

Moodle 5

New Questions Management and Question Sharing

Dr. Rick Jerz
September 2025
(Version 3)

Objectives

- Demonstrate the new Question Bank features in Moodle 5
- Are the changes better than earlier versions?
- Some administrative suggestions and concerns

Developers' Goals

- Satisfy the **novice** teachers' needs
- Satisfy the **intermediate** teachers' needs
- Satisfy the **advanced** teachers' needs
- Improved methods for sharing questions
 - Teachers sharing with teachers
 - Departments (e.g., Math) having department-level question banks
- Always further development

Presentation Perspective

- A **simple** teacher: only quizzes, no question banks
 - An **intermediate** teacher: Use common questions
 - An **advanced** teacher: Exploit question banks
-
- Teachers become more advanced as they continue to teach with Moodle

My Environment

- Moodle 5, September 2025 release
- New installation
 - Not an upgrade or migration
- Environment check shows "OK"
- Make sure that cron runs
- A few users added
- Teachers: Kathy and Norman

Scenario: Math Teachers

- Add course: 01 Math Basics – Fall25
- Assign a teacher
- Assign a manager
- Only managers and teachers can use Moodle 5's question bank features
- Simple teacher
 - Somewhat new to Moodle
 - Just wants to teach this course
 - No desire for “question banks”
 - Has some elementary Moodle training

Creating Simple Quizzes

- Add **topic**: Addition
- Add a **quiz**
- Add a few **questions**

- Repeat for...
 - Subtraction
 - Multiplication
 - Division

Administrative Notes

- Question banks
 - Quiz-level – Accessed from within a quiz
 - Course-level – Accessed from the course
- Two ways to create quizzes
 - Create quiz, immediately create and add questions
 - Create quiz, put questions into a “bank,” then add to quiz
- Quiz instances report

Changes from Moodle 4

- Very little difference between Moodle 4 and Moodle 5
- New quiz questions
 - M5: New questions stored in quiz-level, private, non-sharable container called a “bank”
 - M4: New questions stored in course-level, sharable container called a “category”
- Both M4 and M5 allow further organization using categories
- Questions in a quiz-level container are private in both M4 and M5

Coping a Course

- A copied (duplicated) course
 - Duplicates quizzes
 - Duplicates questions
- The duplicated course is a stand-alone course, **disconnected** from any others
- M4 and M5 the same
 - **Independent** questions

Intermediate Needs

- A reusable question – where should this go?
- Into a **course-level** bank
- Result:
 - One copy of the question that can be used in any quiz
 - Editing the one question propagates changes wherever it is used
- **Course-level banks are very useful!**

Using a Course-Level Bank

- Add a course-level bank
- **Rename** it to something meaningful
- Add a question
- Go into any quiz and add the question by **switching** to the course-level bank
- **Powerful** yet **simple** feature

Administrative Effects

- Only one instance of course-level bank question, regardless of how often it is used.
- A copy of this course, with a course-level bank, copies the course-level bank and creates another disconnected instance
 - Can be confusing

Changes from Moodle 4

- M4 and M5 **very similar**
- Course-level question bank **questions can be shared** in the course
- M5 **“bank”** versus M4 **“category”**
- Both provide **“categories”** for organizing questions

Advanced Scenario

- A new course, Math Basics II
 - How do you use questions from Math Basics I?
- Solution: Create a “Master Course”
- Move questions into the course-level bank
- Questions in this master course bank can be used in any course Kathy teaches!

Changes from Moodle 4

- **Difficult** to share questions between courses in M4
- **Easy** to share questions across courses in M5
- I prefer to create questions in banks and then use them to create quizzes

Importing Questions

- Easy to do!
- Can be imported anywhere, any quiz-level or course-level question bank
- I recommend importing into a Master course-level question bank
 - The imported question can then be used in any course that you teach
- Imported questions author
- Obey copyrights for owner of questions

Tagging Questions

- Yes, Moodle 5 still supports question-tagging

Using the Master Question Bank

- Create a multiplication quiz by randomly selecting Level_II questions from the master question bank

Sharing the Master Question Bank with other Teachers

- Add the other teacher(s) to the Master Course
- Added teacher share **full access to all questions**
 - If limited access is desired, create a separate course containing specific questions
 - Involves a bit more effort, but it is doable
- To restrict question editing of added teachers
 - Add as a “**non-editing teacher**”
 - **Adjust role settings** for non-editing teacher:
 - Allow question:useall and question:viewall

Changes from Moodle 4

- In Moodle 4, teachers could not easily share question banks
- In Moodle 5, teachers can easily share question banks

Sharing Cart Plugin

- Seems well-behaved
- In Moodle 5
 - Quiz-level questions get duplicated
 - Course-level questions are not duplicated
- You can only share complete sections
- Using Moodle 5's question-sharing features might be better

Upgrading Moodle 4.5 to Moodle 5

- Quiz-level questions remain at the quiz level
- Course-level questions remain in the course, as a shareable question bank
- Category-level questions are in a shareable course
 - You need to administratively add teachers to it
- System-level questions are in a system-level question bank
- A very elegant upgrade solution!
- Upgrading documentation is quite good

Importing Earlier Moodle Courses

- The entire question bank is imported
 - Undesirable **bloated** database with **redundant** questions
 - So, **be careful!**
- Alternatives
 1. Live with the problem of many questions
 2. Import the course without questions
 - The course will not contain questions or **quizzes**
 - Export specific questions and/or categories, rebuild quizzes
- Backing up and restoring a Moodle 5 course into Moodle 5 **works fine!**

Question Versioning

- Any edit will increment the question version number
- Generally, use “**Always latest**” question in quizzes
- When editing a question during a quiz, remember to **regrade** the quiz for the changes to show

Canvas LMS

- Canvas has **two** quiz engines, **Classic** and **New**
- **New is not** necessarily better
- Offers a course-level bank
 - Questions from the course-level bank are copies
 - Only random quizzes have linked questions
- No question sharing between courses
- No question sharing between teachers
- **Moodle is much more powerful than Canvas and other LMSs!**

Summary

- Moodle 5's new Question Banks features are **very powerful!**
- Many teachers will not use it
- Moodle is **flexible**
- **Simple:** Don't use banks
- **Intermediate:** Use a course-level question bank
- **Advanced:** Create and use a "**master**" course-level question bank

Notes:

- There is no overall question bank to be managed, like in pre-Moodle 5. Questions are managed in courses
- Still **under development**
- It is easiest if **exported** questions do not contain context or category information
- Any quiz-level or course-level question bank can be exported
- Having multiple question banks can be **confusing**
- Adding another teacher to a course gives them the **power** to edit the question bank. **Be careful!**
- A “Master Course” can have many **advantages**

Notes:

- Be sure to **experiment** to get acquainted with these new features!