Summary Moodle Production Team Meeting  
Wednesday August 31, 4:30-5:30  

1) Decision was made to contact RL and cancel 70 of the 80 ordered course uploads. We retained 10 in case faculty have saved their course content and want conversion, even though conversion is viewed by some as useless.

Update: Statements were made that IT had failed to back up faculty courses. Upon investigation, I learned that IT staff contacted Blackboard starting in March when faculty reported inability to upload/download. A ticket was filed and Steve and Burton met with Bb for an extended time without success. I have contacted Bb rep Matt Lord by phone and email and requested compensation for this interruption of services during our contract period. I will keep you posted.

2) Procedures for faculty to drop students from Moodle (Ali is sending send out an email today in time for Census Day Drops before and after census. How do we accommodate student drops when the instructor is not notified?—further discussion next week

Discussion: we have not identified a process to do drops. Should faculty be cued to round up the names and send to A &R? Once an instructor has done this, they should send us the name if it still appears on roster. Is Steve removing them manually?

Possible solution: purge twice, once after census and again at a later date?

3) Policy for guest accounts (students and instructors) We want as few as possible. No resolution.

Who decides whether guest accts are granted?

4) Activities time zone issue (RL promised solution on 8/31; Burton will check it out). Is it OK to require student to click cursor every 20 minutes? What is MyCOM time limit? May be affected by time zone, will test.

5) \
Hello, Ms. Klinger.

I got your name and e-mail from Prof. Rogow (HED 140). I am looking for some kind of centralized discussions of Moodle, for tips, tricks, problems, and solutions, rather than reinventing those wheels in every separate class (and every semester). I sent a similar request to the MoodleHelp@marin.edu box.

For example, despite the warnings that our sessions remain active without an explicit logout, I find that my sessions routinely time out, and that when I click on a link in an open page (that has been idle for a while), I end up at a Moodle login page, that doesn't have any option to login (the "login" link loops to the same page). Through trial and error, I eventually figured out that you have to click the (profoundly non-obvious) "CAS user" link, to get to the MyCOM login, which then nicely returns me to the destination I originally clicked (a pleasant bonus). Giving up (as I did the first time I hit this), and going back to MyCOM to start over, is a much longer and less useful route, so I think that at a minimum we should advise Moodle users of the CAS user trick, or (better yet), route timed-out session requests to wherever that link goes (so the extra notes aren't needed, and the confusion is avoided altogether).

As background, I'm a long-time IT pro, and in recent years I have been specializing in web-centric collaboration, so I am keenly interested in the Moodle platform, and its use at CoM. I have a little prior Moodle exposure through Prof. Gonzalez in MMST. I am currently working with a group in Cupertino on a collaboration solution built around Tiki, for better student carpooling. What I would recommend, at a minimum, is a central forum for Moodle questions, problems, and solutions, so that all CoM students can work together to make the most of it. If that already exists, I couldn't find it in any of the "getting started Moodle" docs, so we need to make sure that every class has obvious access to the link.

Thanks for your attention and support.

Doug