Update on the Moodle Pilot at NC State University

Presenters/Panel

- Presenters: Moodle pilot team.
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS)
  - James Bossert
  - Leigh Jay Hicks
  - Dr. Alan Schueler
- College of Education
  - Bethany Smith
Presenters/Panel

• College of Natural Resources
  – Dr. Greg Robinson

• Distance Education & Learning Technology Applications (DELTA)
  – Dr. Donna Petherbridge (chair)
  – Lou Harrison
  – Jeff Webster
  – Bill Hicks
  – Greg Kraus
  – Stacy Smith
  – Dr. Marty Dulberg (new to the team)

Quick Audience Analysis

Your setting:
  a. Higher Education – University or College
  b. Higher Education – Community College
  c. K-12
  d. Other
Quick Audience Analysis

Your role:
- Faculty member/instructor
- TLT support staff
- Administrator
- Student
- Other

Quick Audience Analysis

Your LMS:
- Use primarily Bb or another commercial LMS
- Use primarily Moodle, Sakai or some other open source LMS
- Use primarily Bb or another commercial LMS and are looking at open source
- Other
Presentation Outline

• Today’s Agenda
  1. Background/Overview of LMSs at NC State
  2. What have we learned thus far in the NC State Moodle pilot
  3. What we are still concerned about/need to know and
Background & Overview - Usage

Why Investigate?

- Good time for re-evaluation
  WolfWare – 10+ years
  Campus Edition and Vista - 8 years (4 each)
- Concerns with Blackboard
- Pending “end of life” for Vista
- Open source interests on campus & in the UNC system
Strategic direction for LMSs @ NC State

1. Stability & reliability
2. Future growth & flexibility
3. Control our destiny
4. Participate with peers as a community of developers and stakeholders
5. Potential future collaboration with UNC System

Questions about the Background and Overview? Feel free to raise your hand or type in the chat window.
Moodle Pilot Update

• Fall 2007
  – Two campus LMS forums
  – Fit gap report comparing Vista and Moodle
  – Staff participated in Moodle training
  – Discussions with companies who do migration and help desk support
• 2008
  – Moodle Pilot Team formed/meeting
  – Staff (& faculty) attended Blackboard Conference, Moodle Moot, Educause

Moodle Pilot Update

• Spring & Summer 2008
  – Around 270 active student users
  – 30+ faculty and instructional support staff teaching or building in the system
  – Twelve courses (CALS, CHASS, Education)
  – Four of these completely DE courses, remainder hybrid
Moodle Pilot Update

• Spring & Summer 2008 – Faculty Results
  – Online survey
  – 10 respondents (32% response rate)
  – Faculty respondents very positive towards Moodle (liked better than Vista)
  – Commented positively on ease of use
  – Had some concerns with tools (grade book, file management)

Moodle Pilot Update

• Spring & Summer 2008 – Student Results
  – Online survey
  – 63 student respondents (23% response rate)
  – 47% thought Moodle was easier to use,
    35% neutral on this, and 6% harder
  – 49% liked Moodle better than Bb, with 30% around the same
Moodle Pilot Update

• Spring & Summer 2008 – Student Results
  – Navigational structure and layout for both systems can either be strongly liked or disliked (way instructor sets it up a factor as well as prior experience)
  – Concerns about the wiki and grade book from the student perspective in Moodle

• Summer 2008 – Comparative Student Results
  – EAC 580 – DE graduate course, one section taught in Moodle, one in Bb
  – Same content, different instructors
  – 17/22 students across courses completed survey
  – Moodle had a higher mean score for ease of use and likeability, but no statistically significant difference found
Moodle Pilot Update

• Fall 2008
  – Around 2232 active student users
  – 29 unique faculty + additional instructional support staff building in the system
  – 53 active course sections (CALS, CHASS, Education, Engineering, PAMS)
  – Includes DE & F2F courses

Moodle Pilot Update

• Fall 2008 - Faculty
  – Faculty, 22/29 instructors responded
  – 10 DE, 12 F2F supplement
  – 13 respondents “make the switch”
  – 5 respondents “look at Bb NG first”
  – 6 respondents use WW & Moodle together (file management)
  – 15/22 respondents – like Moodle better or much better than BB (no one ranked as liked less)
Moodle Pilot Update

• Fall 2008 - Faculty
  – “Moodle is not perfect, but I find it much more intuitive to learn and much more customizable.”
  – “Easy to use (training was excellent).”
  – Issues:
    • Grade book
    • Wiki functionality (Wet Paint is better!)
    • Managing multiple files

• Fall 2008 – Students
  – 308 responses (14%)
  – @ 50% say it doesn’t matter what the LMS is as long as it works
  – 14% prefer Bb Vista, 28% said they are about the same, 49% preferred Moodle, the remainder had no opinion/basis for comparison
  – Will be running some comparisons between DE & F2F students
Moodle Pilot Update

• Fall 2008 – Comparative Student Results
  – Formal write-up of assessment not completed, but general comments:
    • Comparison of two sections of EAC 580, one Moodle, one Bb – no significant differences again, but mean scores for ease of use and likeability higher for Moodle (n=22/31, 71%)
  – It’s a learning curve either way
    • Moodle student: “The layout and format was predictable once I got familiar with it.”
    • Blackboard student: “I was a first time user. The honeymoon phase was reasonable.”

Moodle Pilot Update

• Student Satisfaction (in general)
  – “If the professors know how to use it, then I feel like it is usually pretty well organized.”
  – “Moodle to me was a lot like Blackboard, as long as the teachers posted the assignments then everything is alright.”
Moodle Pilot Update

• Spring 2009
  – Increased number of courses/users – still a pilot
  – 72 active course sections, 46 instructors, with 2482 unique students in spring 2009 (R&R sections)
  – Additional sections in development or being used for other purposes

Questions about the Moodle Pilot Assessments/Usage to date?
Feel free to raise your hand or type in the chat window.
Moodle Pilot Update

• Concerns/Questions that we still have, functionality:
  – Grade book, wiki, student tracking, better tools?
  – File Management (public & private space), how to do?
  – Can we round out the Moodle functionality to meet our needs (e.g. don’t want to go backwards)?

• Concerns/Questions that we still have, usage/users/usability:
  – For colleges not currently represented in the Moodle pilot, will faculty be able to successfully use Moodle?
  – Will Moodle work for “activity heavy” DE courses? What additional DE courses should we test in Moodle?
  – Does Moodle have that low “barrier to entry” factor (usability study).
Moodle Pilot Update

• Concerns/Questions that we still have, technical & policy:
  – Can & should we run all of the different “use cases” (e.g. project sites, extension & R&R classes) on the same server?
  – Can we successfully set up a multiple server/case hardened environment (right now we’re on one box)?
  – What should the course life-cycle model be?

• Concerns/Questions that we still have, technical & policy:
  – How should we brand our LMS?
  – How can we create various templates/profiles to make this easier for faculty?
  – What have large open source users (e.g. Open University in the UK) learned from their use? And what have others learned?
Moodle Pilot Update

• Concerns/Questions that we still have, resources:
  – Do we have the human resources to do this at scale? Sure, there is not a licensing fee, but what does this really cost?

Your advice regarding our questions/concerns about Moodle? Feel free to raise your hand or type in the chat window.
Next Steps

• Next Steps
  Transition from Moodle Pilot Team to LMS Committee Structure (share)
  Better define Phase II pilot – need to answer the previously mentioned questions and set an end date for the pilot.
  Continued Vista license through 2011
  Look at Bb NG product when it is ready for a look
  Make a decision as soon as feasible on the LMS system so we can get the campus migrated prior to the end of the Vista contract

More Information

• http://wikis.lib.ncsu.edu/index.php/LMS_Strategy
  – Assessment summaries/information
  – Today’s PowerPoint
  – LMS Committee Structure document
  – UNC Systems Schools LMS usage plans document

  – If you forget the URL, go to the NC State home page at http://www.ncsu.edu, and type in the search field “LMS Strategy” and it will take you there.
Questions?

www.ncsu.edu