

Moodle 5 New Questions Management and Question Sharing

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(Version 3)

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Objectives

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Creating Simple Quizzes

- Add **topic**: Addition
- Add a **quiz**
- Add a few **questions**
- Repeat for...
 - Subtraction
 - Multiplication
 - Division

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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

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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

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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

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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!**

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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

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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

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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

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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!

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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

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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

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Tagging Questions

- Yes, Moodle 5 still supports question-tagging

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Using the Master Question Bank

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

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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

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Changes from Moodle 4

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

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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

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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

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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!

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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

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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!

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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

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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**

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Notes:

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

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