

CLEO

Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online

**Moodle Update 8
February 2009**

Headteachers Update

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the Moodle update for schools across the CLEO region.

In this edition we take a further look at the E-portfolio system, Mahara, new features of the next version of Moodle, Moodle 2.0 and new Espresso courses being developed for Moodle.

E-Portfolios (Mahara)



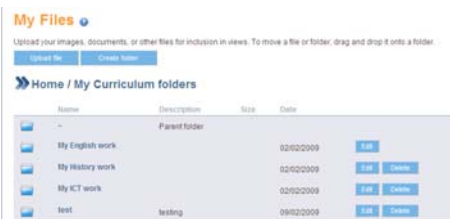
In the last edition CLEO outlined its commitment to supporting schools in meeting the requirements of the Harnessing Technology/Next Generation Learning Strategy 2008-2014, by providing pupils with access to an e-portfolio including secure online storage space, by the end of 2009.

A Mahara Focus Group has been set up and 12 schools have been invited to take part in a pilot of the system. This includes a wide selection of schools including primary, secondary including the 14-19 sector. This will be an invaluable opportunity for schools involved to contribute towards the development of the system.

The pilot will run from February 2009 to mid May 2009 and the focus of the pilot is to look at the current functionality of Mahara and assess any developmental needs and the feasibility of these being met to ensure the system meets the requirements of our schools and learners.

Some of the key features of Mahara are:

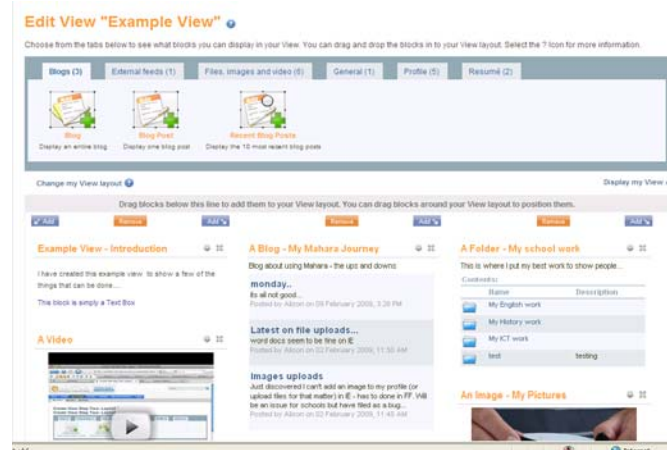
My Files



My Blogs



Once the pupil has uploaded files, which can be in many formats such as word documents, images, videos and sound files, then the pupil has the ability to use those resources to create Views. A user can then assign levels of access to the Views they have created, allowing for flexibility.



It is anticipated the live Mahara service will be offered to schools during the autumn term 2009. A full training programme will also be offered to all schools using the service.

Spotlight on....



Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston.

Mary Cooch tells us about how the school are using Moodle to get and give feedback to the pupil.

Pupil feedback? Self -evaluation? Assessment For Learning?

Moodle is providing the perfect medium for all these vital elements of school life at Our Lady's Preston, with the added bonus that paperwork is cut down to a minimum.

Online Mark book

As more staff begin to see the benefits of using an online mark book instead of a conventional one, Head of Girls' PE Miss Elizabeth Lewis is using hers to enter levels and target levels for each sporting skill tackled. *"I never knew it was this easy to do!"* she said *"and the girls love being able to see at a glance on Moodle where they're up to and what they should be aiming for"*

first name / Surname ↑	netball actual level	netball target level	dance actual level	dance target level	HRF actual level	HRF target level
	3c-7a	3c-7a	3c-7a	3c-7a	3c-7a	3c-7a
Range	5a	5a	6c	5a	5a	5a
	5b	6c	5a	6c	-	6c
	6c	6b	5a	6c	6c	6b
	5a	6c	6c	6c	6c	6c
	5b	5a	5a	5a	5b	5a
	5b	5b	6c	6c	5c	5a
	5c	5b	6c	6c	5b	5a

Target Setting

Taking this one stage further, Deputy Head Mr David Hubbard created a questionnaire which pupils complete twice a year, following a Review meeting with their form teachers.

They're asked to reflect on their current progress and set themselves targets for the coming months. The results are imported into each pupil's report, enabling parents to read their child's feedback

6	Remember drama homework/course work on time
7	Remember science book
8	Improvement target 1 Organisation: I am going to meet my homework dead lines.
9	Grade ☒ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3
10	Improvement target 2 Ask when im not fully understand my science homework

Pupils are also asked to give feedback on their learning and teaching in individual subjects as part of departmental self-evaluation, so English and Media Studies teacher Mr Shaun Forrester got his classes to complete his questionnaire *How Do You rate your English lessons?* and then saved it as a template for other teachers to adapt for their own purposes.

Year 9 options

Year 9 students are about to take part in another paper-saving exercise, courtesy once more of Mr David Hubbard, who this year decided to run the whole Options process via Moodle.

Topic outline

Options 2009

Guidance

Subjects

Choose

In a dedicated Options Course, each Principal Teacher 'sells' their subject in a Moodle webpage, making the most of the multimedia facilities such as video (in Drama) audio (in MFL) and image galleries (in Art).

Parents can now see, hear, watch and read about each subject alongside their child and help them make informed choices.

A questionnaire will be used again for Year 9 to select their options. Mr Hubbard explains *"The advantage of doing it this way is that students' choices can go straight from Moodle into a spreadsheet, simplifying and speeding up the process"*

Online Exercise books

It's not just the questionnaires that are saving the trees! ICT teacher Mr Joe Bell is piloting the use of blogs and forums as online exercise books.

As he explains *"All ICT lessons are now on Moodle, so it made sense that they should keep a record of their work on Moodle too instead of handwriting it. Year 7s use the blog in their profile; at the end of every lesson they type up what they've learned and attach a screenshot. We've set the permissions so the blogs are private so we can give them feedback to help them improve."*

His Year 8 classes are using one-to-one student forums as their online record. *"Using forums is better as it means they can have different forums in different subjects to keep their notes, whereas they only have one blog"*.

The trial is proving very popular, as pupil Sam Gerrard explains *"This is much better than using paper because you can be neater and you don't have to worry about forgetting your book or carrying a heavy bag around – you can get to your work anywhere!"*

blog 9-problems and solutions

by [redacted] - Thursday, 22 January 2009, 11:52 AM

problem 1: When i got feedback one problem was that my background did not really go with my topic.

solution 1: Chose one which went with my topic

problem 2: I needed animations to follow design but could not find it.

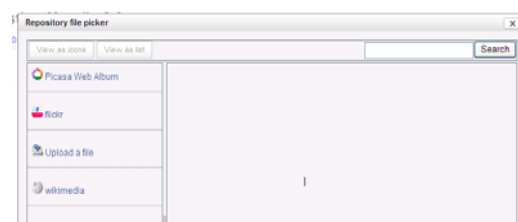
solution 2: So i went home and look for it(then i found it in slide show, custom animation)

Moodle 2.0

As you will be aware CLEO hosted school Moodles always run on the latest stable version which is currently 1.9.3. Moodle 2.0 will be the next version of Moodle released and we are currently focusing on looking at the new features and testing before release to schools. Moodle 2.0 has quite a large number of new features and therefore it is vital we spend time checking stability and testing before release to schools. We will continue to update schools in future newsletters when this may be but we are possibly looking at the end of 2009.

New features of Moodle 2.0 include:

- **Conditional activities.** Moodle 2.0 has the option of conditional activities. This means users cannot progress to a next step without meeting certain criteria. Criteria could include:
 - * number of new posts or replies in a forum made
 - * so many points scored in a quiz
 - * user has viewed a resource a certain number of times
- **Repository API.** This will allow Moodle users to easily bring content into Moodle from external repositories, such as Flickr

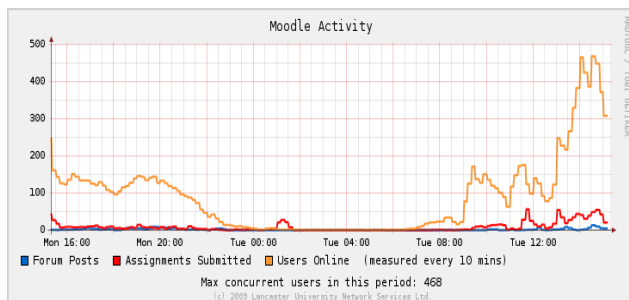


- **Portfolio API.** When portfolios are enabled, every page or major piece of content in Moodle has a little "Save" button beside it which allows the user to send that piece of content, which might be a forum post or an assignment the user has submitted for example, to an E-portfolio. (Mahara). This will give real value to Mahara when used in conjunction with Moodle.

Moodle Statistics

Did you know that...

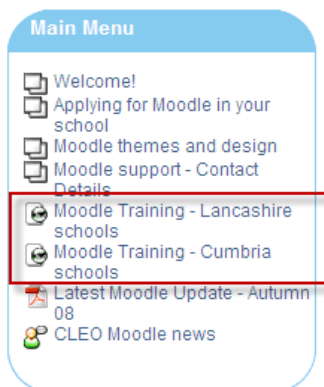
- There are currently 736 Moodles registered on CLEO servers.
- There are currently 175164 users registered on CLEO hosted Moodles.
- The school with the most active courses on the school Moodle is Cardinal Allen High School in Fleetwood, with 588 courses—wow! They also have over 1500 users on their school Moodle.
- The graph below shows Moodle activity across all schools on the 10th February 2009. As you would expect the activity increases during the school day.



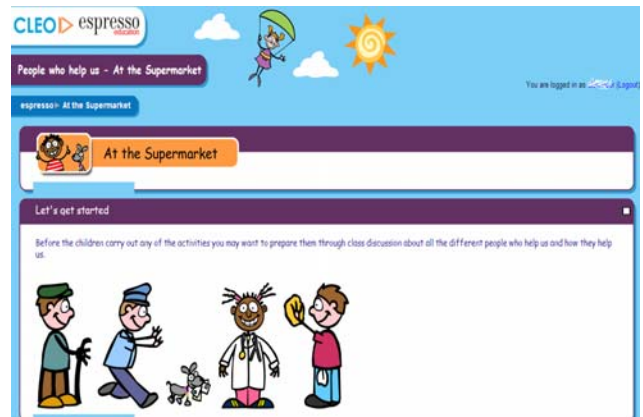
Moodle Training

Moodle training continues are offered at no cost to all schools across Cumbria and Lancashire. Courses run each term and progress from beginners to advanced sessions. A number of new courses have recently been added and these are based around ideas for using moodle in specific curriculum areas such as science, history and Music.

To access information around the courses please see the CLEO Moodle at vle.cleo.net.uk highlighted opposite.



Espresso courses for Moodle



During the spring term 09 CLEO will again be working together with espresso to create another content club module to support teaching and learning at Key Stage 1. This will be the fourth content club module which CLEO and Cumbria and Lancashire schools have been involved with alongside the successful and popular modules, People Who Help Us, Performing Stories and Finding out about Food

The new module will focus on the Cumbria and Lancashire coastline comparing and contrasting different localities. Together with all the usual support materials and video clips this module will contain five Moodle courses providing support materials for teaching and learning and access to content within the module.

The Moodle courses will provide an opportunity to link to some of the popular resources shared within the espresso service including video clips and activities. The courses will be available for schools to add to their own school Moodle site and will therefore be designed for teachers to use with children in school.

