

Managing Course Content Using a “Personal Repository”

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Managing **Internet-Based** Resources in Moodle

- Create a **URL link** to them in Moodle
- **Examples**
 - **Wikipedia**
 - **YouTube**
 - **Amazon**

Managing Your Own Resources in Moodle

- Example: An **Excel** file
- Example: A **“Page”** resource

Problems with this Approach

- **Managing these resources is not so easy**
- **Changing Excel file**
 - **Download it**
 - **Edit it**
 - **Delete the old**
 - **Upload the new**
- **Changing Page contents**
 - **Must be **connected** (on the Internet)**

Resource Management

- **Easier on my own computer**
- **Excellent file and folder management tools**
 - **Easy naming and rename of files**
 - **Easy folder management**
 - **Faster**
 - **Much more control**

Creating Content

- **Moodle's editors**
 - ATTO
 - TinyMCE
 - Okay, but not robust
- **Computer-based editors (Dreamweaver)**
 - Very robust
 - Styles
 - Templates
 - CSS

Best of Both Worlds?

- **Advantage of using one's computer**
- **Off-line editing**
- **Getting computer files into Moodle**

- **Easy to learn**
- **Inexpensive**

“Personal Repository”

- A **personal** website outside of Moodle
- **Don't be alarmed!**
 - Wikipedia, YouTube, Amazon are outside of Moodle
 - On a website!

How?

- **Maybe...**
 - **Google Docs**
 - **DropBox**
 - **MS OneDrive**
- **Problem: Need a URL that when clicked, it simply opens**
- **No login credentials to get to content**
- **A website provides clean URLs that open**

Rick's Solution

- Carefully organize files on computer
- c/analytics/Excel/Excel-01
- Example

Two Additional Requirements

- **A website**
 - Some school IT departments provide this for free
 - Or you can buy your own for around **\$5US/month**
- **FTP software**
 - Many products, both free and purchased
 - I like Dreamweaver, it has both **FTP** and a **web page editor**

How is Excel-01 Made Available?

- **On computer:**
c/analytics/Excel/Excel-01.xlsx
- **As seen in Dreamweaver:**
c/analytics/Excel/Excel-01.xlsx
- **Right-click, “Put”**
- **In Moodle, create URL link to it**

Create Content Web Page and Post in Moodle

- Create and edit in Dreamweaver
- “Put” this to my website
- Create a URL link to it in Moodle

Moving Many Files

- “Put” folders
- “Put” all files
- Dreamweaver figures out which files have **changed** and only moves these

Upfront Work

- Create the URL links in Moodle

- On **computer**

C:/My Documents/c/analytics/Excel/Excel-01.xlsx

- On **website**

https://domain_name/c/analytics/Excel/Excel-01.xlsx

Additional Work in Moodle

- After creating URL links, **little** maintenance is needed
- **Create** and **edit** content on your computer, then **synchronize** it to your website
- Suggestion: use the “_” **underscore** character instead of “ ” **space** character in filenames.

Content is **Independent**

- You can use your URLs **anywhere!**
- Example: **MoodleCloud** course
- When editing content, changes are reflected **everywhere** this content is used!

Videos

- I use a **free** university (video server) website
- Create the URL link in Moodle

http://streaming.iowa.uiowa.edu/business + c/analytics/my_video.mp4

Advantages and Disadvantages

- **Advantages**

- Content can be used **anywhere**
- **Backups** of content on your own computer
- Moodle backups are **smaller**

- **Disadvantages**

- Might have a small **cost** for web space
- **Modifying** file and folder names on computer requires **changing** URLs in Moodle
- **Warning!** Some LMS administrators don't like this method (they lose **control!**)

Conclusions

- I have always used this technique, **20-years**
- **LMS file management** and **editors** are relatively **weak**
- I have used my content in other LMSs, such as Blackboard, Desire2Learn, and Canvas
- **Students don't care!** They often think that my content is within the LMS

The End

- For more support, including this video, go to

www.rjerz.com