

What is Moodle?

Moodle is a software package for producing Internet-based courses. It is a global development project designed to support a *social constructionist* framework of education.

What does Moodle mean?

The word Moodle was originally an acronym for **Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment**, which is mostly useful to programmers and education theorists. It's also a verb that describes the process of lazily meandering through something, doing things as it occurs to you to do them, an enjoyable tinkering that often leads to insight and creativity. As such it applies both to the way Moodle was developed, and to the way a student or teacher might approach studying or teaching an online course. Anyone who uses Moodle is a **Moodler**.

Why Moodle?

Moodle is provided freely as Open Source software. Basically this means Moodle is copyrighted, but that you have additional freedoms. You are allowed to copy, use and modify Moodle provided that you agree to: **provide the source to others; not modify or remove the original license and copyrights, and apply this same license to any derivative work.**



Moodle offers the following advantages:

- **Support** - Moodle's open source nature means that there are far more avenues for support available than is the case for other LMS systems.
- **Customization** - Moodle's open source nature means that you own the system and have rights allowing you to change and modify it, rather than renting it 'as is', which is the case for many competing systems.
- **Philosophy** - Moodle is based on a solid foundation of social constructionism (strong community, shared experiences, building things together for others to view and use) and grew out of postgraduate research by Martin Dougiamas, its founder. Other companies tend to be led by profit, leading to a focus on marketing to what school decision makers think they need, rather than what actually works best.
- **Innovation** - Moodle is not constrained by what will sell well, so the code that is developed, especially by third parties, is often at the cutting edge of educational thinking.
- **Usability** - Perhaps the best sentence to short Moodle usability is: "simple and powerful".
- **Interoperability** – Moodle will exchange data using open industry standards for Web deployments.