



## Uses in the Classroom

Brian A. Pool

[Brian\\_pool@prebnet.preble.k12.oh.us](mailto:Brian_pool@prebnet.preble.k12.oh.us)

Technology Coordinator/High School Computer Teacher

National Trail Local Schools  
6940 Oxford Gettysburg Rd.  
New Paris, Ohio 45347  
937-437-3333 x 1200

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.  
Make sure you tell the secretaries you aren't a salesman!

### WHAT IS MOODLE?

Moodle is an online course management system similar to WebCT and Blackboard. It is very powerful and has unlimited possibilities to the innovative educator.

### WHERE DO I GET MOODLE?

Moodle is Open Source and is available at <http://www.moodle.org> for Mac, PC, and Linux systems. Complete installation instructions, along with the most current downloads, are available on their site.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO INSTALL MOODLE?

For schools on a limited budget (like ours) you might consider trying Moodle initially on any spare PC. We also used Linux, a free operating system. We installed Moodle on a Linux server using Fedora Core 4. Fedora is Open Source (aka FREE) and is available from <http://fedora.redhat.com/>. Both the Fedora and the Moodle installs are fairly simple.

If you are new to Linux please feel free to use my installation walkthrough available at our school website at <http://www.nationaltrail.k12.oh.us/ntls/techhelp.htm>. All my OSN handouts and PowerPoints are available there. The Linux manual is fairly complete as I made it last year for the summer tech workshop.

### WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A 20 PAGE HANDOUT?

I am a tree hugger.... AND.... all the contents and courseware used in the class are available with full guest access on our Moodle server at <http://moodle.nationaltrail.k12.oh.us/moodle>. You can go through the lessons online at your leisure and use them to demo some possibilities at your own school. I will try to add more module instructions over the next few weeks to explain the basics of each. I do not confess to be a Moodle master. I have become fairly adept with the modules that I use on a recurring basis. In general, all the modules are fairly straightforward once you begin using the system.

**Resources** – This is the primary tool for bringing content into a course. Resources are Non-Graded items that you want to make available to students. Resources can include course syllabus, reading, web links, or anything you want to make available for your students, fellow teachers, or parents for access through the web.

**Activities** – Activities are “interactive” items for your students to accomplish. Most activities are gradable items but all can be changed to no grade. Activities comprise the large majority of the modules available in Moodle.

**Assignment** - Used to assign online or offline tasks; learners can submit tasks in any file format (e.g. MS Office, PDF, image, a/v etc.).

**Books** - Books can be used to put step-by-step, or topic-by-topic, reading for students. It is a great way to give a lot of information in small chunks.

**Chat** - Allows real-time synchronous communication by learners.

**Choice** - Instructors create a question and a number of choices for learners; results are posted for learners to view. Use this module to do quick surveys on subject matter.

**Dialogue** - Allows for one-to-one asynchronous message exchange between instructor and learner, or learner to learner.

**Forums** - Threaded discussion boards for asynchronous group exchange on shared subject matter. Participation in forums can be an integral part of the learning experience, helping students define and evolve their understanding of subject matter.

**Glossary** - Create a glossary of terms used in a course. Has display format options including entry list, encyclopaedia, FAQ, dictionary style and more.

**Journal** - Learners reflect, record and revise ideas.

**Label** - Add descriptions with images in any area of the course homepage.

**Lesson** - Allows instructor to create and manage a set of linked "Pages". Each page can end with a question. The student chooses one answer from a set of answers and either goes forward, backward or stays in the same place in the lesson.

**Quiz** - Create all the familiar forms of assessment including true false, multiple choice, short answer, matching question, random questions, numerical questions, embedded answer questions with descriptive text and graphics.

**Workshop** - An activity for peer assessment of documents (Word, PP etc.) that students submit online. Participants can assess each other's project. Teacher makes final student assessment, and can control opening and closing periods.

This list does not include all the modules available for Moodle. Modules are constantly being revised and added. Check to Moodle site for currently available modules.