As business organizations look to save costs by considering affordable open source Learning Management Systems, Moodle invariably presents itself as a great solution option for induction or compliance led e-learning programs due to its **flexibility**, **lack of license** or **vendor lock-in**, ‘**customizability**’ and **product longevity** (the open source code can never be taken away, unlike proprietary software, which is licensed for a fixed period and is expensive to modify). Moodle is hugely popular with a global user community including some of the world’s biggest business and not-for-profit brands.

Moodle’s source code (which is open source) is written in PHP , a common, free scripting language that was originally developed for building dynamic Web pages. The Moodle Trust oversees the platform’s core development, but the software is designed to be highly modular, and numerous developers and organizations have created plug-ins (Such as Zoom and Adobe Connect) and other add-ons to increase functionality over the years. Moodle is thought to be the most popular of the open-source LMS systems in use today. According to the Moodle Trust, as of the end of October 2010, there were more than **49,600 registered sites** using Moodle to offer almost **4 million courses** to 38 million users worldwide.

Much of Moodle’s popularity rests on its ease of use. As an LMS, it provides a robust toolset, particularly thanks to plug-in modules (eX that greatly increase its functionality. Moodle’s feature set includes:

* Site management and administrator tools;
* A variety of user management options, including multiple authentication options, online profile building, and role-based assignments and permissions;
* Registration and enrollment tools and plug-ins;
* Course management and communications options, including chat, forums, wikis, assessment builders, and more.

Despite all these features, Moodle’s core design is meant to be as simple and efficient as possible. This strategy has paid dividends in the form of high satisfaction ratings among Moodle users.

Research from the “eLearning Guild” has found that its members rate Moodle tops among LMS platforms when it comes to satisfaction with ease of use, ease of installation, and time to implement.

Moodle also has its detractors. Some power LMS users complain that its interface design doesn’t offer enough options for rebranding and customizing its look and feel without extensive coding work. Users also argue that Moodle relies too heavily on third-party add-ons to create functionality rather than including it as part of the core product. This can increase the workload for maintaining and updating the software as new versions are released. Moodle lacks a full-featured competency development and management toolset, which is required by many large corporate clients. Although there are workarounds that can allow some competency tracking and reporting, Moodle is hurt in certain markets where robust competency management is a requirement. Despite these limitations, in the right setting, Moodle is an ideal LMS solution. Its ease-of-use focus makes it **ideal for lower resource organizations**, such as schools, nonprofits, small businesses, and local government agencies.

Moodle is also **perfect for rapid deployment** needs, where an organization requires an LMS to deliver and track a training or learning program on short notice or on a project basis.

Verbat can provide a customized solution using Moodle for as little as 10-15% more over the quoted cost.