of?

(not meant as an interactive exercise, purely to make you think... I am keeping my promise)

Modules Question types Blocks Filters Glossary types Database fields Capabilities **Resource types** Grade reports Admin reports Cron **Course formats** Themes Database presets Quiz reports Languages

9. Moodle's Future?

Slides: http://www.slideshare.net/hansdezwart Twitter: hansdezwart LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/in/hansdezwart Blog: http://blog.hansdezwart.info