

What is MOODLE?

MOODLE stands for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment. It is a free and open-source e-learning management system. Some believe that because

the MOODLE software is free, that using MOODLE is free. That is not so. Just as it takes people to set up and operate D2L Brightspace on KSU campus, so it takes people to download and implement a MOODLE learning environment. Without the folks at Online Development Group here at KSU, we would not be able to use MOODLE on our campus. So while the software is free, using it is not.

MOODLE was developed by Martin Dougiamas, who still serves as the MOODLE Lead Developer.

If you have used GeorgiaView Vista, WebCT, Blackboard, or D2L Brightspace to develop and teach your courses, then you are familiar with the kinds of things MOODLE can do. It can organize your teaching materials so that students can access them from anywhere. It can deliver course content, including interactive exercises and graded assessments such as quizzes and exams. You can use it to teach online, and it is pretty simple to use.

Remember to log in with your netID and password at annex.kennesaw.edu for your MOODLE access.

When you entered your course, it probably looked something like this:

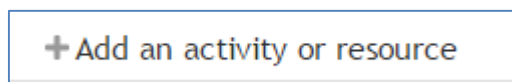


1. To get started editing your course and shaping it into what you desire, first choose “Turn editing on” on the far right top, under your name.

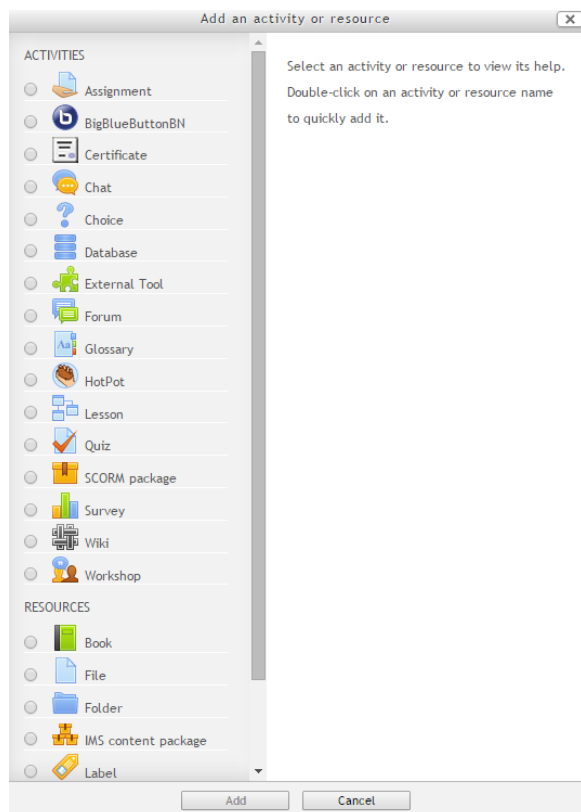


You will notice that the page changes.

2. Under every Module, you will see a button: Add an activity or resource. Click it.



3. You should see several options in the screen that pops up.



4. We will explain all of these options in this tutorial EXCEPT IMS content packaging. We will play with SCORM, which is similar. IMS content packaging allows you to export “ready made” learning modules into your course with just a few clicks. Your textbook rep might be able to supply such modules for free or for a small fee.

Some common resources options are:

FILE: we will use the file command to upload PowerPoints, Word files, pdf files, zipped files, and videos.

FOLDER: we can use the folder command to create folders .

LABEL: we can use the label command to make a label in our module. You will see that some labels have already been added to your template.

PAGE: we can use the page command to create content in Moodle, such as a document with pictures and text or web links and videos.

URL: we can use the URL command to create a web link in Moodle.

Some common activity options are:

ASSIGNMENT: This is similar to the dropbox in D2L Brightspace; a place to assign hand-in assignments.

BIG BLUE BUTTON: a virtual, real-time classroom much like Blackboard Collaborate in D2L Brightspace.

CHAT: a basic chat function, great for online office hours.

CHOICE: a polling feature that delivers survey results to students

FORUM: a discussion board

QUIZ: basic quiz making tool

SCORM Package: SCORM stands for sharable content object reference model. In plain English, when you create quizzes or other assessments in Camtasia, Hot Potatoes, Quandary, or Softchalk, you save them as SCORM modules, load them as SCORM packages, and the grades on the activities will be saved in the MOODLE gradebook.

SURVEY: a basic survey making tool

There are many other tools for you to use in your courses. If you click on each one down the list, it will give you a description of each in the window beside it.

These other tools that we will not use in our workshop are handy, and in fact, we use some other tools in our workshop that are similar but have features that instructors can really use. For example, the wiki at PBwiki.com makes grading a lot easier than the standard MOODLE wiki. The lesson and workshop features can be sleeker and leaner using Camtasia, Quandary, SeaMonkey, and Hot Potatoes. They also won't be tied to MOODLE, so you can migrate these work intensive items whenever and wherever you wish.

For specifics regarding adding content, continue with the next MOODLE tutorial.

Created by Tammy Powell, May 2011

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