

❖ Moodle

Moodle is a free, open-source learning management system (LMS) that allows educators to create online courses and learning environments. Moodle stands for "Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment."

Moodle provides tools for creating and managing online courses, including features such as course calendars, assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, file sharing, and more. It also includes features for tracking student progress, grading, and providing feedback. Moodle is widely used by schools, universities, and other educational institutions, as well as by businesses and organizations for employee training and development. Because it is open-source, Moodle can be customized and extended to meet specific needs and requirements. Overall, Moodle is a powerful and flexible platform for delivering online education and training, and it has a large and active community of developers and users who continue to improve and enhance the platform.

❖ Why Moodle

There are several reasons why educators and organizations use Moodle:

1. **Course management:** Moodle provides a range of tools to manage courses, including creating and organizing course content, setting up assignments and quizzes, and tracking student progress.
2. **Collaboration and communication:** Moodle includes features for communication and collaboration, such as discussion forums, messaging, and video conferencing, which facilitate interaction between students and teachers.
3. **Customization:** Moodle is highly customizable, with a range of plugins and add-ons available to extend its functionality and adapt it to specific needs.
4. **Accessibility:** Moodle is designed to be accessible to all users, with features such as support for screen readers, keyboard shortcuts, and adjustable font sizes.
5. **Cost-effectiveness:** Moodle is open-source software, which means it is free to use and can be customized without incurring licensing costs.
6. **Security and privacy:** Moodle is designed with security and privacy in mind, with features such as user authentication, data encryption, and access control.

Overall, Moodle provides a flexible and robust platform for delivering online education and training, with a range of features that support collaboration, customization, accessibility, and security.

❖ How Download

1. To download Moodle, you can follow these steps:
2. Go to the Moodle download page: <https://download.moodle.org/>

3. Select the version of Moodle you want to download from the list of available releases.
4. Choose the package that matches your server environment (e.g., Linux, Windows, or Mac OS).
5. Click on the download link for the package you have chosen.
6. Save the downloaded file to your computer.

Note that before installing Moodle, you will need to have a web server and a database server set up on your system. Moodle requires PHP and a database system like MySQL, PostgreSQL, or Microsoft SQL Server to run. You should also check the system requirements for the version of Moodle you are installing to ensure that your server meets the minimum requirements.

Once you have downloaded the Moodle package, you can follow the installation instructions provided in the Moodle documentation to install it on your system. The installation process typically involves unpacking the downloaded package, configuring the database settings, and setting up the Moodle site.

❖ How Install Moodle -Window

1. Plan System Capacity

Before getting started with your Moodle LMS installation, you will first need to know which hardware is going to best support your users and data. Managed Moodle Cloud Hosting is the recommended option as it will support any amount of users and will ensure your Moodle site doesn't crash if you exceed your capacity.

2. Install Database Server

Now that you know your capacity, it is time to install your database server. The three databases recommended by Moodle are MySQL, MariaDB, or PostgreSQL. Please not if you plan to use Microsoft SQL Server 2005 or Oracle, this is not recommended due to system incompatibilities.

3. Install Web Server

There are also a few different options for installing your web server, which is the next step in your Moodle LMS installation. Apache 2 is the recommended web server to use with Moodle because it has been tested and verified. IIS 7/8 has also been used in the past but has not been tested for the same reliability as Apache 2.

4. Install PHP

When installing your PHP chosen operating system, be sure to follow best-practices. If using a IIS 7/8 server, use Microsoft's Web Platform installer.

5. Download Moodle And Copy Files Into Place

Download and copy the Moodle files from download.moodle.org. There are a number of different places you can obtain Moodle's open source code from. It is highly suggested that you download the standard version from Moodle as your site will be better supported for security and bug fixes from a trusted Moodle Partner. Once downloaded, a directory called "Moodle" will appear which contains a number of files and folders. If you want your Moodle site to be located at yourwebserver.com/moodle, place the entire folder in your web server's documents directory. If you want your moodle site to be located at yourwebserver.com, you can copy all content straight into the main web server documents directory.

6. Create Moodle Data Directory And Secure Database

You will need to create a data directory to store all of our Moodle files (this includes uploads, cache, session data, even temporary data). Once you have created a Moodle data directory, you will want to take appropriate measures to secure this data. To begin, ensure that your directory is NOT accessible directly via the web. If you are hosting Moodle internally, create an empty database for the installation. If you are outsourcing hosting, find a web-based administration page for databases as part of the control pane. It is recommended that you outsource your hosting to a specialized Moodle hosting vendor.

7. Begin Moodle Install

Run the installer to create Moodle database tables so you can configure your new site!

8. Setup Backups

There are countless errors that may cause your Moodle site to crash resulting in the loss of courses, student data, and history. Ensuring that a proper backup and disaster recovery system is in place will be the difference between business failure or business continuity. It is important that Moodle courses are backed up in addition to your Moodle data, Moodle directories and your Moodle site configuration. Backups should be performed hourly and stored in multiple geographic locations in the case of a natural disaster. With Managed Moodle Cloud Hosting, this is all taken care of for you wherein backups and disaster recovery are performed and monitored to international standards.

9. Checking Server Security And Performance

There are many factors to consider to ensure your Moodle site runs with optimal performance and to regulatory security standards. A poorly performing Moodle site results in slow loading pages, lagging video, system crashes, and security/vulnerability threats. In order to accurately check server security and performance you will want to gather benchmark data from performance monitoring sites. Once you have a performance benchmark, you can accurately measure how well your Moodle site is running. Examples of performance metrics you will want to compare are: scalability, server clusters, hardware configuration, operating system speed, web server performance, PHP performance and database performance.

When outsourcing your Moodle Implementation and Cloud Hosting, all of this is taken care of for you, at a fraction of the cost (and time) that would be required to do in-house. In addition, you benefit from the expertise and knowledge of people who have been working with Moodle since its conception in 2002.