

WOU Moodle User Notes – updated September 29, 2009

Subject	[Teaching Online] Important Moodle Reminders
From	teaching-online-bounces@wou.edu ; on behalf of: <a href="mailto:Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>">Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>
Date	Friday, September 25, 2009 4:23 pm
To	teaching-online@wou.edu

Hi all,

Since there's been a few changes to the way we handle the Moodle classes, and because there are so many new folks starting to use Moodle (about sixty of you attended one of the four recent Moodle workshops), I thought you could use a few reminders:

1. **Don't forget to enter the CRN for your course.** This should be entered in the Course ID box in your Settings menu.
2. **Students are now automatically loaded by CRN.** You no longer need to give them the enrollment key. This will happen at 2 a.m. on Monday and then every night for the next two weeks. When they login, they will simply see the courses pop up on their WOU Online homepage. They just click the course link and away they go. *Important: If you do not enter a CRN, your students will not be automatically added to your course.*
3. **You must still enter an enrollment key** (also found in the Settings menu); otherwise any student in the system will be able to enter your course.
4. **The Online Classes page has been updated to help students.** If they're having trouble getting in, please direct them to this page:
<http://www.wou.edu/provost/online/>

By the way, you've been added to this listserv because you either attended a Moodle workshop or have otherwise expressed interest in using online course tools. It is not a discussion listserv -- it is simply intended as away for me to communicate effectively with anyone using Moodle or other online course tools.

Good luck with the new term!

July 8, 2009

Hi all,

Due to the rising cost of the annual WebCT license fee, limited technical support from the company, and the shrinking number of faculty still using WebCT, WOU will be discontinuing it as of September 1, 2009. Moodle, or what we also call WOU Online, will be the primary online learning management system.

Quick facts:

- There are already 80 faculty with course creator access in Moodle and over 400 course shells, far exceeding the use of WebCT even at its peak.

- Students, faculty, and staff use their Pawprint credentials to login to Moodle, which is less confusing.
- Starting Summer term, courses are automatically populated by CRN -- something we can't do with WebCT.
- This summer there are at least 35 online and/or hybrid courses, 10 in WebCT, 3 homegrown and the rest in Moodle. Most of the faculty using WebCT this term already plan to switch to Moodle in the Fall.
- The renewal cost for WebCT is \$15,000 per year. Moodle, an open source program with millions of users around the world, is free.

The level of satisfaction with Moodle is very high. Most of you have already made the switch, but those of you who haven't, please know that I will do all I can to make this transition as painless as possible.

Email me a list of the courses you wish to switch and I'll copy the content over to a Moodle shell to give you a running start. I'll be scheduling some more Moodle workshops later this summer, as well as fleshing out a Moodle 101 online course that's been in the works for a while. The best way to get going, however, is to schedule a one-on-one training session with me. Usually an hour is enough to get you started, and then we can schedule follow-up training as needed.

Q&A:

1. I have dozens of courses in WebCT. Does this mean I won't be able to get to them after September 1, 2009?

A: You will still be able to get to the courses on an as needed basis, though you will have to suffer through a constant barrage of annoying "This license has expired" messages. However, I strongly encourage you to get your most important course content transferred before then.

2. My biggest issue is switching over my WebCT quizzes. Is there help with that?

A: I have several tools, including Respondus and Examview, which can help transfer your quizzes. Drop me an email and let me know which quizzes you wish to switch.

3. I've been wanting to get more into video and audio. Is that something you can help me with?

A: Yes. Currently, the most reliable way to put video and audio into your online courses is to convert them to Flash videos. I'd be happy to help with that. You might even consider checking out one of our new Flip video cameras, which are incredibly easy to use and record straight to mpeg. There's also neat free programs out there like Jing, that can make screen capture/narration fun and easy.

4. I'd like to start using Moodle, but I'm a complete neophyte. I don't think an hour or two is enough. Can you help?

A: Yes. Sometimes an hour is all that people need, and then they just call or email when they have questions. Others like to schedule an hour every week for several months. I can help either way. Plus please remember the purpose of the Technology Resource Center: you're welcome to

work in the TRC and know that there are people to help when you have questions. I have a number of faculty who have been doing that off and on this summer.

Subject	[Teaching Online] Moodle Reminder, Instructions
From	teaching-online-bounces@wou.edu ; on behalf of; <a href="mailto:Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>">Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>
Date	Monday, June 15, 2009 3:33 pm
To	teaching-online@wou.edu

Hi all,

Just another reminder that if you're using Moodle this summer, or for any term hereafter, to please enter the four or five digit CRN in the Course ID field under the Settings menu. Please don't enter the letters "CRN." Just the number. If you have more than one CRN, enter them separated by commas: 12345,12346, etc. Students will be loaded into courses the first day of the term.

More on this here: http://www.wou.edu/~carters/blogs/archives/2009/05/spring_moodle_u.html

I also updated the instructions for students and faculty, and you're welcome to send students to this link:

<http://online.wou.edu/mod/resource/view.php?id=14>

Students don't need to be logged in to view this link. Plus remember that we have another page that's for both WebCT and Moodle:

<http://www.wou.edu/provost/online/>

Any questions on this, let me know. And those of you not here this summer, have a great break!

Best,
Scott

Subject	[Teaching Online] Creating Quiz Questions for Moodle - an Excel tool
From	teaching-online-bounces@wou.edu ; on behalf of; <a href="mailto:Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>">Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>
Date	Tuesday, January 27, 2009 12:41 pm
To	teaching-online@wou.edu

Good news. A couple of you have asked about this, so I thought it would benefit all of you . . . For those of you doing online quizzes with Moodle, I've found an Excel spreadsheet you can use for creating questions. It has a built-in macro that will put the quizzes in the proper GIFT format. It was developed by a guy named Jeff Sherk, and he made it available to everyone -- the nice thing about open source software. You can find the files here:

http://www.wou.edu/~carters/moodle/excel_questions_tool/

There's two files you need -- the Excel2GIFTv1.1.xls Excel spreadsheet, and the Excel2GIFTv1.1_Instructions.rtf document. The instructions seemed fairly straightforward, and everything worked when I tested it, but if you have questions, please let me know.

Of course, you can always create questions within Moodle itself, but this is a tool some of you might find useful.

~Scott

Subject	[Teaching Online] Upgrading WOU Online / Moodle
From	teaching-online-bounces@wou.edu ; on behalf of; <a href="mailto:Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>">Scott Carter <carters@wou.edu>
Date	Thursday, December 18, 2008 12:01 pm
To	"Online (WOU), Teaching" <teaching-online@wou.edu>

Hi all,

Just a quick note to let you know that we're using the break between terms to upgrade Moodle to the latest version, which fixes many little issues and also makes some improvements. A few of the features may look slightly different. The biggest fix is that the "course backup" feature now works. In addition, when you use the "Restore" tool, you also have the option of restoring the course to a new course shell rather than copying over the old one (as long as you have course creator access). For those of you who want different course shells when you teach a course again, this is a nice feature.

You can also delete courses now. On the WOU Online homepage, you should have a "Courses" link under Site Administration. If you click that, you will see a listing of all the courses. Any course you have created, you have the ability to delete by clicking the "X" next to it.

We're having a few issues with things displaying properly in Firefox, but we're working on that, and should have it resolved quickly. Internet Explorer seems fine so far.


Scott

May 29, 2009

Spring Moodle Update

With summer almost upon us, it seemed about time to do an update on all the exciting things happening with [Moodle](#):

1. Beginning summer term, all courses in Moodle will be automatically populated with students a day or two before the term is scheduled to begin. What does this mean for you? It means you must now enter the CRN in the Course ID field located in the Settings menu. The box looks like this:

Course ID number 

The script which adds students from Banner will most likely run nightly for the first week of the term. Students won't need to enter the enrollment key, or course password; instead, they'll just see the course show up under "My Courses." Still, it's a good idea to have an enrollment key to prevent unregistered students from getting access to your course.

2. We've added a patch which allows instructors using [Examview](#) to import questions into Moodle, which wasn't working before now. If you're using Examview (which is a separate program you have to purchase), please contact me.

3. If you're interested in adding video to your Moodle courses, we've added several [Flip Video cameras](#) for checkout in the [Technology Resource Center](#). These cameras record directly into mpeg format, which can make creating Flash videos -- the easiest way to put video files in your online courses -- much faster than it was with the MiniDV cameras. The only drawback is that these cameras can only hold up to an hour of video before the file(s) must be downloaded. The quality, however, is excellent.

If you have questions on any of this, or would like to learn how to create videos for your Moodle courses, please contact me.

Best,
Scott Carter