



V1.5.2 Rev.1 (2016-07-06)



Moodle Portal Connector V1.5.2





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1. Overview

The present EvaSys Moodle Portal Connector (called 'Block' in Moodle terminology) provides Moodle users with the functionality of displaying links to online surveys which have been created for student Moodle users in EvaSys. Making use of SingleSignOn, the students do not have to enter passwords manually in order to take part in surveys.

The internationalization interface of Moodle is supported. In the present version English and German language sets are available.

The Moodle plugin is tested on Moodle 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.0 and 3.1. in order to work properly, the PHP5 SOAP extension must be activated.

Please note: since version 1.4 of the integration the PHP cURL module needs to be activated too.

EvaSys 5.1 (1952+) or higher is required in order for the integration to work.

2. Network preparations

Since the Moodle server will communicate via Web Service calls with the EvaSys server, it's essential to make sure that there's a valid network route between both server systems.

Technically EvaSys communicates via HTTP or HTTPS. By default this means that the ports 80 or 443 are used for communication with Moodle.

In order to implement a seamless installation process, it's recommended to check on this network route with the IT administration department in charge of the actual Moodle and EvaSys servers.





3. EvaSys preparations

Moodle Block is using the web service of EvaSys and it has to be configured as an administrator.

These settings can be accessed from the System Settings -> Configuration -> Authentication menu point under the Web Service Settings tab.

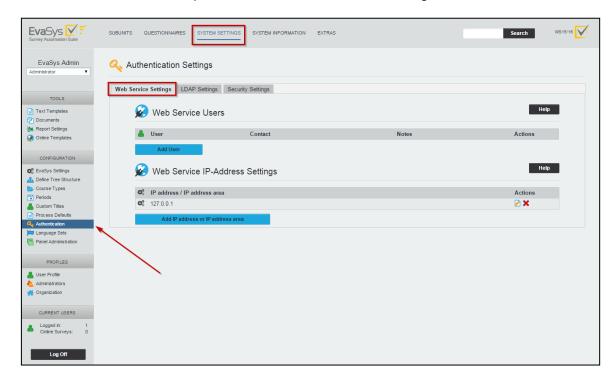


Figure 1 - Location of the Web Service Settings menu item

3.1. Web Service Users

Connecting Moodle web servers have to be added via the Web Service Users section. This area contains a list of existing web service users and an [Add User] button.

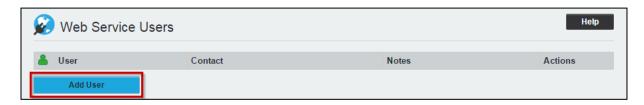


Figure 2 - Web Service Users





3.2. Adding a new web service user

Login name (default: soap) and password (default: server) are mandatory (later to be configured in the moodle block); other fields are optional when creating a new web service user.

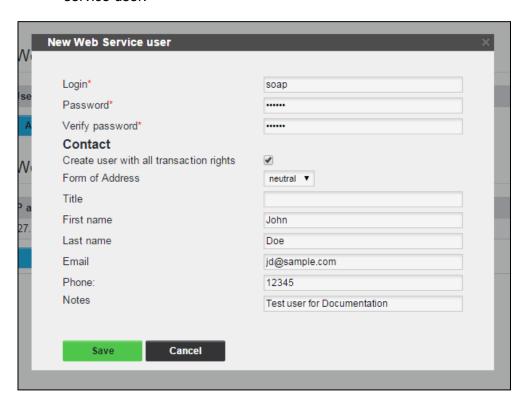


Figure 3 - Adding new web service user

3.3. Configuring transaction rights

It is important to create new web service users with all transaction rights.



Figure 4 - Web Service Transaction Rights icon





3.4. Editing and removing a web service user

Existing web service users can be edited or removed using the **[User Settings]** and the **[Delete User]** icons located in the Actions column.



Figure 5 - Actions column

3.5. Web Service IP-address settings

IP addresses of the connecting Moodle web servers have to be specified at the Web Service IP-address settings. If a connecting web server's IP address is missing from the list, no web service transaction will be allowed to that server.



Figure 6 - Web Service IP address settings

3.6. Adding IP address or address area



Figure 7 - Specifying IP address area

IP addresses can be added individually or a range can be specified which includes the connecting server's IP address.

It is important that connecting web servers and the EvaSys web server(s) can communicate using the specified IP address or IP address area.





3.7. Editing and removing IP addresses

IP addresses or IP address areas can be edited or removed using the **[Edit IP address]** and the **[Delete IP address]** icons located in the Actions column.



Figure 8 - Actions column of the Web Service IP-address settings

3.8. Editing the WSDL file

Finally, locate the EvaSys WSDL file and enter the server's IP (the EvaSys server) at the very end of the file.

Replace 'localhost' with the actual IP or DNS name in this line:

<SOAP-address location="http://localhost/evasys/services/SoapServer-V51.php"/>

Default path to the WSDL file if Apache web server is used:

c:\apache\htdocs\evasys\services\soapserver-v51.wsdl

Default path to the WSDL file if IIS web server is used:

c:\inetpub\wwwroot\evasys\services\soapserver-v51.wsdl

Please note, that the v5.1 WSDL file must be used with newer versions of EvaSys as well.





4. Installation in Moodle 3.1

The plugin installation is conducted via copying the installation package directly into the file system. The destination directory is:

[MOODLE INSTALLATION DIRECTORY]\blocks

After performing the copy operation, log in as administrator and you will see the notification screen with a list of the new plugins:

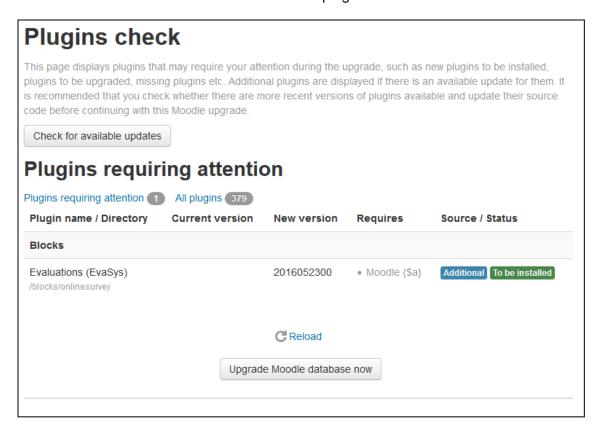


Figure 9 - Plugin installation

Click [Upgrade Moodle database now] on the bottom of the page to proceed with the installation:

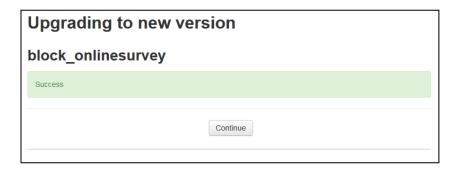


Figure 10 - Installation complete





Click the button labeled [Continue] to get to the next step of the installation:

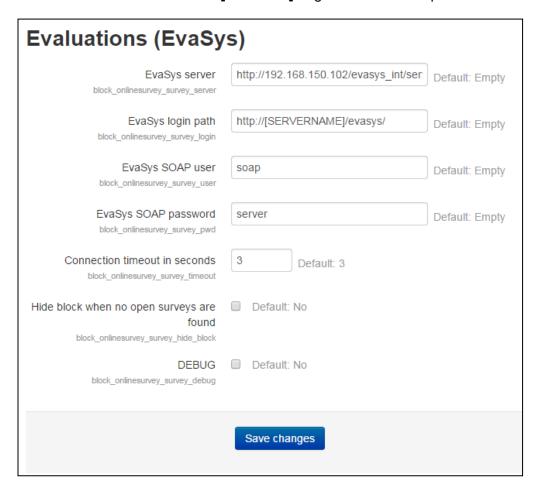


Figure 11 - Block settings dialog

The option descriptions follow:

EvaSys server: URL of the web service description file of your EvaSys installation (http://[SERVERNAME]/evasys/services/soapserver-v51.wsdl)

EvaSys login: URL of the EvaSys online survey login

(http://[SERVERNAME]/evasys/)

EvaSys SOAP user: User name of the EvaSys SOAP user (default 'soap')

EvaSys SOAP password: Password of the EvaSys SOAP user (default 'server')

EvaSys connection timeout: max response time of the EvaSys server

Hide block when no open surveys are found: hides the block in case no open online surveys are found





DEBUG: Turn on / off error reporting on the user interface

Click on the [Save changes] button to continue.

The block can be added to the user interface by turning on editing by the **[Turn editing on]** button and selecting the "Evaluations (EvaSys)" option in the "Add a block" menu.



Figure 12 - Turning editing on

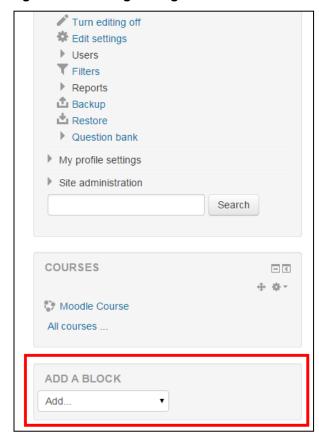


Figure 13 - Adding a block





EVALUATIONS (EVASYS)

Connection to EvaSys server tested successfully.

Figure 14 - Block shown on the administrator's front page





5. Administrator's functionalities

From the administrator's perspective, the block only checks whether the connection to the EvaSys server can be established. If problems occur these are logged to the log file (provided that logging is activated) and an error message is displayed.



Figure 15 - Connection error message





6. Student's functionalities

From a student users' perspective there are four different status options concerning the plugin module:

Display of link(s) to open online survey(s) in EvaSys.



Figure 16 - Online survey link

No open online evaluations.

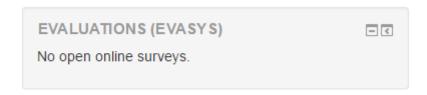


Figure 17 - No open evaluations

- Technical server problems → the module is not displayed
- The block is set to be hidden → the block is not displayed





7. How to connect surveys between EvaSys and Moodle

The link between a student, a survey and EvaSys is achieved by using the student's email address which is stored in Moodle and by verifying which of the open online surveys running on the EvaSys server contain the same participant's email address. Therefore it is necessary to import participants' data into EvaSys.

Participants are imported by means of a simple CSV file format which includes a course ID followed by an email address for each line.

Example:

MA05Wiw2; person01@localserver.com

MA05Wiw2; person02@localserver.com

MA05Wiw2; person03@localserver.com

MA05Con; person01@localserver.com

MA05Con; person03@localserver.com

MA05Con; person04@localserver.com

This example shows two courses with three and four participants each. Some of the participants are attending both courses, some only one of both.

Before importing the participants' data into EvaSys you first have to setup the subunits, instructors and courses. It is essential that the course IDs set for the courses are identical to those being used in the participant import file since they serve as a reference.

Please refer to chapter B 2.2.3 of the EvaSys Administrator Guide for more information about the participants' data import process.

Existing online surveys will not be visible in Moodle if they are set to "closed". You can lock or unlock each survey individually or for a whole subunit. This helps you to control the visibility of available online surveys in the Moodle portal.





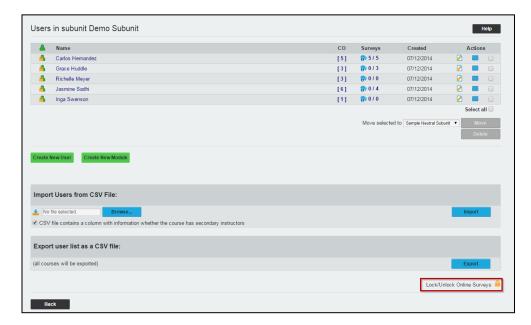


Figure 18 - Lock / Unlock surveys in EvaSys

Alternatively the duration of the survey can be defined by using the function "time-controlled surveys".

In case of configured scheduled tasks, the survey will not be displayed in Moodle before the survey start date and after the survey end date.

Please refer to chapter B 3.10 of the EvaSys Administrator Guide for more information about the scheduled tasks.





8. Installation pitfalls

In this section common installation pitfalls will be described, along with suggested solutions.

8.1. Enable SOAP extension

Enable PHP SOAP Extension on in the php.ini file.

```
654
       ;extension=php shmop.dll
655
       ;extension=php smtp.dll
656
       ;extension=php snmp.dll
657
       extension=php soap.dll
658
       extension=php sockets.dll
659
       extension=php_sqlite.dll
      ;extension=php ssh2.dll
       ;extension=php stats.dll
661
662
       ;extension=php sybase ct.dll
```

Figure 19 - Enabling the PHP SOAP Extension

Restart server after changing settings in the php.ini file.

8.2. Configuring the EvaSys Block

Invalid configurations of the Evaluations EvaSys block can cause errors similar or the same as displayed on these screenshots:



Figure 20 - WSDL error messages

In order to fix these errors, double check your block settings and check whether the WSDL path is specified correctly.

Locate the EvaSys block.





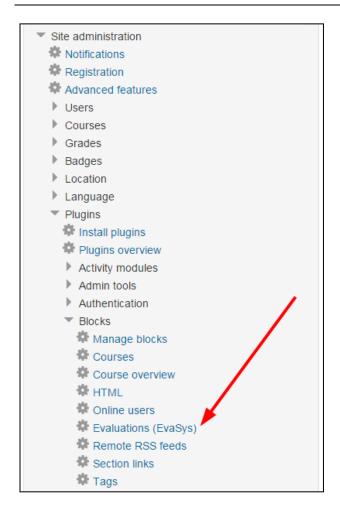


Figure 21 – Locating the Block

Configure the EvaSys Block.

EvaSys server should point to:

http://[SERVERNAME]/evasys/services/soapserver-v51.wsdl





9. Notes on contacting support regarding Moodle Portal Connector

In order to be able to trace the problem efficiently, Electric Paper support needs various log files from the servers involved in the integration. When contacting Electric Paper support please take the following steps and provide the log files listed below:

- Enable "Debug mode" on the EvaSys server (please refer to the EvaSys administrators manual for details)
- Enable "Debug mode" in the Moodle block settings
- Perform test run with student account
- Make notes (screenshot of possible) date and time of your test run and the error message displayed
- Disable "Debug mode" on the EvaSys server

The following log files should to be provided when contacting Electric Paper support:

File name	Default location
access.log	C:\apache\apache\logs (if Apache web server is used)
W3SVC1\exyymmdd.log*	C:\Windows\System32\LogFiles
soapserver.log	C:\apache\htdocs\evasys\data\logs (if Apache web server is used)
	C:\inetpub\wwwroot\evasys\data\logs (if IIS web server is used)
MoodleBock.log**	Directory name provided in the settings dialog

- *: These files are actually named after the date of their creation.
- **: File name provided in the dialog settings