



Moodle +Plus

In a nutshell...

We have responded to the growing chorus of requests from existing and would-be clients for a low-cost, high-impact learning management system – one that is hosted externally, supported by **Nine Lanterns**, fully customisable at very low costs, and with all the functionality and support that has come to be expected of enterprise LMS.

Our response? The Moodle +Plus LMS, based fundamentally on a proven Open Source platform – Moodle .

The requests we receive in ever-growing numbers are largely from,

- » RTOs who plan to expand their classroom-based learning business with offerings in both blended and online learning.
- » Mid-sized commercial companies that either wish to change from costly licensing models or 'have been meaning to do something about elearning for some time now'.
- » NGO and not-for-profits that wish to 'get something up and running' quickly so they can reap the cost and business improvement benefits that go hand-in-hand with delivering and managing organisational learning online.

It has all come to a bit of a convergence: the market is clamouring for this type of low cost, high-impact, solution; and the new open-source technologies have achieved a defining level of maturity in their stability, functionality and ever growing market share.

In other words, open-source technologies are now able to compete with and out-perform many of the top-rated, very expensive, proprietary technologies – the SkillSofts, SABAs, Oracles and SumTotals of this world.

Why buy an LMS?

There are probably four major reasons why organisations buy an LMS – and any one of these is justification enough to make the purchase. **The core reason is to manage and administer the learning function itself:**

- » classrooms
- » enrolments
- » course catalogues (offline and online)
- » reports (largely of competence)
- » instructors

The second reason is to facilitate learning. An LMS can be used as a platform and set of tools to build, deliver and enable the learning experience, whether as a content module (or learning object), or a series of modules within a whole course based on personalised, collaborative and online learning.

Third, there is an emergence of the LMS being adopted as an enterprise-wide learning application. No longer just a system for the L&D department to provide Induction and Competency based training, the LMS is now seen as a system for the entire company to provide for any type of learning and at all levels.

Fourth, there is a trend towards using the LMS systems as a performance management system (to identify the performance gaps and succession planning issues in a company); as a vehicle for individuals to manage their own learning (personalised learning 'spaces'); and as a key tool in increasing employee retention and enrichment.

¹ For more on Moodle: moodle.org

We promise to create original and engaging experiences that build understanding

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Features and functions

Moodle +Plus LMS has all the functionality and robustness of every other LMS in the market – and much more than most. For more information and a detailed account of the features available read through our Capability Statement featured on our website..

The important thing to remember here is:

1. You pay only for customisation, hosting and support of your system – the LMS (being Open Source), is absolutely free!
2. Moodle +Plus LMS is a proven technology: it is based on the world-renown Moodle™.
3. Moodle is continually being updated in function and capability, by a world-wide set of developers – including Nine Lanterns.

For a comprehensive overview of Moodle and why Nine Lanterns Moodle +Plus solution could be for you, we strongly recommend reading *2006: the year of Moodle*², by Mark Aberdour, Technical Producer at EPIC, the UK's current market leader in elearning, blended learning and knowledge solutions – according to the Financial Times.

What the world is saying

L&D managers are showing much greater awareness of the short-comings of the 'big 6' LMS vendors. According to 2005 and 2006 surveys by the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), respondents that were very unsatisfied with their LMS more than doubled over 2005-06; and those that were very satisfied decreased by almost 30%. And, nearly one quarter of respondents intended to purchase a new LMS or outsource their LMS functionality over the next 12 months.

According to Josh Bersin, CEO of research and enterprise learning advisory firm Bersin & Associates, the LMS market has grown in size and experience. This has brought along with it, more refined purchasers: 'Now that learning organisations know what learning management systems are and what they can do, their interests have shifted to ask questions about implementation and available vendor services'.

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² http://www.epic.co.uk/content/news/dec_06/moodle.htm

³ www.learningcircuits.org/2006/August/2006LMSresults.htm

⁴ Whitney, Kellye (2006), Report Shows LMS Market Growing Apace, February 1, 2006. Accessed: 11 April 2007, http://www.clomedia.com/content/templates/clo_article.asp?articleid=1267&zzoneid=101