# Moodle Summary Executive Summary

Moodle is a web-based, open-source course management system developed by Moodle Pty Ltd. As an open-source project, Moodle is constantly being worked on both by Moodle staff and independent developers. This makes Moodle to adaptable to a wide range of educational purposes and different types of classrooms. Moodle is available for download at no charge from www.moodle.com.

Moodle is based on the idea that a learning environment should be flexible to its users and should be constantly adapting and growing to suit the users’ needs. As a result, Moodle encompasses approximately 20 different customizable activities/modules such as forums, databases, wikis, and surveys. These activities are meant for (but not necessarily limited to) building upon each other’s outcomes to create a more fluid learning experience.

EEE is also customizable to a degree, butless so than Moodle. Whereas EEE has a standard interface for accessing all classes and optional tools for building either template-based or fully customized class websites, Moodle allows instructors to more flexibly change the overall course layout. This allows each course to have a unique interface despite a common environment software.

Like EEE, Moodle supports the standard tools for calendaring and grading, quizzes, security and discussion, though the feature sets within each tool differ in their comparison to EEE (the grading functionality, for instance, is less flexible while the quiz building features are more flexible). Moodle can also facilitate audio and video chat with the optional installation of third party modules such as Big Blue Button and OpenMeetings.

Students may be allowed to use Moodle for their own, custom groups depending on the permissions they are assigned. School clubs and organizations may use Moodle alongside teaching staff to create an environment in which students and staff are jointly more aware of Moodle’s various tools, allowing everyone to take full advantage of the system.

Compared to EEE, Moodle does not do as well at creating a space with an intuitive navigation system. Though it is highly customizable, many users may find it difficult and time-consuming to design custom layouts. Moodle addresses this by offering course templates that get users started. If UCI switched to Moodle, it may be necessary to create one or more standardized templates for most instructors to use.

To combat the learning curve, Moodle has extensive online documentation that is constantly being updated. In addition, Moodle has a community of users that have been asking and answering each other’s queries for years. This creates a larger, albeit informal and decentralized, support system for Moodle as opposed to the smaller on-campus dedicated support staff for EEE.

Moodle also offers Moodle Joule, an advanced LMS build maintained by MoodleRooms, a partner of Moodle. Although it is not free, it offers more features including announcements, the ability to migrate course materials from another LMS, and an easier “pick and choose” method of customization. In addition, Joule offers enterprise-level deployment and implementation and an even more extensive support system.

# EEE vs. Moodle toolset comparison chart

\*\* = Part of [Moodlerooms Joule](http://www.moodlerooms.com/lms-solutions/joule/)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Feature*** | ***EEE*** | ***Moodle*** | ***Details*** |
| **Managing teaching assistant permissions** | Yes (Assistant Editor) | No | Tool to add assistants and manage their tool permissions. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Archive of emails from instructors and TAs** | Yes (MyClassMessages) | No | Email archive of class-related emails. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Customizable Pages** | Yes | Yes | Options to customize appearance of dashboards, pages, order of content, etc. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Announcements** | Yes (Announcements) | \*\*Yes (Calendar) | Tool to make class announcements to students. |
| Timed announcements (range of dates) | No | \*\*Yes |  |
| WYSIWYG editor | No | ? |  |
| Attachments | No | No |  |
| Email notifications | No | No |  |
| RSS URL | No | \*\*Kind of (RSS feeds) |  |
| Search | Yes | \*\*Yes |  |
| Mark as Permanent | No | ? |  |
| Images, Multimedia, Links | No | ? |  |
| Re-order announcements | No | ? |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Calendar** | Yes (Calendar) | Yes (Schedule) | A calendar with appointments such as classes or due dates of assignments. |
| Add any appointment? | Yes | Yes |  |
| WYSIWYG editor | No | Yes |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Calendar for recurring events** | Yes (MyPlanner) | Yes | A calendar for weekly recurring events. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Chat** | Yes (Chat) | Yes (Chat) | Real-time chat rooms between instructors and students. |
| Chat logs | Yes | Yes |  |
| Specific permissions | No | Yes |  |
| Multiple chat rooms | Yes | \*\*Yes |  |
| Multi-course chat rooms | Yes | \*\*Yes | Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms |
| Private chat messages | No | Yes |  |
| Audio and video | No | Yes Moodle.org offers free third party modules  \*\*Yes (through Whiteboard) |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Course groups** | No | Yes | With permissions, students can create clubs, interest, or study groups that have their own boards, profiles, discussions, templates, and catalog. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Class mailing lists** | Yes (ClassMail Manager) | Yes (through  Internal Email) | Management of mailing lists for easy email to the entire class. |
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| **Class websites** | Yes (WebsiteManager and its sub-tools) | No class websites that can be accessed without login | Custom websites to display information, upload class files and assignments, etc. |
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| **Classmates** | Yes (Classmates) | Yes | List of students in the class (for students). |
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| **Counter** | Yes | Yes (can track frequency and duration of student access to course components) | Counts web page loads. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Dropbox for uploading and sharing files** | Yes (DropBox) | Yes (DropBox) | File sharing tool for instructors to make class files available and for students to upload work. |
| Editable files on site | No | No |  |
| Desktop support | No | No |  |
| Deadlines | Yes | Yes |  |
| RapidReturn-like functionality | Yes | Yes | Secure exam return service |
| Groups | Yes | Yes (not tool-associated) |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Gradebook** | Yes (GradeBook) | Yes (Grades) | Tool for instructors to input grades and (optionally) display grades to students. |
| Multiple gradebooks per course | Yes | ? |  |
| Import/export | Yes | Yes | EEE also integrates with Registrar systems |
| Categories & weights | Yes | Yes |  |
| Grade distribution | Yes | Yes |  |
| Statistics | Yes | Yes |  |
| Access logs | Yes | ? |  |
| Integration with other tools | No | Yes | Some EEE tools provide CSV downloads for uploading into GradeBook |
| Different grade scales (per assignment) | Yes | Yes |  |
| Grade overrides | Yes | Yes |  |
| Drop grades | Yes | Yes |  |
| Automatic grading | No | No |  |
| Grading rubrics | No | Yes |  |
| Extra credit assignments | Yes | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Instructor and TA evaluations** | Yes (Evaluations) | Yes (Survey) | Evaluations of instructors and teaching assistants initiated by them or their department. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Internet bookmarks** | Yes (Bookmarks) | Yes | List of favorite websites or bookmarks. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Message boards or discussion forums** | Yes (MessageBoard) | Yes (Discussions) | Place for instructor and student discussion. |
| Gradebook integration | No | Yes |  |
| Moderation tools | Yes | Yes |  |
| Security (passwords and access control) | Yes | Access Control only |  |
| Multiple courses per forum | Yes | Kind of (Forums can be created at site level, where multiple courses can see it) |  |
| User tracking | Yes | Yes |  |
| Email notifications | Yes | Yes | f |
| Attachments | Yes | Yes |  |
| Archive | No | Yes | EEE does not delete data, so message boards stay around “forever” |
| Audio and video | No | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Podcasts** | Yes (Podcasts) | Kind of (Can create forum and activate RSS feed with media files) | Tool to make available audio or video podcasts. |
| RSS feed | No | Yes |  |
| File upload | No | No |  |
| URL link | Yes | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Profile page and/or social networking** | Yes (MyEEE Profile) | Yes (Profile) | Social networking feature with privacy controls so that only you or your connections (friends/contacts) can see photos, staff info, student info, social info, etc. |
| Privacy controls | Yes (but limited) | Yes |  |
| Social networking | No | No | A social networking component is being developed for Moodle |
| Notification controls | No | Yes |  |
| Private messaging | No | No | This is separate from the private messaging tool. |
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| **Quizzes** | Yes (Quiz) | Yes (Quizzes) | Quizzes and tests. |
| Templates | Yes | ? | Uses question banks rather than templates |
| Saved Q&A (question pool) | Yes | Yes |  |
| Image support (within questions) | Yes | \*\*Yes |  |
| Attachment support (within questions) | No | Yes |  |
| Security | Yes (via enrollment restrictions and participation password) | Yes |  |
| Timed window | Yes | Yes |  |
| Feedback/release options | Yes | Yes |  |
| Late submissions | No | No |  |
| Multiple submissions (and limit) | Yes | Yes |  |
| Question randomization | Yes (randomize order) | Yes |  |
| Anonymous grading | No | Yes |  |
| Mark individual answers for review | No | \*\*Yes |  |
| Import | No | Yes |  |
| Creation with markup (option) | No | ? |  |
| More options | No | Yes |  |
| Multiple question formats | Yes | Yes |  |
| Rubric | No | No |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Room locator** | Yes (RoomFinder) | No | Tool to locate rooms on campus. |
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| **Rosters** | Yes (Rosters) | Yes (Classlist) | List of enrolled students in the class (for instructor/TA use). |
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| **Sign-up sheets** | Yes (SignupSheet) | No | Tool for participants to sign up for items or choices. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Surveys** | Yes (Survey) | Yes (Survey, is a kind of test) | Tool for surveys. |
| Templates | Yes | Kind of (can use questions from a Question Bank) |  |
| Saved Q&A (question pool) | ? | Yes |  |
| Image support (within questions) | Yes | \*\*Yes |  |
| Attachment support (within questions) | No | \*\*Yes |  |
| Security | Yes (via enrollment restrictions and participation password) | Yes |  |
| Timed window | ? | Yes |  |
| Feedback/release options | Yes | Yes |  |
| Late submissions | No | No |  |
| Multiple submissions (and limit) | Yes | Yes |  |
| Question randomization | Yes (randomize order) | Yes |  |
| Anonymous grading | No | Yes |  |
| Mark individual answers for review | No | \*\*Yes |  |
| Import | No | Yes |  |
| Creation with markup (option) | No | ? |  |
| More options | No | Yes |  |
| Multiple question formats | Yes | Yes |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Tasks** | Yes (My Tasks) | No | Displays activities and assignments that need to be completed. |
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| **Wiki** | Yes (Wiki) | Yes | Collaborative document creation. |
| Site-specific wiki | No | No |  |
| Access controls | Yes (UCInetID needed) | No |  |
| Rich media | No | No |  |
| History | Yes | Yes |  |
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| **Basic Learning Tools Interoperability support** | No | Yes (2.2 consumer built in, plugin for provider) | Support for tools that use IMS Basic Learning Tools Interoperability standard. |
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| **Content Areas** | No | Yes (not customizable) | Manage class content in one place.  Customizable. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Assignments** | No | Yes | Tool to create assignments for students. |
| Cross-tool export | No | ? |  |
| Submission history | Yes | Yes |  |
| Integrated with gradebook | No | Yes |  |
| Grading rubric | No | ? |  |
| View instructor feedback | Yes | Yes |  |
| Extra Credit | Yes | Yes |  |
| Different submission types | ? | Yes |  |
| WYSIWYG editor | No | ? |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Blogs** | No | Yes (Blogs) | Tool for blogging. |
| Customizable | No | No |  |
| Integrated with gradebook | No | No |  |
| Can register external blogs | No | Yes |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Built-in RSS feed viewer\*\*\*** | No | Yes (only some tools can view RSS feeds) | Tool to display an RSS feed within the Moodle site. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Built-in web content viewer\*\*\*** | No | Yes (tool enables users to interact with LTI compliant learning activities/resources | Tool to display an external website within the Moodle site. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Conferences** | No | No (offers 3rd party modules)  \*\*Yes 2 way audio chat | Tool that allows for web conferencing. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Contacts** | Yes (MyEEE Dashboard) | Yes (Classlist) | Tool for instructors only to look up contact information for teaching staff in course. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Course Import Tool** | No | Only course templates | Tool that allows import of course content from other Moodle classes or LMS’. |
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| **Email** | No | Yes (Internal Email) | Send email. |
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| **Equation Editor** | No | Yes (Dragmath equation editor) | Allows equations to be made within text editors.  Editor available: Dragmath |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Glossary** | No | Yes (Moodle docs) | A list of terms and definitions. |
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| **Mobile Apps** | No | Being developed for Moodle2.0 | Applications for mobile devices. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Outcomes** | No | Yes | Tool to set course goals and collect and compile data on course outcomes. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Portfolios** | No | Yes | Portfolios are a means to display information (like a resume) or show work (like art and writing, just as you would in a normal portfolio). It has privacy/publishing controls, statistics, etc. |
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| **Reports** | No | Yes (contributed module) | Generate reports with statistical information. |
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| **Rubrics** | No | Yes | A systematic scoring guideline to evaluate students’ performance. |
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| **Self and Peer Assessments** | No | Yes | Tool to guide assignment assessments. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Site statistics** | No | Yes | Site statistics like how many users accessed this site, how many visits per tool, etc. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Syllabus** | Not a dedicated tool but can make syllabus available as download via EasyWebsite | Not a dedicated tool but can make syllabus available as download resource | Tool to display or provide a download for a syllabus. |
|  |  |  |  |
| Activity Logs | Mostly yes | Yes |  |
| Participant's own activity | A little | Yes |  |
| Owner's logs | Yes | ? |  |
| Admin logs | Yes | ? |  |