

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

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Managing Your Own Resources in Moodle

- Example: An **Excel** file
- Example: A **"Page"** resource

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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)

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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

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Creating Content

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

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Best of Both Worlds?

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

- Easy to learn
- Inexpensive

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"Personal Repository"

- A **personal** website outside of Moodle

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

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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**

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Rick's Solution

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

- Example

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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**

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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**

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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

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Moving Many Files

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

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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

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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.

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Content is **Independent**

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

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

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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!**)

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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

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The End

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