

# How to Install a “Sandbox” Moodle on Your Mac Computer

**Rick Jerz**  
**The University of Iowa**

[www.rjerz.com](http://www.rjerz.com)  
[Rick-m@rjerz.com](mailto:Rick-m@rjerz.com)

# Objectives

- Overview
- Install Moodle on **Mac with MAMP**
  - Install Moodle on **PC with XAMPP**
- Examples of what you can do
  - Some moodle settings
  - Some **php.ini settings**
  - Some custom **CSS**
    - Color top bar
  - Add a **plugin**
    - “Collapsed Topics”

# Overview

- A “sandbox” Moodle
  - **Not for production!**
  - For education and experimenting

# Can and Can't Do

- **Can**
  - Experiment with many Moodle settings
  - Act as manager, teacher, student
  - Create courses and move to production
  - Create quizzes and move to production
  - Themes and CSS
  - Explore add-ins
- **Can't**
  - Email related items
  - Have others log in (from the Internet)
  - Cron is limited

# Many Ways to Install

- Moodle.org installers
  - One-step, but often lack some feature
- Install manually!
  - XAMPP + Moodle, Windows PC
  - MAMP + Moodle, Macintosh computer

# Moodle Requirements

- **A moodledata folder**
- **A database**
- **The moodle application**

# What do we have?

- A working copy of Moodle
- A local “server” running
- Nothing in Moodle, **yet!**
  
- **Review Steps:**
  - Start MAMP Application
  - Start **Apache** and **MySQL** servers
  - Go to **localhost:8888/moodle** in your browser
  
- Make **NOTES!!!!!!**

# Examples of Experimentation

- **Adjust some settings**
- **Edit settings in php.ini**
- **Add Custom CSS**
- **Install a plugin**



# Moodle Settings

- Turn off **guest access**
- Administration / Plugins/  
Authentication / Manage authentication
- Guest login button = **Hide**

# php.ini Settings

- Find and edit php.ini
- Add my favorites:
  - `upload_max_filesize = 128M`
  - `post_max_size = 128M`
  - `memory_limit = 384M`
  - `max_input_time` to 600
  - `max_execution_time` to 300
  - `max_input_vars = 5000;`
- **Stop and restart** the Apache server

# Custom CSS

- **Change color of upper bar**
  - (Distinguish sandbox from production moodles)
- **Administration/Appearance/Boost/Advanced Settings**
- **In Raw SCSS, add the following:**
  - .bg-white**
  - {background-color: orange !important;}**
- **Purge caches**

# Moodle Plugins

- **Collapsed Topics**
- **Others that I use**
  - Checklist
  - Configurable Reports
  - A few ATTO utilities

# Summary

- A “sandbox” moodle on your computer is **great!**
- Can't do this with other LMSs.
- I hang out in the **Moodle.org forums**, if you need me.

# The End

- For more support, including this video, go to

[www.rjerz.com](http://www.rjerz.com)

# Future Topics

- **Reinstalling**
- **Installing more than one**
- **Setting up opcache**
- **Modifying the database config file**
- **Backup/restore of Moodle**
- **Migrating Moodle**
  - **Production to local, and vice versa**