

Default Courses

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Overview

This custom local plugin allows an administrator to choose one or more courses that are considered “default” courses. All users in Moodle (apart from the Moodle site administrator and guest accounts) will be enrolled as students in these selected course(s). The plugin takes advantage of the Moodle CRON to check for new users that need to be enrolled in the default courses.

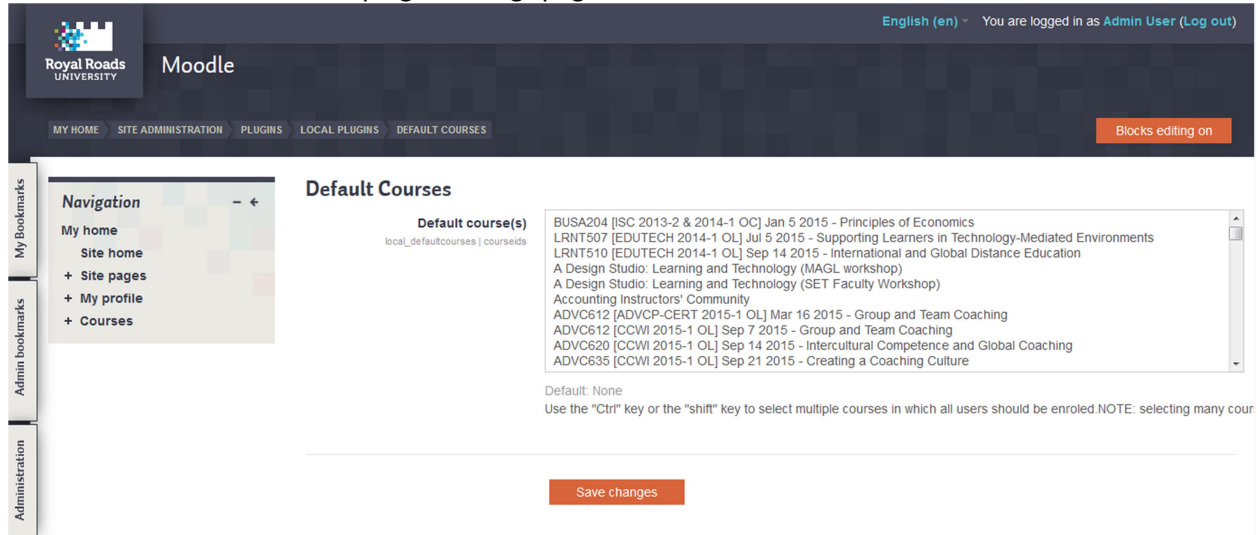
Notable Behaviours

Users

- All users have ‘student’ access to all of the courses defined in the Default Courses plugin settings

Administrators

- A new ‘Default Courses’ local plugin settings page is visible in the Site Administration block



- Use the <Ctrl> key and/or the <Shift> to multi-select courses
- No feature has been developed to un-enrol users from the default course(s) if they are unselected in the settings screen. This is intentional; the system cannot know which users to unenrol and which ones to keep.

Installation

1. Navigate to the *local* folder in the Moodle structure
 - a. `cd /var/web/wwwroot/moodle/local`
2. Export the installation package from GitHub
 - a. `git clone https://github.com/royalroads/defaultcourses.git`
3. Untar the installation files in the *local* folder
 - a. `cd defaultcourses`
4. Log onto the Moodle instance with an admin account and press the “Upgrade” button when the “Plugins check” screen appears
 - a. You should see “local_defaultcourses” Success followed by a “Continue” button – click it
 - b. You should see “New settings – Default Courses”
 - i. The administrator has the option to select one or more courses here or later through the Site administration block – Plugins->Local plugins->Default Courses
 - ii. Click “Save changes” to continue
5. Set the task schedule.
 - a. Navigate to Site Administration → Server → Scheduled tasks.
 - b. Locate “Default Courses”
 - c. The default interval is hourly on the hour. Click the gear icon for Default Courses to change this schedule.

Testing

Test cases setup

Choose an existing course (or create a new course) that doesn't have anyone enrolled in it as a default course. As a Site Administrator set the task schedule for Default Courses to run every minute.

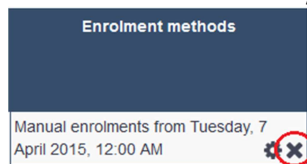
1. In the Settings block go to Site administration → Server → Scheduled Tasks
2. Locate "Default Courses" and click the gear icon.
3. Change the Minute field from 0 to *
4. Make sure Hour, Day, Month, and Day of Week are also set to *.
5. Click "Save changes".

NOTE: This should be changed back once testing is complete.

Test cases

1. Test initial enrolment
 - a. Login to Moodle with an account that has Site Administration privileges
 - b. View the enrolment for a "candidate" course for default course
 - i. Navigate to the course
 - ii. View the enrolment by clicking on the "Enrolled users" menu item under Course administration->Users in the Settings block
 - iii. **No users should be enrolled**
 - c. Set the default course
 - i. Navigate to Site administration->Plugins->Local plugins->Default Courses
 - ii. Select the course from the list of courses
 - iii. Click save changes
 - iv. **NOTE: to add all users to a course takes a very long time (hours).**
 - d. Wait for the scheduled task to run.
 - i. If you set the scheduled task to run every minute, you will need to wait at least 60 seconds. If not, you will have to wait until the next scheduled run.
 - e. Confirm enrolment
 - i. Navigate to the course
 - ii. View the enrolment by clicking on the "Enrolled users" menu item under Course administration->Users in the Settings block
 - iii. **All users should be enrolled (apart from the guest and admin account)**

2. Test deleting a student's enrolment from a course defined as a default course
 - a. In the enrolment screen of the default course chosen in test case 1, delete 2-3 of the student enrolments
 - i. On the far right hand side of the screen click the "x" icon under the "Enrolment methods" column for the students you want to un-enrol.



- ii. Make note of the names of the students for later verification
- b. Wait for the scheduled task to run.
 - i. If you set the scheduled task to run every minute, you will need to wait at least 60 seconds. If not, you will have to wait until the next scheduled run.

You should also see that 2-3 (depending on how many users were un-enrolled) users will have been enrolled in the course you chose as a default course

- c. Confirm enrolment
 - i. Navigate to the course
 - ii. View the enrolment by clicking on the “Enrolled users” menu item under Course administration->Users in the Settings block
 - iii. Search for the 2-3 users you un-enrolled
 - iv. The users should be enrolled including all other users (apart from the guest and admin account)

Algorithms / Code Changes

Database changes

The plugin does not make any database definition changes.

On install or upgrade and first run, it adds the following rows to the {config_plugins} table:

plugin	name	value (typical)	Meaning
local_defaultcourses	courseids	3	A list of course IDs of default courses.
local_defaultcourses	lastcron	144691202	Unix epoch time of last time defaultcourses was run.
local_defaultcourses	version	2015110200	The plugin version.

Code changes

This plugin makes no changes to core Moodle functionality.

Defaultcourses plugin files are stored in the /local/defaultcourses folder

- lang/en/local_defaultcourses.php – language strings specific to defaultcourses plugin
- classes/task/defaultcourses.php – Defines what happens when the Default Courses scheduled task runs.
- db/tasks.php – Specifies default settings for the scheduled task, in particular the default schedule time and frequency.
- tests/dc_test.php – Unit tests for use with PHPUnit.
- lib.php – defaultcourses specific functions
- settings.php – handles defaultcourses plugin settings (choice of default courses)
- version.php – Moodle version management file

Settings

Under the Site administration -> Plugins -> Local plugins -> Default Courses

Choose the course(s) in which all users should be enrolled (local_defaultcourses|courseids) – defines which courses will have all users enrolled as students