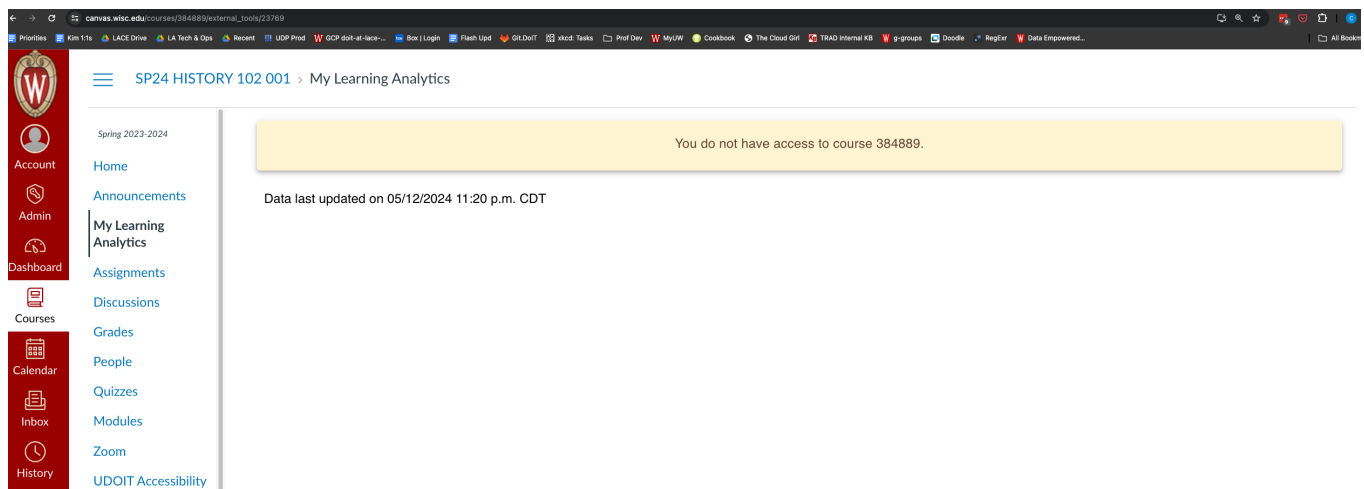|	
Subject:	Re: MyLA Error for some Roles
Date:	Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 10:50:32 AM Central Daylight Time
From:	Chris Lalande
To:	Matthew Jones
CC:	Zhen Qian, Jennifer Love, myla-help@umich.edu, Dariane Drake
Attachments:	image001.png, image.png, image001.png

Thanks, Matthew!

Would it be helpful if I submitted an issue?   Having this in place for Fall would be a huge win for us.

Also wanted to be sure I shared a nuance - when I make myself staff and select all the view permissions
- I can get to the admin in a course ***where I'm also a student or instructor***
- I get an error message in a course I'm not enrolled in, and can't get to admin (screenshot below)

(I think this aligns with what you were expecting, but wanted to confirm)

With the new release being installed (Unizin updated us last night), we now get a more detailed error message:

-- Chris

From: Matthew Jones <jonespm@umich.edu>
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 9:49 AM
To: Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
Cc: Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>, Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>, myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>, Dariane Drake <dariane.drake@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: MyLA Error for some Roles

This should just be set if the user is set to staff. The variable is misnamed in the backend and also the frontend.

https://github.com/tl-its-umich-edu/my-learning-analytics/blob/d400cce524986a9127ed037ac144009869174527/dashboard/common/utils.py#L87

Someone who has the Staff role should be able to see the admin dropdown on their user login id.

I tested this, gave a user in MyLA admin the staff. Then did a filter for everything "View" and selected everything that's in the dashboard. The user had access to click the "Admin" in their user icon and were able to view courses and academic terms.

Clicking on the "Courses" there were links to other courses. However this user didn't have access to getting into the other courses.

It looks like this is because the rules isn't checking staff here, it's actually checking superuser :/
https://github.com/tl-its-umich-edu/my-learning-analytics/blob/d400cce524986a9127ed037ac144009869174527/dashboard/rules.py#L14

I think we'd have to do a fix here to either have it so the **staff** user is the one with full access to every course and make the names in the code consistent. Or we'd have to add a new explicit permission that could be checked that would give this user access to all the courses. I feel like doing staff is enough but we might have to talk about it. We could probably include this in the next release.

Unfortunately what you want to do currently won't work unless the user is checked as a super user in MyLA which would give them all permissions to everything.

On Mon, May 13, 2024 at 4:04 PM Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu> wrote:

> *welp*.   I guess I was a little too quick to declare victory.   I thought it worked when I made myself "staff" and assigned all the user permissions that included the word "view", but maybe I didn't fully log out.
>
> This included the "Dashboard | Can View Course" permission
>
>> Zhen referenced: "Based on the isTeacherOrAdmin function definition (line 20), either MyLA admin or Canvas class instructor (TeacherEnrollment role in Canvas or Instructor role in LTI launch) can land into the instructor view of MyLA."
>
> Do we know whether isAdmin is related to "Staff" or "Superuser"?
>
> -- Chris
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
> **Date:** Monday, May 13, 2024 at 1:02 PM
> **To:** Matthew Jones <jonespm@umich.edu>
> **Cc:** Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>, Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>, myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>, Dariane Drake <dariane.drake@wisc.edu>
> **Subject:** Re: MyLA Error for some Roles
>
> Hi All,
>
> We got the chance to test our "staff" and that seems to work pretty well for our needs.   We can give a support person admin access, but then only give them "view" credentials for the appropriate features.
>
> Which brings me to a more general question: I was looking for documentation to share with our support person on how to log into the admin interface, and I wasn't finding it.   As y'all start to scale this out, what's the best place to look for this sort of information?
>
> The resources I know about:
>
> - Michigan ITS MyLA webpage
> - GitHub ReadMe pages
> - GitHub Wiki (this seems to be more developer / contributor focused)
> - MyLA Google Sites Help Website
>
> As we move to a broader pilot in the fall, we'll need to create some Wisconsin specific documentation.   But while we're at it, if there are items that make sense to document for the broader community, like admin access, we'd be happy to contribute to the greater good as appropriate.

If the GitHub ReadMe is the right place to start, I'll submit an issue pull request, but first wanted to be sure that was the right approach, first! (And that I wasn't' missing somewhere I should be looking!)

--
Chris Lalande , Learning Analytics Architect

University of Wisconsin - Madison
[Learning Analytics Center of Excellence](#) | [DoIT Academic Technology](#)
chris.lalande@wisc.edu | [Availability](#)

Pronouns: She | Her | Hers.   🔊 Hear my name

From: Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
Date: Friday, May 10, 2024 at 11:17 AM
To: Matthew Jones <jonespm@umich.edu>
Cc: Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>, Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>, myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>
Subject: Re: MyLA Error for some Roles

For us in the foreseeable future, this would get very close to our needs:

> "I think if we were implementing this better, we'd treat everyone who is a Canvas admin (or subaccount admin) as "Staff" with no permissions to the admin interface. Then those would have to be manually added. However this would give them access to every course. Trying to restrict which courses could be viewed to just subaccounts would be more effort."

We are only implementing MyLA in our "Course Guide" sub account (traditional for credit courses) and the support folks are always sub account admins for the full "course guide" sub account. So we wouldn't be worried about restrictions to courses by sub account.

Thanks for the heads up about "staff" vs. "superuser" – if we get to testing it first, I'll report back.

-- Chris

From: Matthew Jones <jonespm@umich.edu>
Date: Friday, May 10, 2024 at 11:08 AM
To: Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
Cc: Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>, Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>, myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>
Subject: Re: MyLA Error for some Roles

Right, so in the Django Admin, there's 2 roles staff and super user. Staff would let someone get into the admin. Super User assigns them all of the permissions.

You can probably make someone a staff in MyLA admin and assign them individual permissions. Things like "Event log -> log | Can View Log" sounds like what you're looking for? They might also need "Dashboard | Course | Can View Course". MyLA used to just be called "Dashboard

Someone that has the staff role should get full access to all courses in MyLA and with the course option should be able to see the links to courses and other courses. Though if they can also view the courses in Canvas they can just launch them directly.

I haven't tested this, we probably could test this out. If they don't have the Super User checked they won't get all the permissions.

I think if we were implementing this better, we'd treat everyone who is a Canvas admin (or subaccount admin) as "Staff" with no permissions to the admin interface. Then those would have to be manually added. However this would give them access to every course. Trying to restrict which courses could be viewed to just subaccounts would be more effort.

Hope this helps. I don't know if I'll have time to test this but maybe someone else on the team can.
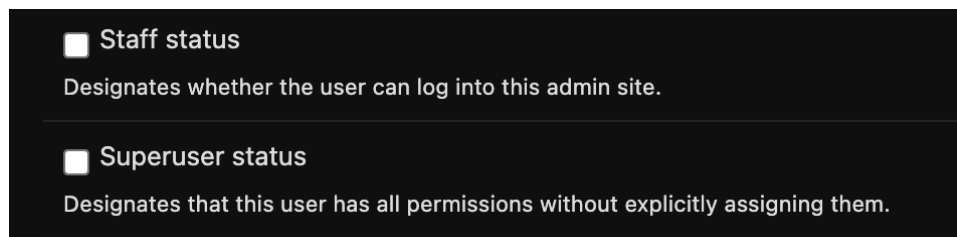
On Fri, May 10, 2024 at 10:48 AM Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu> wrote:

> Just to close the loop, what we are trying to achieve is basically a support role:
>
> - We have staff members who support MyLA instructors (and will eventually be tier 2 support for students)
> - We would like them to be able to click into MyLA to see what the instructor would see
> - We ***don't*** want them to be able to use other MyLA admin features (e.g. change configuration, add / remove courses, mess with cron jobs).   If they could see event logs, that would be great but totally optional – I think best just to keep them out of the admin screen.
> - It's not consistent with campus policies to enroll them as teachers in the courses they are supporting – nor does it scale when we move beyond pilot.
>
> We use a custom sub-account admin role with very limited permissions to allow our support folks to click into different courses, in a read-only mode, and see how the courses are designed.   (This is the approach for all DLE tool support, not just MyLA).   Ideally, they could then also click into MyLA and have the ***front end*** behave like it does if they are MyLA admin, but without access to the admin panel.
>
> Happy to document this further for the existing backlog item or have a conversation.
>
> -- Chris
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Matthew Jones <jonespm@umich.edu>
> **Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 3:40 PM
> **To:** Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
> **Cc:** Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>, Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>, myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>
> **Subject:** Re: MyLA Error for some Roles
>
> Right, I think if this other user was also made a MyLA admin they would have full access. This is separate from Canvas. You must have been given that by Unizin or another MyLA admin. It currently doesn't do anything for the Canvas Admin roles.
>
> We talked about doing "something" for Admin users that launch from Canvas but that would only work for root account admin easily. For subaccount admin it would probably have to only show them the courses in their subaccount and have a more restrictive access.
>
> LTI also doesn't pass through any types of permissions, only the roles. So I'm not sure what we'd do currently if a user has limited admin permissions in Canvas but launched this as well. There's a lot of issues around this

and it's easier just to have separate admin, which is what the initial design was. You can make someone a super user from the admin page after they've logged in once.

On Wed, May 8, 2024 at 4:29 PM Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu> wrote:

> Ohhhhh. I was barking up the wrong tree completely.   MyLA was working for me not because I'm a Canvas Sub Account Admin, but because I'm a MyLA admin.   Thank you!
>
> — Chris
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Zhen Qian <zqian@umich.edu>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 1:47:04 PM
> **To:** Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu>
> **Cc:** Jennifer Love <jennlove@umich.edu>; myla-help@umich.edu <myla-help@umich.edu>
> **Subject:** Re: MyLA Error for some Roles
>
> Hi, Chris:
>
> Based on the isTeacherOrAdmin function definition (line 20), either MyLA admin or Canvas class instructor (TeacherEnrollment role in Canvas or Instructor role in LTI launch) can land into the instructor view of MyLA.
>
> What Canvas role does your colleague have?
>
> Best,
> - Zhen
>
> ---
>
> Zhen Qian   **Error! Filename not specified.**
>
> Teaching & Learning Application Developer Manager
>
> **Error! Filename not specified.**
> Error! Filename not specified. *Check out our Generative AI workshop series and teaching resources*!
>
> On Wed, May 8, 2024 at 11:12 AM Chris Lalande <chris.lalande@wisc.edu> wrote:
>
> > MyLA Team,
> >
> > Can you tell me more about what roles / permissions are allowed to launch MyLA?
> >
> > My colleague and I both have custom roles that are Canvas Sub Account Admins, though they have different permissions.   When she launches MyLA, she gets an error message;   when I launch MyLA, I see it as an instructor would.
> >
> > Screenshots and details here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U9vBvyfiO5sWkfRaY2Y7A3mPjaZO-DreAhzZ_ygf0hc/edit#heading=h.8g1wb06iprrz
> >
> > We need to work with our Canvas Administrator to get her into a role that would allow her to launch MyLA the same way I can, but I'm not sure what specifically to ask for from a permissions / roles point of view.   Neither

of us are enrolled in the course that we're viewing data about.

--

Chris Lalande , Learning Analytics Architect

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Learning Analytics Center of Excellence | DoIT Academic Technology

chris.lalande@wisc.edu | Availability

Pronouns: She | Her | Hers.   🔊 Hear my name