Meeting Real People from a Virtual Community

JISC OSSWatch Conference

Edinburgh

July 4 2005
Who? What?

- Sean Keogh
- Over 21 years experience in IT, originally in the commercial sector, but in HE since 1999
- IT Systems Manager at OXILP
- Originator of MoodleMoots
- Authorised Moodle Partner
- Moodle Volunteer - Moodle.org sites registry
What is Moodle?

- **M**odular **O**bject **O**riented **D**ynamic **L**earning **E**nvironment
- Virtual Learning Environment / Course Management System
- Created by Martin Dougiamas, technologist and educationalist – Perth, Western Australia
  - Computer Science Honours degree
  - Webmaster and WebCT Administrator
  - Masters & PhD in Education
- Moodle Version 1.0.0 August 2002
- Released under the GNU GPL
What is Moodle?

- Moodle project ruled as a benevolent dictatorship
- Over 4000 registered Moodle sites
- User & Development community based at
  *http://moodle.org* – runs on Moodle itself
- Support forums in many languages
- 50,000 Registered Users on moodle.org site
- Commercial support from Moodle partners at
  *http://moodle.com*
- Partners pay royalties to The Moodle Trust to further Moodle development
Welcome to Moodle!

Moodle is a course management system (CMS) - a free, Open Source software package designed using sound pedagogical principles, to help educators create effective online learning communities. You can download and use it on any computer you have handy (including webhosts), yet it can scale from a single-teacher site to a 40,000-student University. This site itself is created using Moodle, so check out the Moodle Features demos, the Demonstration Courses or read the latest Moodle Buzz.

Moodle Community

Moodle has a large and diverse user community with over 50,000 users registered on this site alone, speaking 60 languages in 115 countries. The best place to start is Using Moodle, which is where the main international discussions are held in English, but we have a variety of groups discussing other topics and in other languages.

Moodle Downloads

Moodle is available in a variety of download packages with different levels of stability, as well as via CVS from Sourceforge.net. A number of additional modules and add-ons and language packs are also available.
Moodle Sites

Some of the growing community of Moodle users are listed below.

To add or update your site, just use the 'Registration' button on your Moodle admin page.

(Note: sites that are unreachable or obviously just for testing are not accepted)

Currently there are 4294 sites from 118 countries who have registered. 449 of these have requested privacy and are not shown in the lists below.
Martin Dougiamas

- Martin travels to USA to visit Partners and Users early in 2004
- Online discussion on moodle.org starts during visit
- Sean Keogh foolishly suggests a UK Summer meet
- Some interest is shown by the UK and International community
- Organisation begins...
The question of dates

- Meetomatic: *http://www.meetomatic.com/calendar.asp*

Keeping people informed

- The MoodleMoot web site
- Taking registrations

Somewhere to meet and arrange things

- The conferences course on moodle.org
- Conference logistics – rooms, equipment, food and drink
- A call for papers
- Paying for things
- Deciding on proceedings
- Publicity
- Technology - Internet Telephony / Live video
On The Day

- 55 Delegates from 11 Countries
- 9 Presenters - 1 stepped in at very last moment – thanks Drew!
- Schools, Colleges, Universities and training companies represented
- Teachers, Administrators, IT Staff, Developers...
- Lots and Lots of personal networking going on
- Surplus from finances donated to moodle.org to help with further moodle development
“I'm absolutely delighted to be here today - sometimes I think it's just me and Martin and a few autobots maybe, posting messages, and then come here and there are real people involved...it's great, it's really a buzz..”

Marcus Green - Teacher and Developer, York College
“I'm delighted to see there's such an Irish contingent here today. They’re not too far away and I don't know why we weren't talking together before, on some sort of collaboration.”

Caoimhin O’Nuallain - National University of Ireland, Galway
“I like the idea of the community, I mean, being here today it’s really friendly, everyone’s cool and there’s a real buzz about the place.”

Andy Saxon  - Department of Visual Communications, UCE
“Today is great. I've taken a day off my holiday to come here...been talking to everybody...it is very exciting, because with Moodle we're right here at the beginning, and that's always fun.”

Richard Cooke - Teacher and Developer, Sussex
The influence of MoodleMoot 04

- Two Moodle days at Japanese conference
- Aussie Mooters Gather (04 & 05)
- US MoodleMoot (04 & 05) - Kansas
- Irish MoodleMoot
- New Zealand MoodleMoot
- Italian MiniMoot
- French MoodleMoot
- MoodleMoot NE...and more to come...?
...And Now...
Oxford, UK

August 15 & 16 2005

*http://moodlemoot.org
117 Places available
Two days
Morning presentations
Afternoon sessions
Monday evening reception
What are we doing differently?

- Conference lasts longer
- Larger professional venue
- Professional catering (although no complaints from last time!)
- OXILP administrative staff helping out with paperwork and handling finances
- Conference sponsorship
- Delegate assistance
What is happening this year?

- Greatly increased number of speakers and other active participants
- 18 papers or other interactive sessions
- More opportunity for participation by delegates
- Discussion groups and tutorials
- Evening drinks reception
- Delegates can relax and make new friends and contacts
What do we feel is most important?

Getting people talking
Spreading ideas
Caring about where the project is going
Getting to know each other
Making Friends

Building a real community
The End.....

or is it.....?
29 Places Left!

Go to *http://moodlemoot.org* to register