Default Courses

Contents

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.
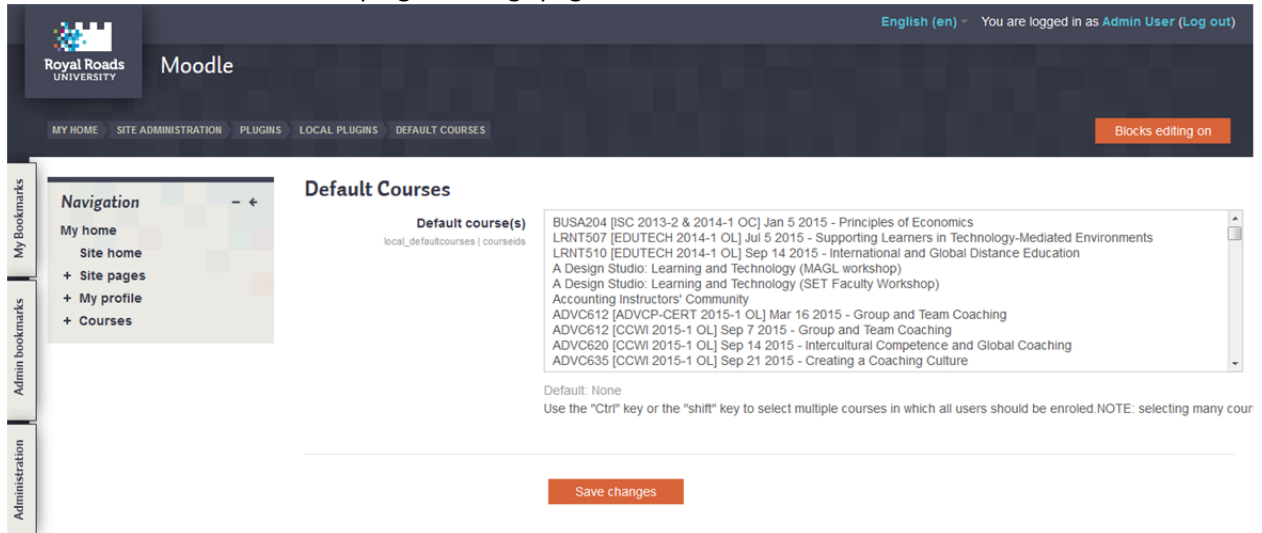
Notable Behaviours

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. Clone the project from Github
   a. `git clone https://github.com/royalroads/RRU-Default-Courses.git`
3. Update Moodle Cron interval at which the default course enrolment occurs. The default value is 3600 seconds (hourly)
   a. Update the version.php file – set `$plugin->cron = newvalue;`
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

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.
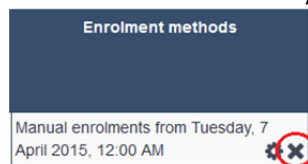As a Site Administrator set the option to all the Moodle cron to be run in a browser

1. In the Settings block go to Site administration->Security->Site policies
2. Make sure the "Cron execution via command line only" check box is unchecked
3. "Save changes", if necessary

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
   d. Manually run the Moodle Cron
      i. Browse to this URL: *moodlepath*/admin/cron.php
      ii. The output of the cron is displayed in the browser - you should see the following in the script:
      ```
      Starting local plugins
      Processing cron function for local_defaultcourses...
      Enrol users in default course: Name of the course
      ```
   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. Manually run the Moodle Cron
      i. Browse to this URL: *moodlepath*/admin/cron.php
      ii. The output of the cron is displayed in the browser - you should see the following in the script:
      ```
      Starting local plugins
      Processing cron function for local_defaultcourses...
      Enrol users in default course: Name of the course
      ```

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 object changes.

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
- `lib.php` – defaultcourses specific functions
- `settings.php` – handles defaultcourses plugin settings (like choose default courses)
- `version.php` – Moodle version management file and Moodle CRON management specific to defaultcourses

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