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**UCLA and Content Management
A Report from CCLE**

September 28, 2010

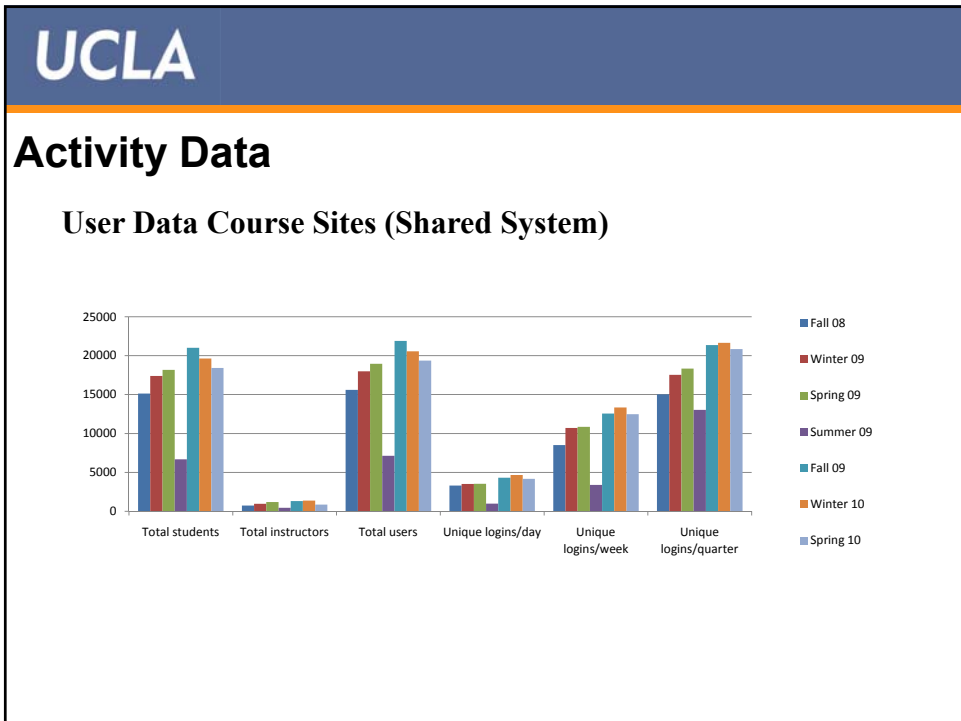
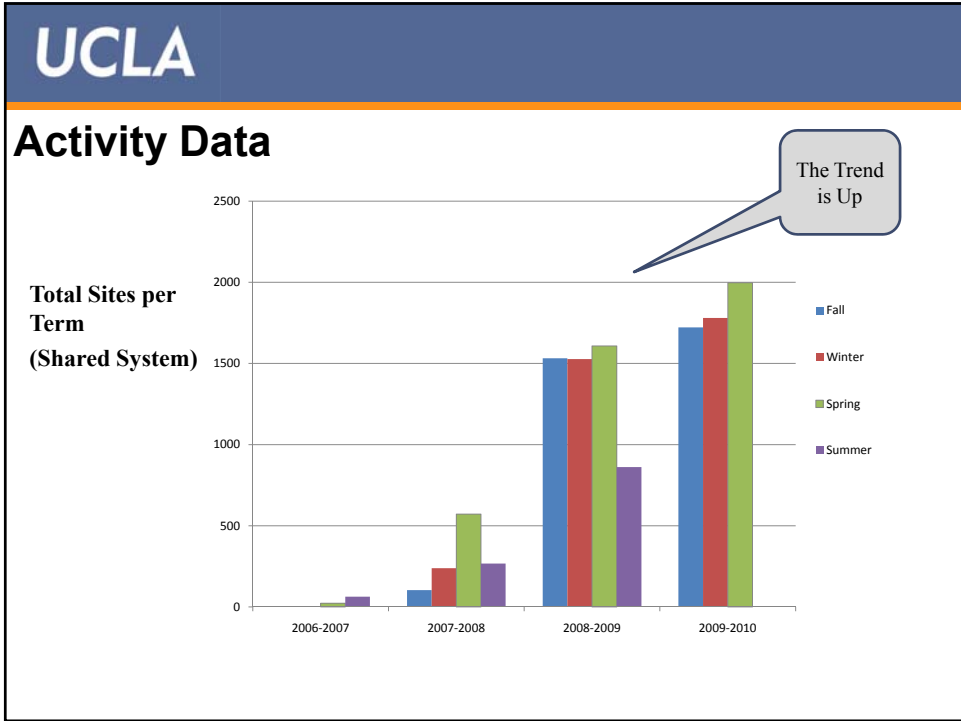
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What is CCLE?

- **Common Collaboration and Learning Environment**
- “Web 2.0” online system based on Moodle (v1.9.8)
- Common system for the campus

- Learning Management System to support “Hybrid” **courses**
- A platform to facilitate **collaboration** of any kind



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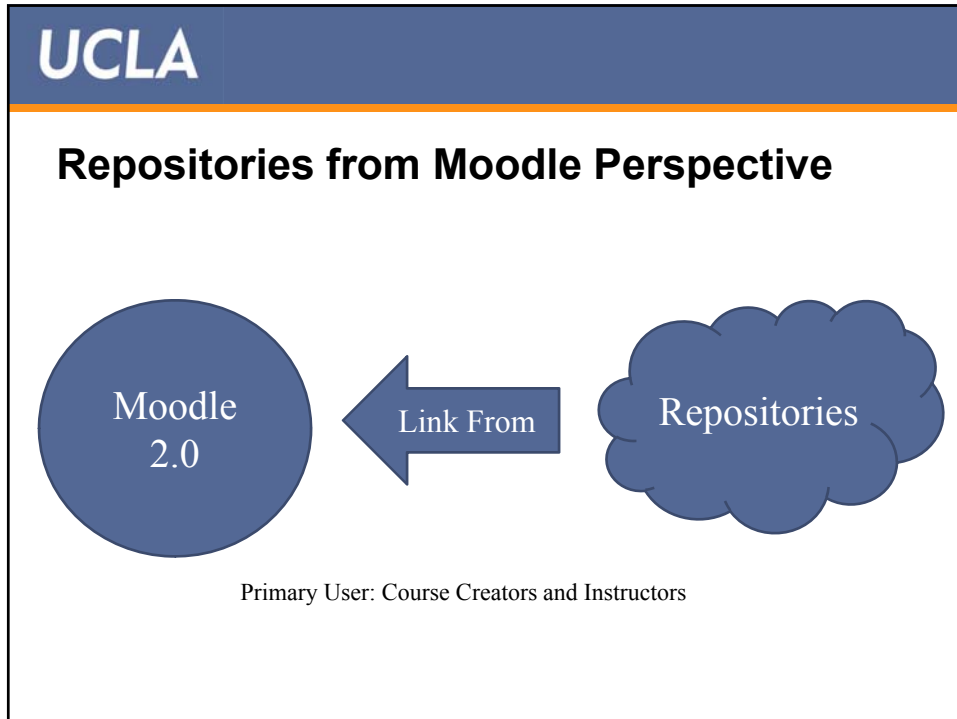
Why Move to Moodle 2.0? “ The longer we wait...”

- Improved security and performance
- File management - will store a single copy of a given file
- Conditional activities
- New powerful themes
- New HTML Editor
- New Wiki
- Site-wide groups
- Improved Backup/Restore
- **Integration with External Repositories**
 - Google Docs, You Tube, Flickr, etc.

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Moodle and Content Management

- In Moodle 1.9.X all course files are stored in the file system
- Moodle 2.0 has re-architected file management
 - Metadata about each file (author, date, license, etc) and what the file is used for are stored in the database.
 - Duplicate files (for example, a large video file use in two different courses) are only stored once, saving disk space.
 - Files are no longer just "uploaded to the course". Files are connected to the particular bit of Moodle content that uses them.
- Moodle 2.0 integrates with Content Repositories and Portfolios



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Why is CCLE Interested in Repositories?

- Moodle 2.0 supports integration with external repositories of content,
- Instructors will no longer need to have multiple copies of their files in the various courses they teach.
- The emphasis on storing content within the Moodle file system goes away; content can be brought into Moodle from many sources.
- This is a good thing and a bad thing. The door is opening for instructors to store their content anywhere; *Moodle will only store links to the content* hosted outside of UCLA. This has serious implications for the integrity of long term backups of Moodle courses.
- Initial plug-ins include: Alfresco, Flickr, Google Docs, Mahara, MERLOT, Picasa, WebDAV servers, Wikimedia, Youtube.

File picker

View as icons View as list

Server files

Upload a file

Recent files

Flickr public

Flickr

Google Docs

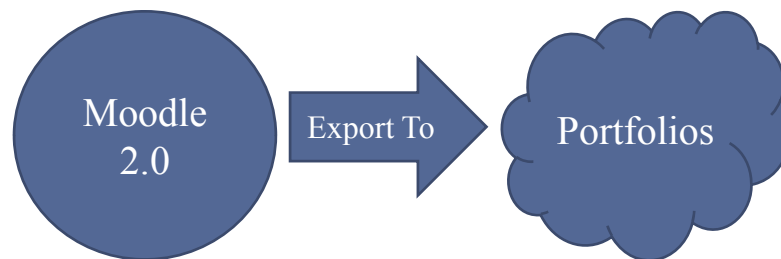
Picasa web album

URL Downloader

Dropbox

Portfolios from Moodle Perspective

- Moodle 2.0 modules can export their data to external systems
- Snapshots of forums, assignments and other things in Moodle can be recorded in a journal or a portfolio of evidence
- Different formats are supported (currently LEAP2A, HTML, Images and Text, but others like PDF can be added)
- Initial plug-ins in 2.0 include: Box.net, Flickr, Google Docs, Mahara and Picasa.



Primary User: Faculty AND Students

The Broader Issue is Content Management

“A content management system allows you to create a content once, and re-used many times”

Components of a Content Management System

- **Capture** - Input: digitizing, copying or linking, and indexing/classifying documents
- **Manage** - Document management, web content management, collaboration, workflow
- **Store** - Repositories – File Systems, CMS, Databases, Data Warehouses.
 - “A content repository is a hierarchical content store with support for structured and unstructured content, full text search, versioning, transactions and observation.”
- **Preserve** - long term safe storage of static data
- **Deliver** – transformation (Disc, XML, PDF) and distribution (portals, websites)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enterprise_content_management

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Identifying the Major Players

Alfresco

is the leader in open source enterprise content management (ECM), which supports content development and reuse. (Partnered with Remote-Learner Moodle Service Provider) <http://www.alfresco.com>

Equella

is a digital repository that incorporates Learning Objects, Learning Content Management and integrated content authoring. EQUELLA assists the educator to discover, classify, compare, document and enhance the power of Digital Learning Resources. Recently acquired by Pearson (Partnered with Moodle Rooms Moodle Service Provider) <http://www.equella.com>

Mahara

is an open source ePortfolio and social networking web application. It provides users with tools to create and maintain a digital portfolio of their learning, and social networking features to allow users to interact with each other. Mahara includes a file repository. (Will it integrate with Alfresco?) <http://mahara.org/features>

“E-portfolios offer an individual a personal online space to manage *their* existing and future learning - learner centered and learner controlled”

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UCSB Equella vs. Alfresco

A Conversation with Alan Moses, UCSB L&S IT

- A new student fee (like IEI) will pay for expanding campus CMS efforts including the deployment of a Content Repository for L&S
- Specific goal : host digital material for access in Moodle.

Alfresco

- Mixed feedback from people who have used it
- Ok for out of box BUT modifications are difficult.
- Library looked at it and ruled it out

Mahara

- Some pilots for portfolios (writing program).
- Not pushing portfolio; it is a politically charged and sensitive subject: faculty do not want to feel they are being evaluated
- Mahara blurs the lines by having a file repository; this is not the strong suit of the product

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- Mainly document management system
- Bought by Blackboard; not trusted to remain “open”

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UCSB Equella vs. Alfresco

Equella

- Workflow tools and excellent DRM were key selling points for Equella
- Will be used to increase access to digital content; example library has agreed to keep eReserves in Equella
- Faculty will input content from within Moodle and through the Equella interface
- Setting up good work flows within Equella will be key to getting data off desktop computers and into Equella
- Workflows can be designed to migrate data and pass through searches to Fedora or DSpace (Library side). Once data reaches the library there is no “delete” only “archive”.
- Believes that *portfolios* can be added through workflows
- Contract is in campus legal for use by 1000 faculty
- Pilot by Winter 2011
- They will pay Equella professional services to set up work flows
- They may host outside of university. Comes down to staff; sys administrators to run on campus servers. It is easier to spend money on the service then to hire an employee to run it on campus

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CCLE will move to Moodle 2.0 by Fall 2011

2011 Timeline

- September 2010 – Moodle 2.0 Released
- Fall 2010 Pre-Merge (discovery) (**Test Repository Options**)
- End of Fall 2010 – **Feature Freeze**
- Winter 2011 – Begin merge (**Pilot Repository Options**)
- Spring 2011– Place on TEST
- Summer 2011– Place on STAGE (**Prod Repositories**)
- Fall 2011– Place on PROD

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Summary

- CCLE Home recommends rolling out Moodle 2.0 with a least one UCLA hosted repository to store content.
- CCLE is requesting that CSG begin a discovery process to determine the various needs for Content Management and repositories on campus.
- It is in UCLA's interest to get out in front of this issue and examine a short list of recommended repository solutions that are open, "play well together" and integrate with Moodle.
- Units should begin installing and evaluating various products in Fall 2010 as part of the discovery process

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Questions / Discussion