

Welcome

Hello everybody. My name is Elias Stavropoulos and I am the head of the IT Department of the Hellenic Open University. The Hellenic Open University, offering to adults open and distance education for more than two decades, is using Moodle as the main learning management system to both synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning from distance. In this video, I'll make a short presentation to Moodle features, that will help you decide to use Moodle at your institution or organization.

Introducing Moodle

Moodle is a learning platform designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalized learning environments.

Moodle is trusted by schools, higher education institutions and large and small organizations, including The Open University, London School of Economics, State University of New York, University of Cambridge, Microsoft, Shell and Mazda. The Hellenic Open University also trusts Moodle for almost a decade now.

The mission

First released in 2002, Moodle grew from an idea born in the Australian outback, by Martin Dougiamas, Moodle founder and CEO.

Martin's vision was for educators to have an online platform they could use to create personalized learning environments.

He envisioned Moodle as an open source project, so that developers, educators and organizations worldwide could share knowledge and contribute to improving it.

The mission of the Moodle project is to empower educators to improve our world by building the most efficient and flexible platform for teaching, learning and collaborating online.

Moodle open source project is supported by a global community of users, developers, educators, administrators and people who love support their education and training needs using Moodle learning platform. To this aim, Moodlemoots, the Moodle conferences, are places for the Moodle community to connect with peers, explore ideas and learn from one another.

The Moodle numbers

Moodle is the world's most popular learning platform.

With hundreds of millions of users worldwide, more organizations choose us to support their education and training needs than any other platform around the world.

According to Moodle statistics page, Moodle is available in more than 100 languages in more than 240 countries.

It has more than 250 million users worldwide and it is connected with more than 100 partners

Moodle is used by 2 out of 3 Higher Education Institutes, with more than 34 million courses developed in more than 170 thousand sites.

Since covid-19 hits, Moodle statistics observed a significant raise on the above metrics, that shows a huge shift in the way people teach, learn and work. Schools, universities & educational institutions are making the jump to creating online learning environments while instructors and administrators are gearing up to deal with moving to e-learning.

About Moodle

Powering hundreds of thousands of learning environments globally, Moodle has been adapted for use across education, business, non-profit, government, and community contexts.

With over 10 years of development guided by social constructionist pedagogy, Moodle delivers a powerful set of learner-centric tools and collaborative learning environments that empower both teaching and learning.

Moodle has a simple interface, drag-and-drop features, and well-documented resources along with ongoing usability improvements that make it easy to learn and use.

Moodle is provided freely as Open Source software, under the GNU General Public License. Anyone can adapt, extend or modify Moodle for both commercial and non-commercial projects without any licensing fees and benefit from the cost-efficiencies, flexibility and other advantages of using Moodle.

Moodle is continually being reviewed and improved on to suit the current and evolving needs of its users.

Its multilingual capabilities ensure there are no linguistic limitations to learning online. The Moodle community has begun translating Moodle into more than 120 languages (and counting) so users can easily localize their Moodle site, along with plenty of resources, support and community discussions available in various languages.

Moodle provides the most flexible tool-set to support both blended learning and 100% online courses.

Because it is open-source, Moodle can be customized in any way and tailored to individual needs. Its modular set up and interoperable design allows developers to create plugins, use freely available plugins and add-ons, and integrate external applications to achieve specific functionalities.

From a few students to millions of users, Moodle can be scaled to support the needs of both small classes and large organizations.

Committed to safeguarding data security and user privacy, security controls are constantly being updated and implemented in Moodle development processes and software to protect against unauthorized access, data loss and misuse. Moodle can be easily deployed on a private secure cloud or server for complete control.

Moodle is web-based and so can be accessed from anywhere in the world. With a default mobile-compatible interface and cross-browser compatibility, content on the Moodle platform is easily accessible and consistent across different web browsers and devices.

There exists a vast volume of Moodle resources available, like documentation and user forums in multiple languages, free content and courses shared by Moodle users across the world, as well as hundreds of plugins contributed by a large global community.

The Moodle project is well-supported by an active international community, a team of dedicated full-time developers and a network of certified Moodle Partners. Driven by open collaboration and great community support, the project continues to achieve rapid bug fixes and improvements, with major new releases every six months.

General features

Let's see Moodle's general features

General features (1/4)

Designed to be responsive and accessible, the Moodle interface is easy to navigate on both desktop and mobile devices.

Users can display current, past and future courses, along with tasks due.

General features (2/4)

In Moodle, students can work and learn together in forums, wikis, glossaries, database activities, and much more.

Moodle's calendar tool helps users to keep track of their academic or company calendar, course deadlines, group meetings, and other personal events.

General features (3/4)

File management can be easily done by using facilities like dragging and dropping files from cloud storage services including MS OneDrive, Dropbox and Google Drive.

Moreover, users can format their text and conveniently add media and images with an editor that works across all web browsers and devices.

General features (4/4)

When enabled, users can receive automatic alerts on new assignments and deadlines, forum posts and also send private messages to one another.

Educators and learners can track progress and completion with an array of options for tracking individual activities or resources and at course level.

Administrative features

Next, I'm going to present some Moodle administrative features

Administrative features (1/5)

Users can customize a Moodle theme with your logo, colour schemes and much more - or simply design their own theme.

Over 50 authentication and enrolment options are available to add and enroll users to a Moodle site and courses.

Administrative features (2/5)

Moodle allows users to view course content and learn in their own language, or set it up for multilingual users and organizations.

Moreover, course creators and administrators can add courses in bulk, backup and restore large courses with ease.

Administrative features (3/5)

Administrators can address security concerns by defining roles to specify and manage user access.

Moodle has achieved and is compliant with international standards like IMS-LTI and SCORM that readily import and export courses and more.

Administrative features (4/5)

Moodle has high interoperability. Moodle developers can freely integrate external applications and content or create their own plugin for custom integrations.

Platform administrators can easily install and disable plugins within a single admin interface.

Administrative features (5/5)

Moodle is regularly updated with the latest security patches to help ensure your Moodle site is secure.

Course managers and administrators can view and generate reports on activity and participation at course and site level.

Course Development and Management Features

Let me now discuss some Course Development and Management Features of Moodle

Course Development and Management Features (1/6)

A course manager can design and manage courses to meet various requirements. Classes can be instructor-led, self-paced, blended or entirely online.

Built-in collaborative publishing features, Moodle foster engagement and encourage content-driven collaboration of students.

Course Development and Management Features (2/6)

A course creator can embed teaching material and include assignments from other sites and connect to the gradebook in Moodle.

Moodle's built-in media support enables course creators to easily search for and insert video and audio files in their courses.

Course Development and Management Features (3/6)

A teacher can group learners to share courses, differentiate activities and facilitate team work.

Moreover, he can conveniently assign different markers to assignments, manage grade moderation and control when marks are released to individual learners.

Course Development and Management Features (4/6)

A teacher can easily review and provide in-line feedback by annotating files directly within browser.

Built-in activities such as workshops and surveys, encourages learners to view, grade and assess their own and other course members' work as a group.

Course Development and Management Features (5/6)

Fully compatible with Mozilla Open Badges, Moodle motivate learners and reward participation and achievement with customized Badges.

A teacher can select from advanced grading methods to tailor the gradebook to his course and examination criteria.

Course Development and Management Features (6/6)

In Moodle, teachers can set up competencies with personal learning plans across courses and activities.

Content can be shared in a private space where only a teacher and his own class can access.

Closing

This was a short introduction to Moodle learning managements system and its features. A vast number of open educational recourses, tutorials and online courses are available on the internet. We encourage you to use Moodle learning management system at your organization or institution in order to enhance your teaching and learning experience.