



Moodle 1.5.3



WebCT CE 4.1

## Some differences between Moodle and WebCT

WebCT and Moodle are two Learning Management Systems with lots in common, but there are some key differences which make each one special in its own way. We note these differences below. If you have used WebCT before, this document will help you understand Moodle better.

### Course Format

- **In WebCT**, selecting a course listed under *My Courses* results in a course homepage with a single format of presentation and some fixed organizational categories and sub-categories.
- **In Moodle**, selecting a course listed under *My Courses* results in a course home page with one of three different formats: Topics, Weekly, or Social. The format used is determined by the Instructor's choice in the course **Settings** from the **Administration** block.

### Communication Tools

- **Email**
  - **In WebCT**, you often send email to all your students, or to those in a subset workgroup.
  - **In Moodle**, using the instant messaging tool, you can send messages to offline users and they will read them once they log in to their Moodle account. Messages will be emailed if the user is offline. Also message tool allows all Moodle AUB users to communicate and not only students belonging to the same course.
- **Chat**
  - **In WebCT**, using the instant messaging tool (The tool) will only allow you to send messages if the other user is online.
  - **In Moodle**, using the instant messages, you can chat with online users. Messages will be emailed if the user is offline. Also message tool allows all Moodle AUB users to communicate and not only students belonging to the same course.
- **Discussion Forum**
  - **In WebCT**, you have only one type of **Discussion Forums** where a student can reply to the discussions without creating topics.
  - **In Moodle**, there are three types of **Discussion Forums** that you can choose depending on your needs. There is the **No discussions, but replies are allowed**, **Discussions and replies are allowed**, and **No discussions, no replies**. Also there is an

option where Instructors can rate their students on what they post and let students rate their colleagues. When you post to the class **Forum**, that posting is emailed to the class participants, unless they chose not to. Since the posting remains visible in the **Forum**, those not receiving emails can check for unread postings. Further, the posting remains visible and may facilitate further discussions. If you want to create a **Forum** for each class workgroup, then each workgroup can be handled separately.

- **Whiteboard**
  - In WebCT, you can use a **Whiteboard** tool where students can share in real time drawings and images.
  - In Moodle there is no similar tool yet.

### **Adding Students to Course**

- In WebCT, you had to get the WebCT student list from AUBsis and then upload it to your WebCT course to add the students.
- In Moodle, students are automatically added to or dropped from your course upon your request.

### **Grades and Scales**

- **Scales**
  - In WebCT, there is no similar tool.
  - In Moodle, you can create your own scale (Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent...) and use it in all graded activities
- **Adding Grade to a not graded tool**
  - In WebCT, if you had an offline activity grade that you wanted to add to your student columns, you had to enter those grades into a new column in the student columns.
  - In Moodle, you create an assignment of type **Offline activity** and then supply grades and comments for that assignment.

### **Announcements and Recent Activities**

- In WebCT, the quiz date does not appear automatically in the course Calendar.
- In Moodle, when you add any resource or activity with date like quiz or assignment, it will be automatically added to the course **Calendar**, and will also display in **Upcoming Events** and the resource/activity creation will show in **Activities** block.

### **Assignments**

- **Assignment types**
  - In WebCT, you have only one type of assignment, where a student submits files to this assignment.

- **In Moodle**, there are three types of Assignments that you can choose depending on your needs. There is the **Offline Activity**, **Online Text**, and **Upload a single file** assignment.

### Wiki

- **In Moodle**, the Moodle Wiki module enables participants to work together on web pages to add, expand and change the content. Old versions of the web pages are never deleted and can be restored.
- **In WebCT** there is no similar tool.

### SCORM/AICC

- **In Moodle**, you can upload packages of web content material packaged in a way that follows the **SCORM** or the **AICC** standard for learning objects. These packages can include web pages, graphics, JavaScript programs, Flash presentations and anything else that works in web browsers. To know more about **SCORM** visit the following link:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCORM>
- **In WebCT** there is no similar tool.

### Lessons

- **In Moodle**, the lesson delivers content in an interesting and flexible way. It consists of a number of pages. Each page normally ends with a question and a number of possible answers. Depending on the student's choice of answer they either progress to the next page or are taken back to a previous page. Navigation through the lesson can be straight forward or complex, depending largely on the structure of the material being presented.
- **In WebCT** there is no similar tool.

### Search

- **In WebCT**, Students can search course content , discussion postings, and email messages within a course. Students can constrain a search using filters.
- **In Moodle**, Students can search all discussion Forums in their course and all glossary entries.

### Choice

- **In Moodle**, the teacher asks a question and specifies a choice of multiple responses. It can be useful as a quick poll to stimulate thinking about a topic; to allow the class to vote on a change in the class schedule course; or to gather research consent.
- **In WebCT** there is no similar tool.

### Tracking students

- **In WebCT**, you can get reports showing the number of times, time and date, and frequency with which each student or all students in a course,

accessed course content, specific course units and discussion forums. You can also get a report showing the duration of time each student spent on course content, specific course units and discussion forums. And you can share this tracking information with students.

- **In Moodle**, you can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments. You can get a report that shows number of attempts and time per attempt on each assessment for individual students. Instructors can maintain private notes about each student in a secure area. You can get a report that summarizes individual student performance on assignments. You can set a flag on individual course components to track the frequency with which students access those components. You can monitor students who are currently logged in to the course.

### **Import Course Data**

- **In Moodle**, you can import specific data (resource or activity) from one course to another, under a condition that you should be a teacher in both courses.
- **In WebCT**, there is no similar tool.

### **Hide/Reveal**

- **In WebCT**, you can hide/reveal only tools like content module, and you can not hide a specific file or lecture inside a tool.
- **In Moodle**, you can hide/reveal a specific and single file (Lecture or PowerPoint...)

Ref.: [http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/Guides/Moodle/moodle\\_diff.html](http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/Guides/Moodle/moodle_diff.html)

EduTools. (2006). CMS: Product Comparison System. Retrieved May 26, 2006 from <http://www.edutools.info/compare.jsp?pj=8&i=358,386>