

# Using Moodle with Mahara

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## 1 Overview of Mahara

What is Mahara?

What is an ePortfolio?

Mahara Core Features

LMS vs ePortfolio

## 2 Integration with Moodle

Stage 1 - Single Sign On

Stage 2 - Content transferral

Stage 3 - Smarter content

### 3 Using the two together

One Moodle to One Mahara

Many Moodles to One Mahara

### 4 Demo and Questions

Demo

Questions



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  - What is Mahara?
  - What is an ePortfolio?
  - Mahara Core Features
  - LMS vs ePortfolio
- 2 Integration with Moodle
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# What is Mahara?

- An ePortfolio System
- 2 years old
- Open Source (GPLv3)
- Originally funded by the New Zealand Government
- Similar technology stack to Moodle

# What is an ePortfolio?

- Primarily: A collection of evidences of learning belonging to a student
- A way for the student to organise and display this collection
- Some social networking features
- The student defines and controls their own environment
- *Complimentary* to a Learning Management System
- I am using the term 'student' but Mahara is also used for professional development

# Feature Goals

- Student controlled environment
- (Can be) Institution agnostic
- Fundamentally based on Artefacts/Views/Access:
  - An artefact can be any piece of content
  - A view is a collection of artefacts and how they're displayed
  - Access is who gets to see it (very finely grained)

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  - A view is a collection of artefacts and how they're displayed
  - Access is who gets to see it (very finely grained)
- Initial focus: artefact/view creation
- More recently:
  - Import/export entire student portfolio
  - Communities/social networking
  - Collaborative authoring
  - Interoperability (especially with Moodle)



# LMS vs ePortfolio: An over generalised comparison

<b>LMS</b>	<b>ePortfolio</b>
Courses are the central hubs	Users are the central hubs
Teachers make the rules	Users define their rules
Courses provide structure	Unstructured and organic
Grades are given and managed	Grades not given
Content is available to all on a course	Others can only see what users let them see
Formal	Informal
Social networking revolves around courses	Users determine their own social networking

# LMS vs ePortfolio: Find the boundaries

- The boundaries can get a bit fuzzy
- And often vary a great deal from institution to institution
- In general, refer to the Unix Philosophy:
- "Do one thing, do it well."
- Mahara doesn't want to be an LMS
- Moodle doesn't want to be a portfolio
- Assessment is always the most fuzzy one



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# Stage 1 (Complete)

- Since Moodle 1.9 and Mahara 0.9
- Single Sign On
- On-demand account creation
- Builds on top of Moodle Networks Project
- Very similar setup to normal Moodle to Moodle networking.
- One to one, many to one, one to many, or many to many.

## Stage 2 (Currently underway)

- Portfolio API in Moodle 2.0
- Students can 'export to portfolio'
- Any Moodle content could potentially be a Mahara artefact
- Mahara is Learning Management System agnostic
- Moodle is ePortfolio System agnostic
- Moodle content appears in Mahara rendered to HTML or a file that can be read by common applications (eg PDF)
- Most important: very solid framework to build upon

## Stage 3 (Roadmap)

- Smarter understanding of incoming data
- Example: Moodle blog post becomes Mahara blog post rather than just a HTML representation
- Looking closely at LEAP standard for this
- Still hopefully before Moodle 2.0
- My weekends for the next while



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# One Moodle to One Mahara

- School wants to add portfolio and/or social networking functionality to existing Moodle setup
- A walled environment is wanted, often as an alternative to public systems (eg myspace)
- Can just be used to showcase student work within the school
- Some social networking but limited within a closed group who already know each other
- Still a lot of use of communities and forums



# Many Moodles to One Mahara

- Can fit regional model, or even national
- Each Moodle feeds into a Mahara 'institution'
- User Administration in Mahara is controlled per institution
- More networking ability between users of different institutions
- Still traditional ePortfolio functionality of course

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  - Demo
  - Questions

# Demo

- <http://demo.mahara.org>

# Questions?

- Questions?
- `penny@catalyst.net.nz`
- `http://catalyst.net.nz`
- `http://mahara.org`
- `http://eduforge.org/projects/mahara`
- `irc: #mahara` on freenode

