Moodle: An Introduction

This class provides a "big picture" overview of the open source course management system, Moodle. (http://moodle.org.) Participants will get hands-on experience adding content to a Moodle course and will learn about the NCSU Moodle Pilot kicking off this Spring.

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What is Moodle?

Moodle is an open source software e-learning platform (also known as a Course Management System (CMS) or Learning Management Systems (LMS)).

Moodle is designed to help educators create online courses with opportunities for rich interaction. Its open source license and modular design means that people can develop additional functionality. Development is undertaken by a globally diffused network of commercial and non-commercial users, spearheaded by the Moodle company based in Perth, Western Australia. [Source: wikipedia.org]
Moodle Architecture

Activities are at the heart of a course management system. Moodle was designed by an educator and computer scientist, with “social constructionist” principles in mind. “Constructionism asserts that learning is particularly effective when constructing something for others to experience. This can be anything from a spoken sentence or an internet posting, to more complex artifacts like a painting, a house or a software package.

The concept of social constructivism extends the above ideas into a social group constructing things for one another, collaboratively creating a small culture of shared artifacts with shared meanings. When one is immersed within a culture like this, one is learning all the time about how to be a part of that culture, on many levels.”
Who is Using Moodle?

Over 37250 organizations in 204 countries had registered Moodle sites by January 2008 (http://moodle.org/sites). This number is growing by about 10% each month. [Source: moodle.org]

Moodle & UNC system schools

The UNC TLT-C is currently running an open source CMS evaluation project (Sakai & Moodle.) Read more at: http://www.unctlt.org/projects/opensourcecms

Transitioning (from Blackboard to Moodle):

• App State

Evaluating:

• NC Community College System, UNC Asheville, ECU, Pembroke, NC State

Forming LMS committees:

• WCU, UNCC, UNCP
**Moodle @ NC State**

**Fall 2007**
- Faculty forums held to discuss LMS strategy. See: http://wikis.lib.ncsu.edu/index.php/LMS_Strategy
- DELTA staff produced a Vista & Moodle Fit-Gap Report
- CED Moodle seminars offered by Cris Crissman

**Spring 2008**
- CALS & DELTA set up a collaborative Moodle server (http://moodlepilot.ncsu.edu)
- NCSU faculty are teaching courses this Spring using Moodle (providing feedback to UNC TLT-C)
- DELTA is developing in-house expertise, teaching Moodle workshops, investigating content migration processes/utilities, considering potential (long term) timelines

- Vista & WolfWare continue to be supported; very high use.

See: http://raleigh.ncsu.edu/lms_reports
The activity menu allows teachers to add assignments, lessons, and more.

The resource menu enables teachers to add a page, link, and more.

### Weekly outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>18 January - 24 January</td>
<td>Add a resource...</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 January - 31 January</td>
<td>Add a resource...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 February - 7 February</td>
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