Dual Code
an elearning company

BigBlueButton Plug-in for Moodle

Administrative Guide

July 1, 2011

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About the Author

Dual Code Inc., headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, is a leading developer of eLearning solutions. We design, develop and host Corporate Universities and eLearning courses for organizations that understand the value of a well-trained workforce.

Our award-winning Corporate University solution combined with our multimedia online courses provide value to our clients by:

- Saving them thousands of dollars by reducing the cost required to deliver courses
- Enabling anytime, anywhere learning, thereby accommodating people's busy schedules and remote locations
- Reducing the length of classroom workshops and making information more readily available
- Positioning the agency as cutting edge in its use of technology

To remain a leader in the eLearning industry, Dual Code has assembled a team of skilled individuals experienced in all aspects of eLearning, including:

- Professional instructional designers who ensure every course we deliver leverages eLearning best practices such as the dual coding theory.
- Graphic designers who design original graphics and technical illustrations to give your courses a professional look.
- Multimedia experts who pride themselves in delivering interactive, attention-grabbing courses designed for your target audience.
- Creative and technical writers who can transform your raw course material to crystal-clear instructions and engaging scripts.
- Professional voice-over artists who can clearly communicate the course content to your students.
- Seasoned project managers who guarantee projects are delivered on time, within budget and according to your needs.

Our commitment to innovation and customer service is unparalleled. We recognize that our success is highly dependent on our ability to continually innovate and provide our clients with user-friendly, leading-edge eLearning solutions. Dual Code operates on the business principle that *we are only successful if our clients are successful*.

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Trademarks

Dual Code is a trademark of Dual Code Inc.

BigBlueButton is a registered trademark of The BigBlueButton Foundation.

Moodle is a registered trademark of Moodle Trust.

Installing the BigBlueButton Plug-in

Compatibility

The BigBlueButton plug-in has been verified by Dual Code Inc. with BigBlueButton 0.63/0.64 and Moodle 1.9.7+ with PHP 5. It is not compatible with a Moodle installation running PHP 4.

Some Moodle administrators have reported successfully deploying the plug-in with older versions of Moodle with PHP 5.

Installation

To install the BigBlueButton plug-in on your Moodle server, please follow this procedure:

1. Download the latest BigBlueButton plug-in for Moodle at the following location: http://www.dualcode.com/bigbluebutton/

2. Upload the bigbluebutton.zip file to your Moodle server

3. Unzip the bigbluebutton.zip file and move the two folders (e.g. “mod” and “lang” folders) and their content to the root directory of your Moodle server. The root directory of the Moodle server is typically `/usr/share/moodle` but this location may vary depending on your installation

4. Once steps 1-3 above have been completed, it is safe to remove the original bigbluebutton.zip file (optional)

5. Login the Moodle site as an administrator and click on the “Notifications” link in the “Site Administration” menu. This will install the plug-in, including the required database tables

Configuration

While you are still logged in the Moode server as an administrator, go to Modules -> Activities -> BigBlueButton. Here, you will be given two options.

A. “I am hosting my own BigBlueButton server”
B. “My BigBlueButton server is hosted by Dual Code”

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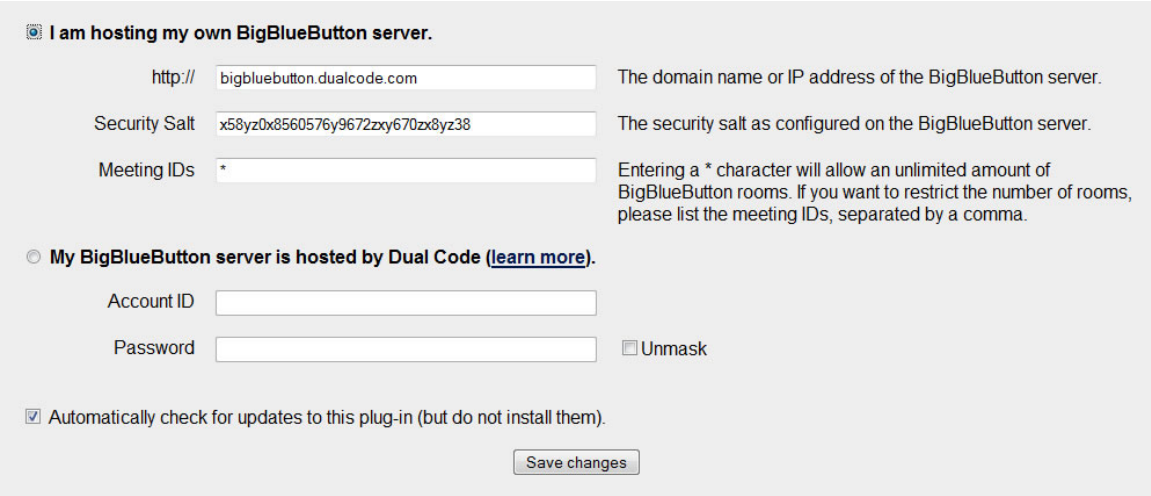
Option A: I am hosting my own BigBlueButton server



1. In the first field labeled “http://”, enter the domain name or IP address of your BigBlueButton server. Do **not** enter the leading “http://”

2. In the second field labeled “Security Salt”, enter the security salt for the BigBlueButton server. This security salt can usually be found in a file on the BigBlueButton server located here:

   `var/lib/tomcat6/webapps/bigbluebutton/WEB-INF/classes/bigbluebutton.properties`

   The property itself is called `beans.dynamicConferenceService.securitySalt`

3. In the third field labeled “Meeting IDs”, enter an asterisk (*) to allow for an unlimited number of meeting rooms to be created. If you need to control how many rooms are available (for performance or security reasons), you can restrict the number of rooms by entering specifc Meeting IDs, separated by a comma.

4. Near the bottom of the page is an option that allows you to “Automatically check for updates to this plug-in”. When this option is enabled, a message will appear at the top of this page when a newer version of the plug-in is available. This message is strictly informational. The system will not try to update the plug-in automatically. Only Moodle administrators can install or update the plug-in.

5. Click on the “Save changes” button.

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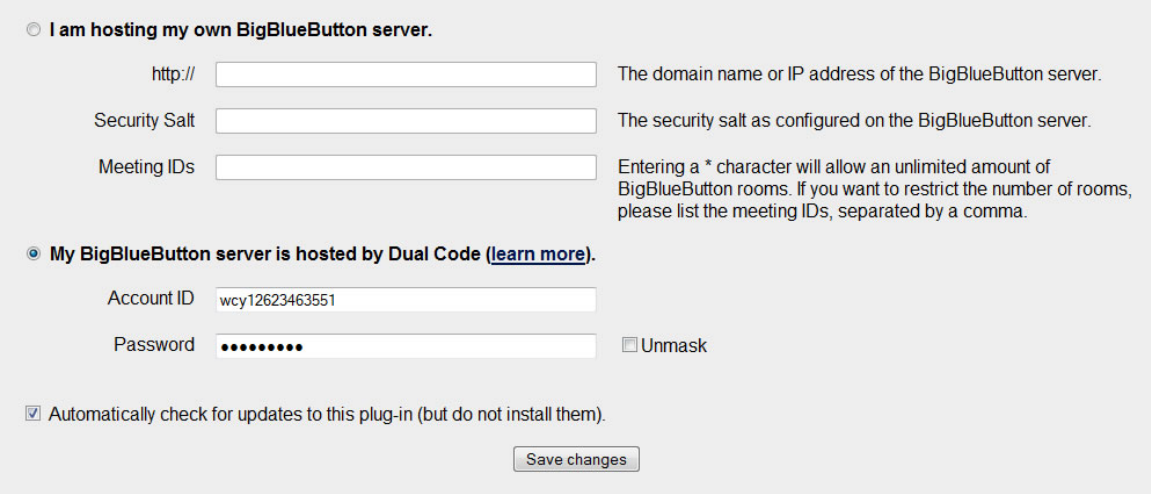
Option B: My BigBlueButton server is hosted by Dual Code



Dual Code offers commercial hosting services for BigBlueButton. These hosted services are a great alternative for clients who want to be up and running within minutes, prefer to try BigBlueButton before installing their own servers, or simply don't want to deal with the burder of installing, upgrading and maintaining their BigBlueButton servers. To register for a commercially hosted BigBlueButton server, please visit http://bigbluebutton.dualcode.com/signup.php

Once registered, you will receive via email an Account ID and Password.

1. In the field labeled "Account ID", enter your Dual Code account ID.

2. In the field labeled "Password", enter your Dual Code password.

3. Near the bottom of the page is an option that allows you to "Automatically check for updates to this plug-in". When this option is enabled, a message will appear at the top of this page when a newer version of the plug-in is available. This message is strictly informational. The system will not try to update the plug-in automatically. Only Moodle administrators can install or update the plug-in.

4. Click on the "Save changes" button.

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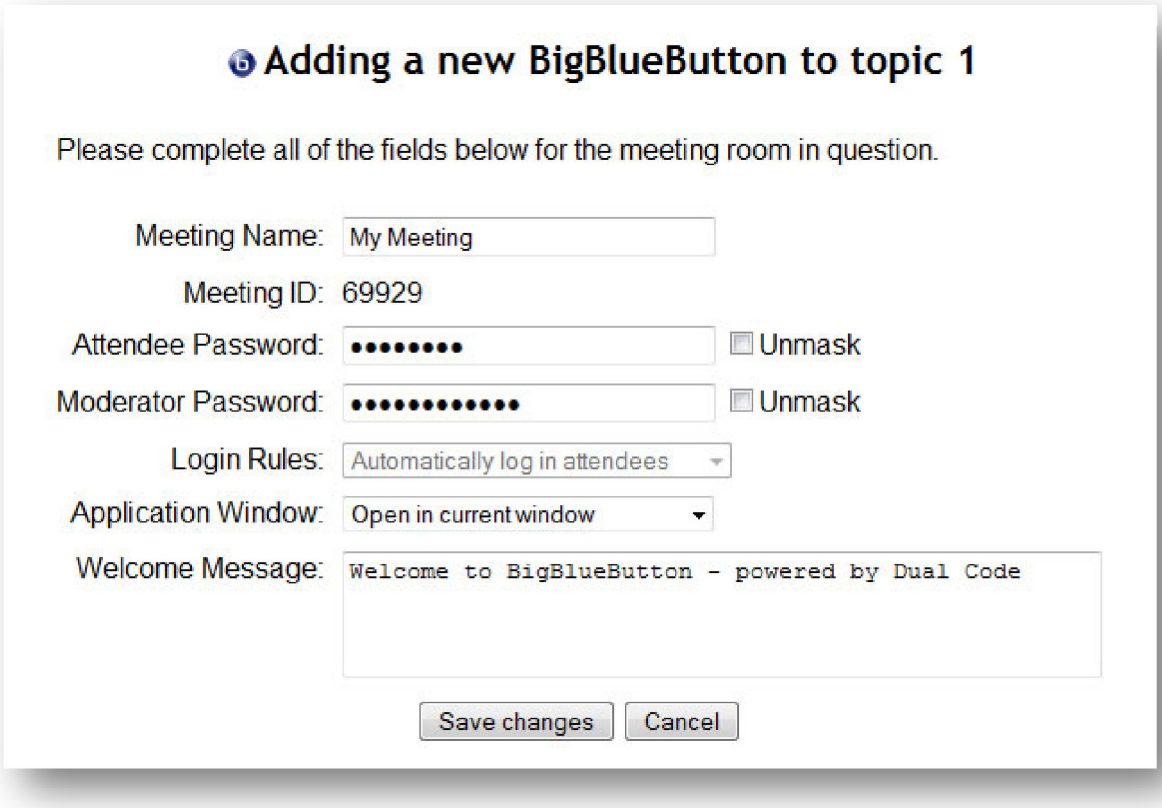
Adding Meeting Rooms

Once the BigBlueButton plug-in is installed successfully, go to any course as a teacher. Switch to editing mode. A new option called “BigBlueButton” should appear under the “Add an activity…” pulldown menu. Selecting the “BigBlueButton” option will allow you to add a new meeting room.

Configuration



Configure the new meeting room as per the following:

Meeting Name	The name for the meeting room. This name will appear in Moodle, generally as a hyperlink allowing attendees to login the meeting room.
Meeting ID	The ID for the meeting room. This ID will be the unique identifier on the BigBlueButton server.
Attendee Password	This is the password that attendees (or students) will use to login the meeting room. Please note that the plug-in automatically logs in attendees and therefore, users will not need to know this password.

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Moderator Password	This is the password that moderators (or teachers) will use to login the meeting room. Please note that the plug-in automatically logs in moderators and therefore, users will not need to know this password.
Login Rules	At the moment, “Automatically log in attendees” is the only available option. This means that users do not need to know the password in order to log in the BigBlueButton meeting rooms. Once authenticated in Moodle, users will automatically join the BigBlueButton meetings by simply clicking on a hyperlink.
Application Window	“Open in current window” will launch the BigBlueButton session in the current browser window. “Launch in new browser window” will open a new browser window. This second option is useful when you want to run a BigBlueButton meeting and let attendees navigate the Moodle course at the same time.
Welcome Message	This is the default message that will appear in BigBlueButton’s chat window when attendees log in.

Once the BigBlueButton meeting room is configured, click on the “Save changes” button. Moderators and attendees who are enrolled in the course can now join the BigBlueButton meeting.

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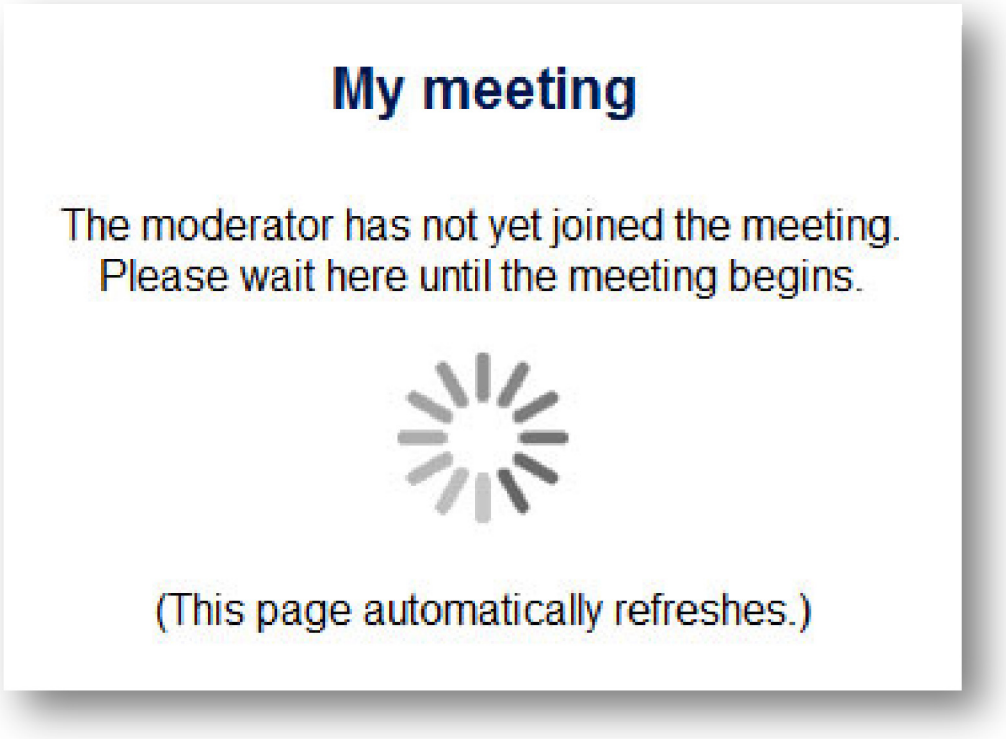
Meeting Room Lobby

Please note that attendees cannot join the session until a moderator is in the meeting room. If attendees try to join the session, they will see a message as per the following:



Once the moderator joins the BigBlueButton session, the attendees will automatically be redirected to the meeting room.

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What's New

The following tables summarizes what's new in the release of this plug-in. The version number of the installed plug-in can be found on the Modules -> Activities -> BigBlueButton configuration page.

Plug-in Version	New Features and Updates
20100205	**First release**
20100304	**Lobby:** Attendees cannot enter a meeting room unless the moderator has already joined. Once the moderator joins the meeting, the attendees are automatically redirected to the meeting room.
20100405	**LogoutURL:** When the user logs out of the BigBlueButton meeting, he/she is automatically redirected to the last visited page in Moodle. (This functionality requires BigBlueButton v0.64) **Check for Automatic Updates:** The system automatically checks for a newer version of the BigBlueButton plug-in. For security reasons, the system does not try to install the plug-in automatically. Installation remains a manual procedure that can only be done by the Moodle administrator.

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