

Moodle



SACRAMENTO STATE
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

- Moodle is an Open Source Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It has become very popular among educators around the world as a tool for creating online dynamic web sites for their students. To work, it needs to be installed on a web server somewhere, either on one of your own computers or one at a web hosting company.



What is Moodle?

- The focus of the Moodle project is always on giving educators the best tools to manage and promote learning, but there are many ways to use Moodle:
- Moodle has features that allow it to scale to very large deployments and hundreds of thousands of students, yet it can also be used for a primary school or an education hobbyist.
- Many institutions use it as their platform to conduct fully online courses, while some use it simply to augment face-to-face courses (known as blended learning).
- Many of our users love to use the activity modules (such as forums, databases and wikis) to build richly collaborative communities of learning around their subject matter (in the social constructionist tradition), while others prefer to use Moodle as a way to deliver content to students (such as standard SCORM packages) and assess learning using assignments or quizzes.



System Requirements

- Moodle is primarily developed in Linux using Apache, MySQL and PHP (also sometimes known as the LAMP platform). It is also regularly tested with Windows XP/2000/2003 (WAMP), Solaris 10 (Sparc and x64), Mac OS X and Netware 6 operating systems. Support for Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server is also available.



Hardware

- Disk space: 160MB free (min). You will require more free space to store your teaching materials.
- Memory: 256MB (min), 1GB (recommended). The general rule of thumb is that Moodle can support *50 concurrent* users for every 1GB of RAM, but this will vary depending on your specific hardware and software combination.
 - This includes hosting limits of PHP or MySQL on a hosting service.
 - The capacity can limit the number of users your Moodle site can handle.



Software

- Moodle requires a web server environment and will run in Apache and IIS easily. Moodle should run in any server environment that supports PHP.
- Moodle is written in the PHP scripting language. Currently, Moodle v 1.9.x requires a minimum of PHP v4.3.0 to run. Moodle 2.0 needs PHP v 5.2.8. Moodle 2.1 needs PHP v 5.3.x. There have been some issues with deprecated tags in PHP v 5.3.0 which have a negative impact on a number of PHP Apps, Moodle not exempted, so please ensure your PHP version is later than v 5.3.2 if using a v5.3.x. There has also been reported some issues installing Moodle with PHP-Accelerator.
- Moodle will use MySQL, MSSQL, or Oracle as a database, but no others.



Accessibility

- Moodle is currently the most accessible LMS on the market.

Some of the accessible features of Moodle are as follows:

- *Allow for user customization*
- *Provide equivalents for visual and auditory content and interface elements*
- *Use different ways of presenting information in an interface*
- *Provide compatibility with assistive technologies*
- *Allow access to all functionality from keyboard alone*

