Form Plug-ins

This document details the intended functionality of the form plug-ins whilst I will endeavour to fully document how the plug-ins will work there may be grey areas that will change or need further thought before implementing.

What are form plug-ins?

A form plug-in is an element that can be added to a report form. Most if not all form plug-ins will actually be html elements.

How will they be coded?

The form plug-ins will be developed by extending the ilp\_form\_plugin class and overriding some of the functions in the class (functions that must be overridden will have code to halt the report script if they are not overridden). The actual html needed to display the plug-in will be held in a function called render this will be called by the report form. Each form plug-in will need to specify two tables one to hold the data on the actual form details for the report e.g label, size etc (this will be specific to the plug-in) and one to hold the data being saved again this will be specific to the element but one of fields is expected to be called ‘value’. The plug-ins will use an overridden install function to specify the code will be executed to create the tables. The install function may also be used to perform any other setup tasks needed by the plug-in. If needed a form plug-in should override the validation class to specify the code needed to validate the plug-in. Each form plug-in will also need to extend the ilp\_plugin\_mform class, this will be used to create a element creation form in which users will specify values that will be used by the instance of the plug-in in a specific report.

How will a plug-in be installed?

Plug-ins will be installed by placing the relevant files into the ilp/resource/form directory. They will automatically be installed when a user visits the global configuration page of the ilp.

How will a plug-in be used in report form creation?

In practice the report form will be initially coded to work in a similar method to the feedback module currently in Moodle. Users will be given a simple drop list containing the names all of the enabled form plug-ins in Moodle and will be able to select the plug-in they want to add to their report. Once a plug-in is selected the user will be taken to the element creation form for that plug-in where they will specify the specifics of that plug-in for that instance. Once element creation is complete the user will be taken back to the form and will be able to form and the element will be displayed in the preview of the form. It is also intended that the elements will be movable in the preview in the same manner as form elements may be moved around in the feedback module.