



Moodle is an open source software community that describes itself as “a free, Open Source software package designed using sound pedagogical principles, to help educators create effective online learning communities” (Moodle). Our custom plug-ins were designed and developed in order to meet the needs of Dr. Cramer of Taylor University’s Computing and System Sciences Department. Although Moodle is a robust system, Dr. Cramer

requires the implementation of grading rubrics, easy viewing of student website projects, and a detailed gradebook along with the breakdown of completed rubrics for each student.

This web application is written in PHP, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS. We utilized all of these tool in order to meet the requirements and produce a quality product.

Grade Reporting

The detailed presentation of grades to students and the professor is a very important feature. Students are presented with an overview of their current grade and the breakdown of

assignment rubrics showing how that grade was achieved. Graded assignments also provide feedback from the professor or teaching assistants that provide further information as to why the grade was received.



Rubrics

A rubric is an organized list of requirements for a specific assignment or project. These allow students to see how their work will be evaluated as well as provide a structured tool for grading by professors.

With our plug-in, rubrics can be easily created and utilized by both professors and teaching assistants. The breakdown of the assignment evaluation allows students to better understand why they received the grade given them.



Uploading of Student Rosters

In order to keep the course rosters up to date, files are received from the Taylor University Registrar and parsed by a Perl script. The script creates a file of the students and the courses they are enrolled in. If the course exists in Moodle, the students are automatically enrolled when the file is uploaded. If a student is in the Moodle roster but is not found in the Registrar file, the student is un-enrolled from the course. This ensures that the Moodle database is kept accurate.



Website Submission

On completion of web site projects, students are able to submit their work by simply providing the URL to their site. This eliminates the need for students to transfer the files from their personal network drives to the CSS server. When grading these assignments, professors and teaching assistants will be presented with the student’s actual website in a sub window of the grading pane along with the rubric for that particular assignment. This allows the grader to evaluate the student’s work with the requirements readily available.



Developers

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