Moodle Definitions

Course Formats

Weekly format – The course is organized week by week, with a clear start date and a finish date. Each week consists of activities. Some of them, like journals, may have "open windows" of, say, two weeks after which they become unavailable.

Topics format – Very similar to the weekly format, except that each "week" is called a topic. A "topic" is not restricted to any time limit. You don't need to specify any dates.

Social format – This format is oriented around one main forum, the Social forum, which appears listed on the main page. It is useful for situations that are more freeform. They may not even be courses. For example, it could be used as a departmental notice board.

Resources

Text page – This type of resource is a simple page written using plain text. A number of formatting types are available to help turn your plain text into nice-looking web pages.

HTML page – This sort of resource makes it easy to develop a complete single web page within Moodle, especially when you are using Moodle's WYSIWYG HTML editor.

Files and web pages – This resource type allows you to link to any web page or other file on the public web. It also allows you to link to any web page or other file that you have uploaded into your course files area from your own desktop computer.

Normal web pages are simply displayed as they are, while multimedia files are dealt with more intelligently and may be embedded within a web page. For example, MP3 files will be displayed using a built-in streaming player, as will movie files, flash animations and so on. There are many options for displaying your content in popup windows, framed windows and so on.

Directory – The directory resource can display a whole directory (and its subdirectories) from your course files area. Students can then browse and view all those files.

Labels – Labels are a little different from other resources because they are text and images that are actually embedded directly among the other activity links in the course page.

Activities

Assignments – Assignments allow the teacher to specify a task that requires students to prepare digital content (any format) and submit it by uploading it to the server. Typical assignments include essays, projects, reports and so on. This module includes grading facilities.

Chats – The Chat module allows participants to have a real-time synchronous discussion via the web. This is a useful way to get a different understanding of each other and the topic being discussed - the mode of using a chat room is quite different from the asynchronous forums. The Chat module contains a number of features for managing and reviewing chat discussions.

Choices – A choice activity is very simple - the teacher asks a question and specifies a choice of multiple responses. It can be useful as a quick poll to stimulate thinking about a topic; to allow the class to vote on a direction for the course; or to gather research consent.
Database – This module allows the teacher and/or students to build, display and search a bank of record entries about any conceivable topic. The format and structure of these entries can be almost unlimited, including images, files, URLs, numbers and text amongst other things. You may be familiar with similar technology from building Microsoft Access or Filemaker databases.

Forums – This activity can be the most important - it is here that most discussion takes place. Forums can be structured in different ways, and can include peer rating of each posting. The postings can be viewed in a variety for formats, and can include attachments. By subscribing to a forum, participants will receive copies of each new posting in their email. A teacher can impose subscription on everyone if they want to.

Glossary – This activity allows participants to create and maintain a list of definitions, like a dictionary. The entries can be searched or browsed in many different formats. The glossary also allows teachers to export entries from one glossary to another (the main one) within the same course. Finally, it is possible to automatically create links to these entries from throughout the course.

Hot Potatoes Quiz – This module lets you upload a quiz made in Hot Potatoes and run it in Moodle, and feeds the results to the gradebook if so desired.

Lesson – A lesson delivers content in an interesting and flexible way. It consists of a number of pages. Each page normally ends with a question and a number of possible answers. Depending on the student's choice of answer they either progress to the next page or are taken back to a previous page. Navigation through the lesson can be straightforward or complex, depending largely on the structure of the material being presented.

Nanogong – The nanogong module is intended for audio work. Students record their oral responses directly into Moodle. The prompt can also be an oral prompt instead of a written one.

Questionnaire – The questionnaire module allows you to construct questionnaires (surveys) using a variety of question types, for the purpose of gathering data from users.

Quizzes – This module allows the teacher to design and set quiz tests, consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. These questions are kept in a categorized database, and can be re-used within courses and even between courses. Quizzes can allow multiple attempts. Each attempt is automatically marked, and the teacher can choose whether to give feedback or to show correct answers. Results of completed quizzes will automatically be entered into your gradebook!

Scheduler – This module helps you to schedule one-on-one appointments with all your students. You specify the periods during which you are available to see the students and the length of each appointment. The students then book themselves into one of the available timeslots. The module also lets you record the attendance. This module checks conflict constraints across scheduler instances. This means that an appointment within a course could generate a constraint on slots in another course.

SCORM packages – A SCORM package is a bundle of web content packaged in a way that follows the SCORM standard for learning objects. These packages can include web pages, graphics, Javascript programs, Flash presentations and anything else that works in web browsers. The SCORM module allows you to easily upload any standard SCORM package and make it part of your course.

Surveys – The Survey module provides a number of verified survey instruments that have been found useful in assessing and stimulating learning in online environments. Teachers can use these to gather data from their students that will help them learn about their class and reflect on their own teaching.
**Wikis** – A Wiki enables documents to be authored collectively in a simple markup language using a web browser. The Moodle Wiki module enables participants to work together on web pages to add, expand and change the content. Old versions are never deleted and can be restored.

**Workshop** – A Workshop is a peer assessment activity with a huge array of options. It allows participants to assess each other's projects, as well as exemplar projects, in a number of ways. It also coordinates the collection and distribution of these assessments in a variety of ways.

**Blocks**

**Activities** – This block provides links to all of the activities in your course by type.

**Administration** – This block has links to useful features including grades, page settings, and files. For students, it has only Grades and Edit Profile.

**Anonymous Comments** – These blocks allow you to ask students for anonymous feedback. When they send a message in the text box that it creates, it will automatically be sent to you embedded in a message from “Administrative user” and the next time you are in Moodle a window will pop open with the message, or the message may appear in your messages block if you have that on your page. If there is more than one teacher in the course, you may choose to which person the messages are sent.

**Blocks** – When you have editing on, the Blocks block is visible and allows you to add the other blocks listed here.

**Blog menu** – The blog menu block provides links to add or view Moodle blog entries.

**Blog tags** – This block adds links to all of the blog entries that have been tagged within a given period of time, sorted by the tag.

**Calendar** – As might be expected, this block displays a calendar with a month at a time displayed. It will also show a symbol next to a date to indicate an event occurring that day, or an assignment due that day.

**Course menu** – The course menu block aids in navigation through a course page, especially if there’s a lot of information on it. It provides links to each section of the page, labeled with the title of the section. Additionally, there is a link to the “Control Panel” which gives you intuitive access to all of the information in the Administration block.

**Course/Site description** – This block displays the text that is in the Summary on the Course Settings page.

**Gould Library** – This block displays the name and contact information of the library liaison for your department. For a inter-disciplinary course that may take advantage of more than one liaison, you may add departments by editing the block and the appropriate liaison(s) will be added automatically.

**HTML** – This block lets you add whatever text or images you may want to appear on the side of your course page as a block.

**Latest News** – This block displays the subject of (and links to) recent posts to the News Forum.

**Loan Calculator** – This block calculates information about loans.

**Mentees** – This block displays links to the profile pages of the individual user’s mentees, if the user has any.

**Messages** – This block displays messages waiting for the individual user.
My courses – This block displays links to all of the courses in which the individual user is enrolled.

People – Provides a link to view all of the participants of a course.

Quiz results – This block allows you to display a certain number of the highest and/or lowest scores on a quiz. You can choose whether these results are anonymous or labeled by user’s full name.

Random Glossary Entry – This block displays an entry from a glossary on your course page, either randomly or by a set method.

Recent activity – This block reports any updates or additions to the course site since the last time the user logged in. This is very handy for students to see if things have been changed since the last time they visited the page.

Remote RSS Feed – This block lets you choose from a long list of news sources to display the most recent headlines – these news sources may be broad (NYTimes) or narrow (NYTimes Arts section).

Search forums – This block allows you to search the forums for something.

Section links – This block lets you skip to any section of the page by clicking on it.

Tags – This block displays a specified number of tags with links to a list of everything with that tag.

Upcoming Events – This block displays upcoming events and assignments along with a link to the calendar.

Who’s on Skype – If you use Skype, this block lets you see who else is on.