

# The Line of Code that Could

A First-Hand introduction to the Open  
Development process

# The Line of Code that Could

## Contributing to an Open Source project

- You're already using open source software – Great!
- You've taken advantage of the permissive licencing which allows you to modify the code to suit your needs – Great!
- Now, give your code away! - But why?

# The Line of Code that Could

```
diff --git a/theme/styles.php b/theme/styles.php
index d94dcfc..e1d2f46 100644
--- a/theme/styles.php
+++ b/theme/styles.php
```

```
@@ -116,7 +116,7 @@ $files = array();
// here can be overridden by theme CSS.
if ($pluginsheets) {
    foreach ($THEME->pluginsheets as $plugintype) {
-        $files += get_sheets_for_plugin_type($plugintype);
+        $files = array_merge($files,
get_sheets_for_plugin_type($plugintype));
    }
}
```

The Line of Code that Could



Moodle

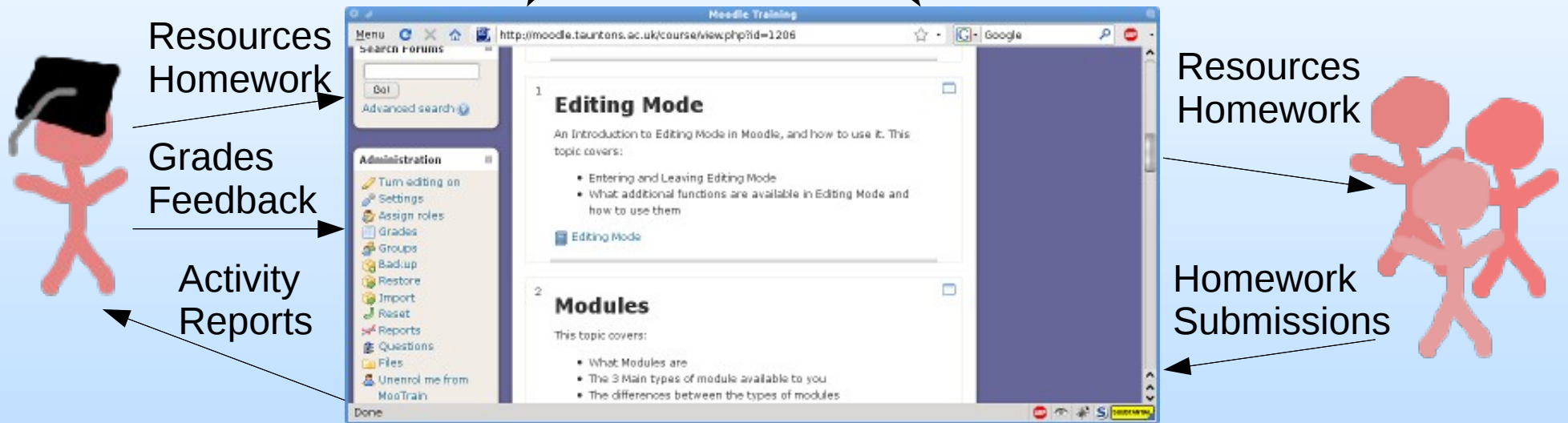
PHP/XMLDB

“Course Management System”

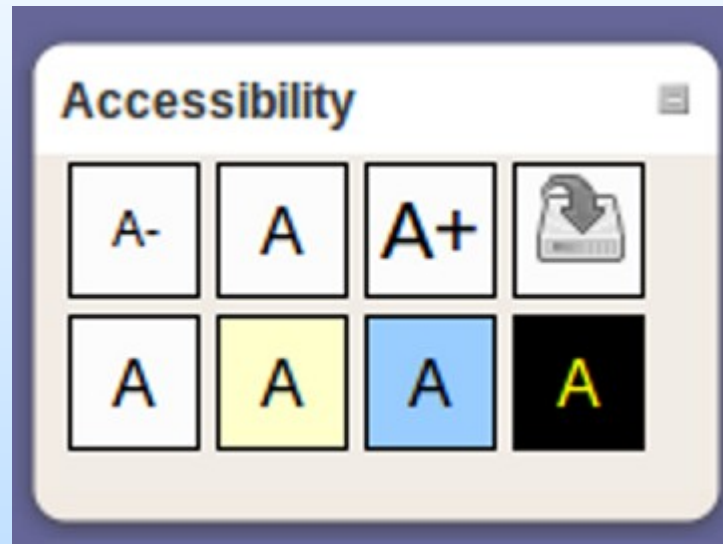
“Virtual Learning Environment”

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Messages



# The Line of Code that Could

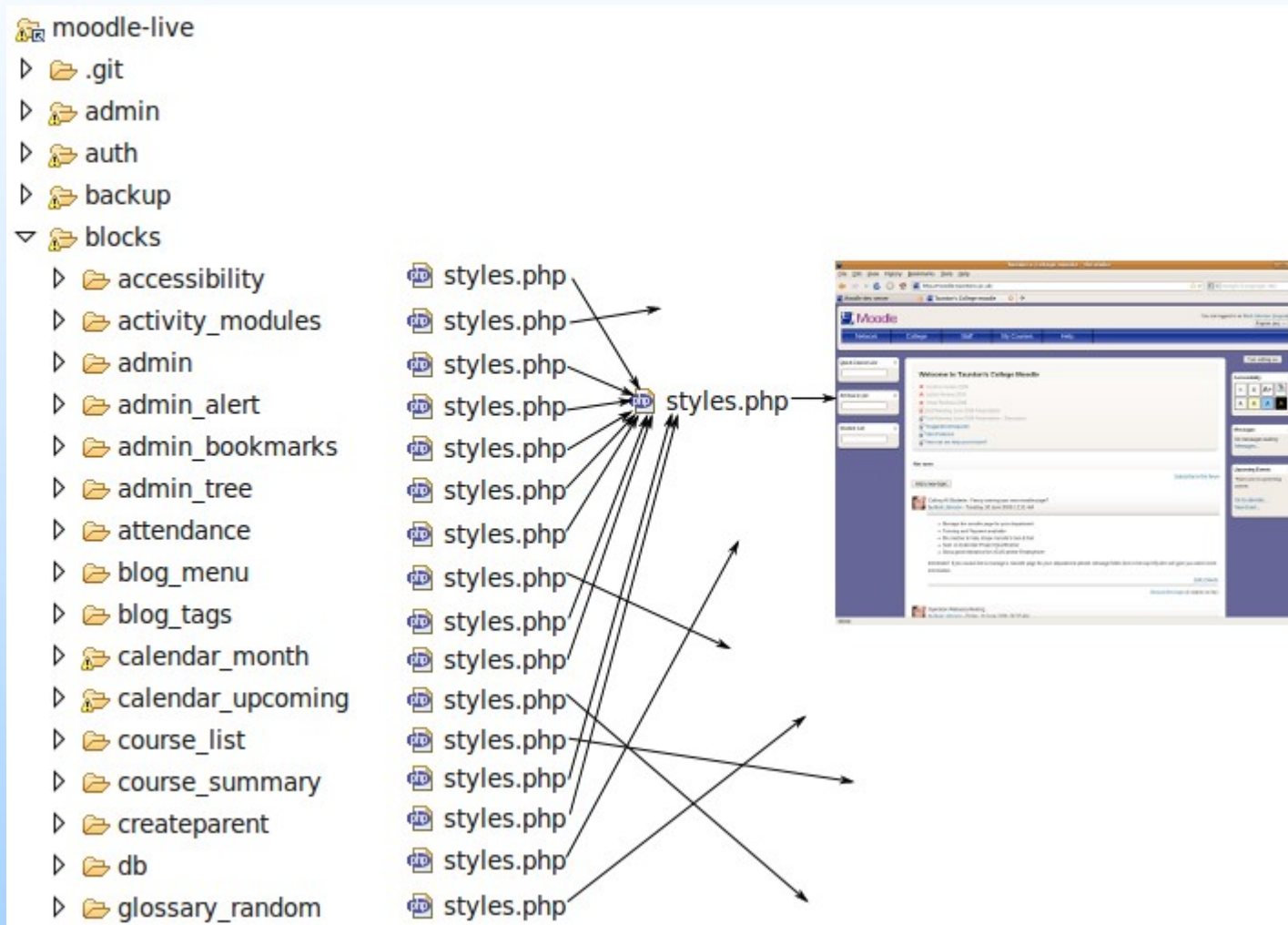


# The Line of Code that Could



- New and updated APIs - Breaking backwards compatibility
- Lots of code developed in-house to port
- Options:
  1. Wait until release date – long lead time before switch-over.
  2. Start porting now – Smaller lead time, possibly more work.
  3. Hide under the desk and pretend it didn't exist – end up with an unsupported system.

# The Line of Code that Could

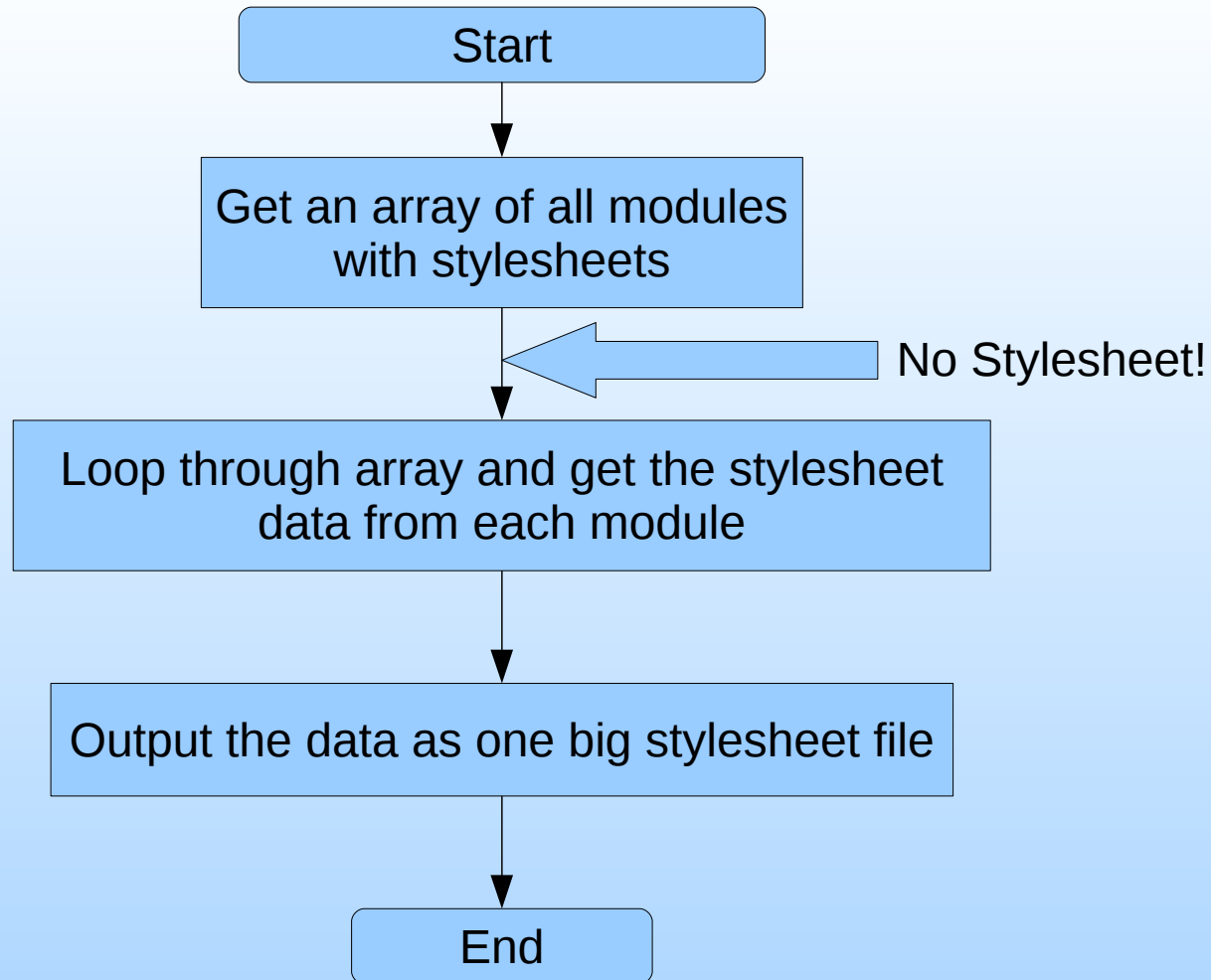




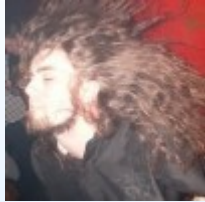
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I've got a block that I'm trying to port to Moodle 2 which includes it's own stylesheet via a styles.php file. However, for some reason it isn't being included along with other blocks' stylesheets.

I've had a poke around in theme/styles.php and all I can tell is that it's not being added to \$files after get\_sheets\_for\_plugin\_type is called, although the other blocks with styles.php files are. Is there anything I need to look out for in 2.0 that could be causing this?

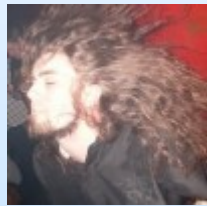
Sounds like a bug. I changed that code recently. **Please file a bug in the tracker** (<http://tracker.moodle.org/>) and assign it to me.



<http://tinyurl.com/mj-moodle1>

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Ah, here is a guess. Is your block called 'Accessibility' or 'accessibility'? (That is the name of the folder.) It must be all lower-case.



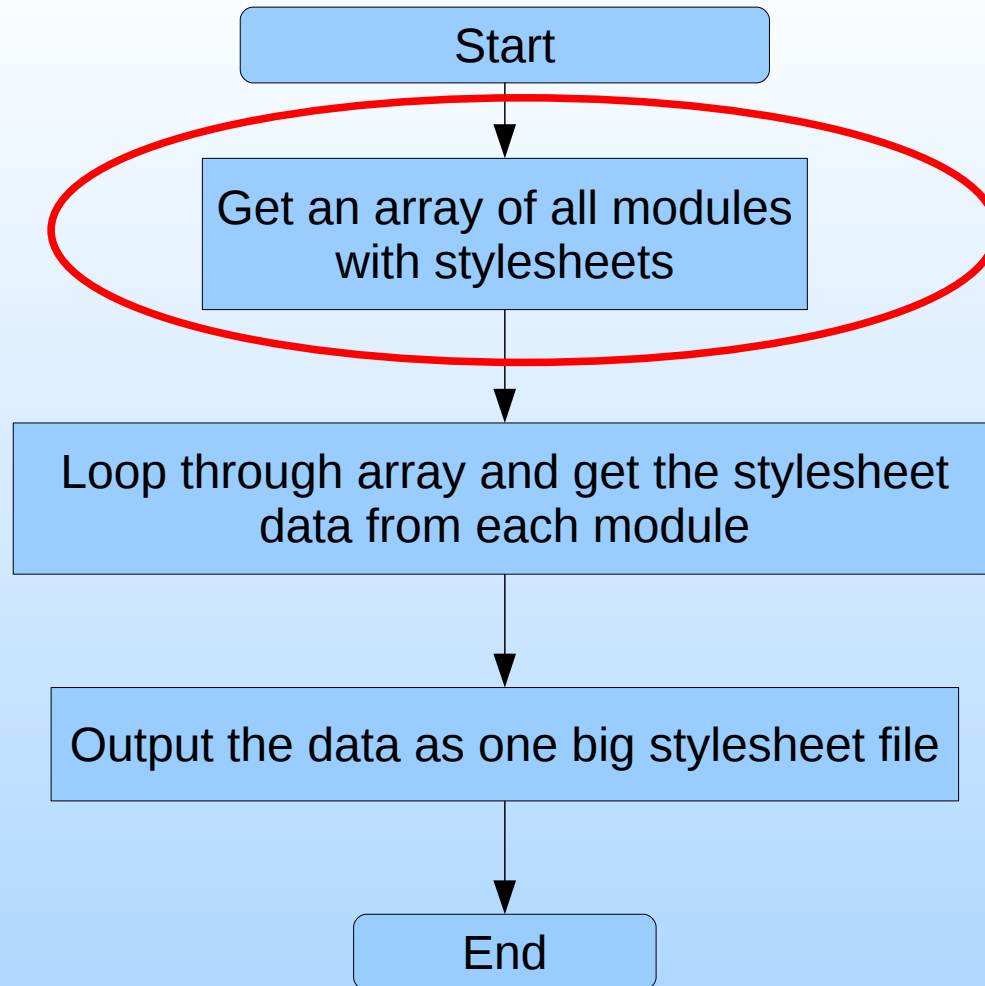
It's all lowercase, as is the name of the class. The only place it appears with a capital A is in the lang file. Would it help if I attached the updated block? (the version in the M&P database is for 1.9)

Yes. Please attache the block.

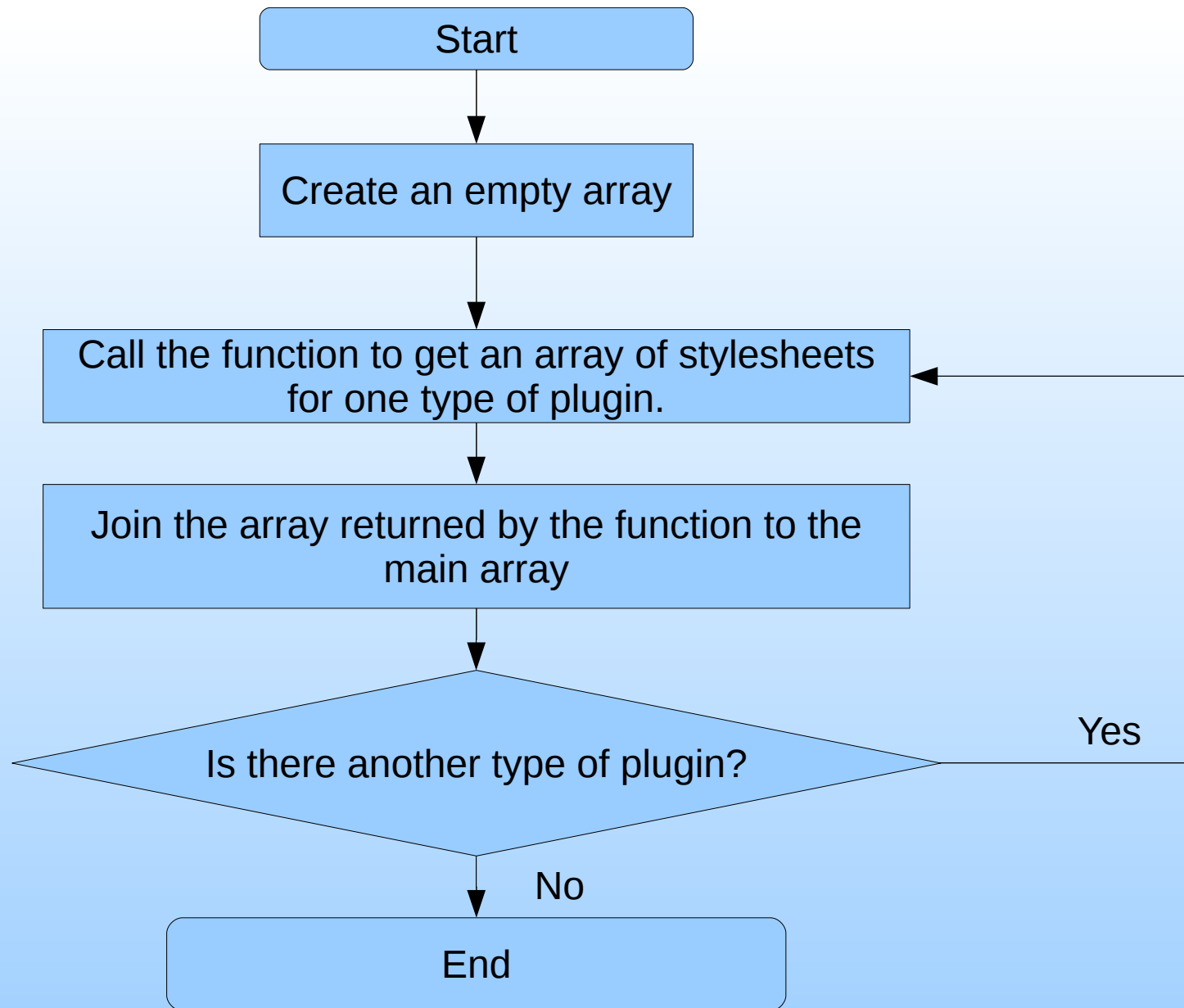
Of course, `get_sheets_for_plugin_type` is just at the end of `themes/styles.php`, so if you are able to debug this further yourself, that would be greatly appreciated. Otherwise, please attach the block, and I will take a look when I can. (I am kind-of on holiday at the moment )



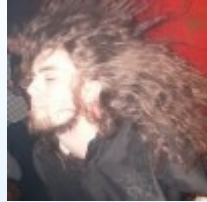
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Found it. It seemed that while the function was returning the correct files, the += operator wasn't joining it to the \$files array correctly. The attached patch changes it to use array\_merge(), which seems to work as expected.

Ah nice one. I always get + and array\_merge confused. Thanks for catching it. Fix now in CVS.



<http://tinyurl.com/mj-moodle2>

# The Line of Code that Could

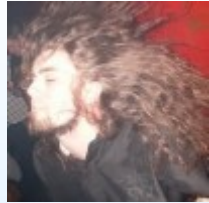
1. Found a problem
2. Debugged the problem as far as I could
3. Created a forum discussion to find out more information
4. Created an issue on the project's bug tracker
5. Performed additional debugging and fixed the problem
6. Created and submitted a patch with my fix
7. (Make sure my employer is happy for me to release their code)



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Benefits?

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Just found out I had my first patch accepted into #Moodle CVS :-)  
<http://is.gd/2d6nC>

12:19 AM Aug 12th from Gwibber

@marxjohnson congratulations :D

12:21 AM Aug 12th from Twirssi



@marxjohnson congratulations on your first Moodle patch - it's a good one. I'm going to use it as an OSS Watch blog post on good open dev.  
12:25 AM Aug 12th from web  
in reply to marxjohnson



# The Line of Code that Could

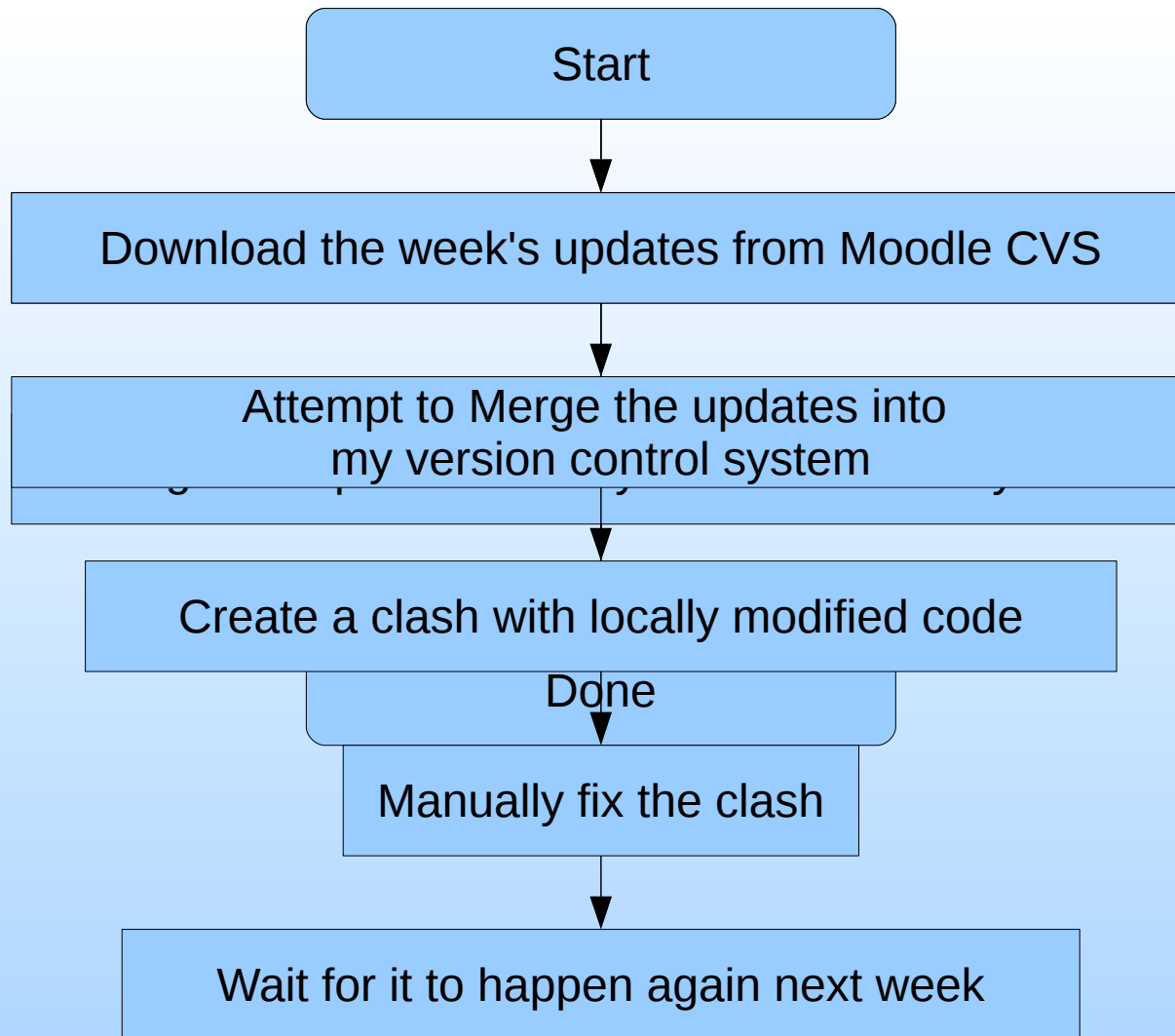
## Benefits

1. It gets your name out there
2. It Feels Good

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*“it is tempting to take a somewhat engineering focused approach to things... to constantly focus on highlighting the to-be-improved as opposed to the to-be-celebrated. While this is important, it is equally important to simply tell people when they are doing a great job. They love it, you feel great for making them feel great and we all get to feel those little hairs on the back of our necks stand on end for a little while.” - Jono Bacon*

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## Benefits

1. It gets your name out there
2. It Feels Good
3. Easier to maintain code
4. Community gets some good code
5. Peer-reviewed code = better quality code
6. “Adds value” to the software

# The Line of Code that Could

## What now?

1. Check the terms of the licence
2. Get permission from the copyright holder (your employer)
3. Find some code you've written
4. Post on the projects forum/ mailing list
5. Bring the code up to scratch with the project's guidelines
6. Release it!

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