



Setting up Moodle

"I've heard a lot about Moodle and I was wondering what do I need to set one up for our organisation?"

You can either install Moodle on your own server and host it yourself or pay a company to host it for you – they would maintain it completely. A local solution could be Kidderminster College but there are others around the UK e.g. University of London Computer Centre (ULCC).

Questions To Ask a Hosting Service Provider

Here are a few questions to get you started:

- What do you charge?
- What's included?
- Can you give references of people you already provide the service for?
- What are the back-up procedures?
- What levels of support do you offer?
- Do you have a formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) contract ?
- What UPS provision is there in case of power failure?
- Do you have academic experience?

If you're not using a hosting service and you're going to do it yourself, you will need:-

Hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Computer with at least 160mb disk space (plus capacity for storing learning resources)- Minimum of 256mb of memory (1gb recommended) [Moodle can support 50 concurrent users for every 1gb RAM]
Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Webserver software (e.g. Apache)- PHP scripting language- A working database server (e.g. MySQL)
Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How many browsing users will there be? (e.g. how many computers may be used on your course(s)) You need to allow enough RAM for these.- How many concurrent database users will there be who may be doing an activity? Again, an adequate RAM allowance is required.

You will need to have some knowledge of installing software and implementing it or else have a supportive IT technician in your organisation.

"I have all of the above, now what do I need to do?"

- Download and copy files from www.moodle.org onto your web server. There is a wealth of help and support on this website.
- Set up your system:
 - o *Check your web server settings*
 - o *Check your PHP settings*
 - o *Create an empty database*
- Create data directory (for storing uploaded files)
- Check ownership and permissions
- Configure your Moodle
- Set up Cron and Back Up
- Create a new course

And that's it! You're now ready to deliver teaching through a virtual learning environment!

Perhaps for some inspiration and to get you started these links might be useful:

<http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/InfoKits/effective-use-of-VLEs>

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/req-vle.doc

<http://wiki.rscwmsystems.org.uk/index.php/Moodle>

http://www.directlearn.co.uk/downloads/jisc_Champs_aware.doc

Prepared by: Jane Edwards : August 2008

RSC West Midlands
Technology Centre
Wolverhampton Science Park
Glaisher Drive
Wolverhampton
WV10 9RU

T: 01902 518982
F: 01902 824345
E: support@rsc-wm.ac.uk

