

## THE HISTORY OF MOODLE AND E-LEARNING PLATFORMS

Moodle's Founder and Lead Developer Martin Dougimas grew up in the Australian Outback in the 1970's. He took lessons from the School of the Air, giving him from a young age an insight into distance learning.

Later when he was studying at Curtin University he had an experience with WebCT which prompted him to investigate an alternative method of online teaching. In 1999 he started trialling early prototypes of a new LMS, the experiences of which formed the basis for his paper Improving the Effectiveness of online Learning. He registered the word 'Moodle' as a [trademark of Moodle Pty Ltd](#).

Research continued: the first ever Moodle site was Peter Taylor's at Curtin University , with Martin making the first post on his own Moodle.com site in November 2001.

By the end of 2001, Moodle could be downloaded via CVS (Git arrived in 2010 and replaced CVS in 2013) and basic installation documentation was available. **Moodle 1.0** was released in August 2002. Users were discussing Moodle on a new forum, translating Moodle into different languages and creating themes. A year later, the first contributed module (workshop) was released and [Moodle.org](#) became the community arm of Moodle, with [Moodle.com](#) representing the commercial aspect.

Moodle grew quickly: the first ever Moodle Moot was held in Oxford in 2004 and companies started applying to become Moodle partners.

With improved documentation and new certification , Moodle had established itself by 2007 as a leading and [award-winning open source LMS](#). From 1000 registered sites in 2004, it had gone to half a million users in 2008 and over a million users in 2010, with over 50 Moodle partners. Its translation repository **AMOS** held over 100 languages.

In July 2015, alongside a major redesign of Moodle.com, a new initiative was announced: [MoodleCloud](#) offering free, HQ-managed hosting.

Throughout 2016, HQ worked on improving Moodle's User eXperience (UX) by forming the first UX team and also releasing a fresh new default theme - the Boost theme.

By 2017, [statistics on Moodle.net](#) indicated there were over 100 million registered users for Moodle.

In late 2017, Moodle received a **significant angel investment** , fueling growth and innovation. The journey with the community, Partners and global users will be an exciting one, as Martin shared in his MoodleMoot Australia 2017 keynote.

The first [Global MoodleMoot](#) took place in Barcelona in November 2019.

In March 2020, registered users passed 190 million on over 145,000 sites.

In May 2020, the **Moodle Educator Certification program** was launched, to certify experienced Moodle-using teachers, and progress was made on a new resource-sharing site MoodleNet