



Cyber-Learning Activities in HKU Information Tech. Services, W.K. Kwan



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The University of Hong Kong
Information Technology Services



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Information Tech. Services (ITS)

- For more than 40 years, known as Computer Centre (CC)
- During last few years, gradually taking up more “non-computational” services in HKU
- Phone (analogue, Digital), classroom services, elearning...
- Formally name changed to ITS



Moodle (1)

- (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moodle>)
- Acronym for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment
- A free software e-learning platform, also known as a Learning Management System, or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
- A free, open-source PHP web application for producing modular internet-based courses that support a modern social constructionist pedagogy



Moodle (2)

- A free, open-source platform developed in Australia (<https://moodle.org>) , but professional support / customization / consultation all have to be paid (moodle.com)
- As of June 2013 it had a user base of 83,008 registered and verified sites, serving 70,696,570 users in 7.5+ million courses with 1.2+ million teachers



- University course organization is a complex entity
 - Teacher
 - Course (code)
 - Student
 - Resource (say classroom)
- One teacher may teach many courses
- One course may have several teachers and many students
- One student may enroll many courses taught by the same or different teachers
- One classroom can have 1 course at a time, and one student can only sit at a single course at a time



Moodle (4)

Moodle can be used in many types of environments such as in education, training and development, and business settings.

Some typical features of Moodle are:

- Assignment submission
- Discussion forum
- Files download
- Grading
- Moodle instant messages
- Online calendar
- Online news and announcement (College and course level)
- Online quiz
- Wiki

Many freely available third-party Moodle plugins make use of this infrastructure



Teaching & Learning Platform at HKU

- Moodle (<http://moodle-support.hku.hk/cms/?q=teachers/index>)
 - HKU has adopted Moodle as its centrally managed learning management system (LMS).
 - ITS is responsible for implement and maintaining the Moodle h/w and s/w system platform
 - The system allows you to create powerful, flexible, and engaging online learning content for teaching support
 - ITS provide loads of support resources such as FAQs, online user guides and a series of short video tutorials to help you get started with Moodle. These resources will be updated as new features are being introduced or updated
 - Help/assistance availability
 - eLearning Team of ITS
 - Faculty's / Department's eLearning officers
 - CITE | Centre for Information Technology in Education (courseware design)
- Moodle user guides for teachers
 - <http://moodle-support.hku.hk/cms/?q=teachers/userguides>

Degree structure in HKU

- HKU is a research University, we have:
 - Reaching-related staff
 - Research-only staff (RA, RAP, PDF)
- For student intake
 - Undergraduate degree curriculum
 - Postgraduate by teaching (TPG)
 - Postgraduate by research (RPG)
 - Non-degree professional/non-professional (SPACE, a big organization within HKU)



- Moodle therefore is now extensive utilized in all teaching activities (BSc, MSc, SPACE...) but NOT that as much in research-related curriculum (MPhil. / PhD)
- No HK EDISON (Not in HKU, not in other HK Univs. and not in other HKSAR institutes)

- The ownership/royalty of the courseware
 - Belong to the University perpetually?
 - Belong to the teacher perpetually?
 - Belong to the University only while the teacher is employed in the University?

- A kind of apprenticeship
- Every research should be distinct, but there is something in common
 - Research area/target
 - Research philosophy/school-of-believe
 - Research tool/equipment
- How to build up the repository of knowledge?