[Happy Music] Hello. I'm Rick Jerz, and I'm happy to be here to discuss “Moodle 5’s New Question Management and Question Sharing” system. Moodle 5 introduces much-desired new question bank features. The development team has added powerful question management and question sharing functionalities. As with any major update, it takes time to understand them, which I have done through experimentation. In this third and likely final presentation revision, I build on previous versions and share what I have learned about the new question bank features. This third presentation provides information on updating Moodle 4.5, question versioning, the Sharing cart plugin, additional details about sharing questions, and a comparison with the Canvas LMS question bank. Let’s get started. I will demonstrate the new features of the Question Bank in Moodle 5. I think you will find these enhancements superior to previous versions. Additionally, I will offer some administrative suggestions and highlight a few administrative concerns. I can assure you that changes to Moodle are carefully thought out. I’ve never seen a better-run software development platform with such dedicated developers. It’s really impressive! The developers’ goals for Moodle 5’s Question Banks were to meet the needs of all teachers, from novice to advanced teachers. They also aimed to enhance how teachers and organizational departments can share questions. Based on my observations and insights, these goals have been successfully achieved. This does not imply that every issue has been resolved. As always, bugs and improvements are still being worked on. However, this version offers some fantastic capabilities. I plan to demonstrate these new features by beginning with a simple scenario: a teacher who doesn’t want to use question banks; an intermediate scenario, where the teacher desires to use some common questions; and an advanced scenario, where the use of question banks is both understood and desired by the teacher or the organizational department. Typically, instructors’ needs will evolve as they continue to teach, becoming more advanced in creating quizzes and questions. It’s September 2025, and I am using the current release of Moodle 5. I have a new Moodle 5 installation. It’s neither an upgraded Moodle 4.5 nor a migrated version; it’s completely new. Typically, I start fresh with each major Moodle release, which allows me to clean up my Moodle system and take advantage of new features. For instance, one of my goals is to tidy up my question banks so that only valid and used questions remain. I am the Moodle Administrator. When I view the environment check, everything shows as “OK.” As a note, if you intend to set up an experimental Moodle, make sure that cron runs regularly. When working with quizzes and questions, Moodle needs regular maintenance tasks and depends on cron jobs for this. I have included a few users to show how teachers might use Moodle 5’s question banks. Kathy will be my primary teacher, and Norman will be another instructor. The scenario I will develop will be for math teachers and courses. As the administrator, I add the first course titled “01 Math Basics – Fall25”. I assign Kathy as the teacher and myself as the manager. I include a number in the course name to help track what is where, as I will continue to expand this Moodle with more courses. Only teachers and managers can access the features of Moodle 5’s question bank. Assume Kathy is a new part-time teacher who wants to use Moodle for her course without worrying about question banks. She just needs some quizzes. She has been given some elementary Moodle training. Kathy logs in and sees her course. She wants topics for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, each with a quiz. She turns editing on, adds the first topic, Addition, and adds a quiz. She begins adding a few new questions. I’ll use true-false questions to keep this simple. When previewing this quiz, everything looks fine. She repeats this process for subtraction, multiplication, and division. After a short time, Kathy’s course includes four quizzes, each containing just a few questions. Of course, this is just a simple example. Kathy is done, and she is happy. Question banks, which refer to a collection of questions, can exist at both the quiz level and course level. You can access course-level banks by going to the course’s homepage and clicking More, then Question Banks. Notice that “Banks” is plural. Moodle shows, “This course does not have any question banks yet.” Remember that Kathy neither knew nor cared how to create course-level banks. However, Moodle also shows that four quizzes contain questions, and you may notice that Moodle states these questions cannot be shared. The heading “Other activities with questions” implies that quizzes can include questions, somewhat like “mini-banks.” When I click on one of the quizzes, like Addition, I see a menu item labeled “Question bank.” Note that this is singular, referring to “one” bank. When I click on this, the questions displayed are those in the quiz. Hmmm, what happened? There are two ways to create quizzes. The first is what Kathy did; she created the quiz and immediately added questions as she created them. However, another method is first to create your questions, placing them in a container I will refer to as a quiz-level bank, and then add them to a quiz. Some may argue that Kathy's method is simpler, while others may argue that the second approach is more flexible. Moodle 5 supports both methods. As noted, “quiz-level banks” cannot be shared. Kathy owns these questions, similar to “private” questions— exclusively hers and only available in this course. As a Moodle Administrator, when I go to Administration, Reports, Question instances, All, I can see that Moodle has four quizzes, the number of questions in each quiz, and a total of 10 questions. Remember, this Moodle is brand new, so this report is simple. It can become quite complex for a large school with many courses and quizzes. So, Kathy quickly created quizzes without concern for question banks. I have demonstrated that Moodle effectively meets this simple method of creating quizzes. Remember that this was a goal of the Moodle development team. So far, a teacher like Kathy won’t notice any difference between Moodle 4 and Moodle 5. Administratively, Moodle 5 stores new quiz questions in a private, non-sharable container called a “bank,” while Moodle 4 stores them in a sharable, course-level container called a “category.” Moodle 5 and Moodle 4 both provide “categories” to organize questions within these containers. Let’s assume that Kathy is asked to teach this course again. No problem. I copy this course, change its name to “02 Math Basics – Spring26,” assign Kathy to it, and she is ready to go. Kathy enters this new course, looks at the quizzes, and sees that each quiz has the same questions she had added to the original. However, let me show you what has happened administratively. I return to that “Question instances” report and see that all quizzes and questions have been duplicated by copying a course. Neither the course, the quizzes, nor the questions are linked to the original course. Changing anything in the second course does not change anything in the first. For example, Kathy realizes that this one question had an incorrect answer, so she changes it in the new course. The original course quiz will still have the error in it. But so far, Kathy is happy. She only teaches this one course. And she can continue to make improvements to it. As far as I can see, copying a course in Moodle 5 and Moodle 4 is essentially the same. Both versions create independent copies of questions. Kathy wants to add an “honesty” question to every quiz to help prevent cheating, something like “I promise that I am taking this quiz by myself.” She hasn’t settled on the final wording yet but wants to have an initial question. She also recognizes the inefficiency of manually typing the question into every quiz, so she comes to me for guidance. I show her this better method. I navigate to her course, click on “Question Banks,” and then edit the name of this default bank to “S26-Kathy-Math-Basics.” The name can be anything that makes sense. Next, I select this new bank and add the question, “I promise that I am taking this quiz by myself.” I am doing this for Kathy; teachers can do it themselves. Now that it’s in the course-level bank, Kathy can enter any quiz, such as “Addition,” click on “Questions,” add from the question bank, click “Switch Bank,” select “S26-Kathy-Math-Basic,” and choose this new question to include in the quiz. It’s now part of the quiz, and it can be moved anywhere. You might notice that this question indicates it is from “S26-Kathy-Math-Basics.” Kathy can include this question in the other quizzes by following the same steps, such as in “Subtraction.” Now, here’s the exciting part. Kathy decides to edit this question and adds, “I am an honest student.” Since this question is in a course-level bank, the changes are reflected wherever this question is used. Here it is in the Addition quiz. Yep, it’s updated. Kathy exclaims, “Oh my gosh, that’s exactly what I wanted!” Kathy begins to think that this course-level question bank might be beneficial in the future. Wow, this is incredibly powerful yet quite simple. I’ll share a few more things with you. When I visit the Question Instances report, I see that this newly added question has only one instance, regardless of how often it is used. In other words, Moodle’s question bank didn’t grow. What will happen if this course gets copied again, adding Kathy as the teacher. The Question Instances report shows a second instance of the course-level bank. This second bank is an independent instance and unconnected to any other question banks. Also, when Kathy decides to switch to another bank from within a quiz, both instances of the course-level bank show. This can be confusing, but I will show you how to fix this issue in a moment. Up to this point, Moodle 5 and Moodle 4 are similar from both the teacher’s and admin’s perspective. Moodle 5’s shared question bank functions similarly to Moodle 4’s course category container. Questions within them can be shared across course quizzes, like my honesty question example. We just have a terminology difference: a “bank” versus a “category.” Using categories to organize questions in course-level containers is important and helpful in both Moodle 5 and Moodle 4. Kathy has demonstrated to her administration that she is an effective teacher. Next semester, her administrator asks her to teach a new Math-Basics-II course. Kathy comes to me and asks how to use some of the questions she developed for her Math-Basics course in this second-level course, maybe by using a course-level bank. I say, “Yes there is.” There might be many ways to do this, but here is how I would do it. First, I create Kathy’s new course “Math Basics II” and add Kathy as the teacher. I add quizzes for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but I do not add any questions yet. I’ll have Kathy do this later. I recommend designating one course as Kathy’s “Master” course to hold all her questions. While I could create a new course for this, I will use the existing “Copied Course” instead. I edit and to “Math\_Basics-Master.” Next, I click “Question Banks” and rename this course-level question bank to “Kathy-Math\_Basics-Master.” To keep questions in this course-level bank organized, I create four categories: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Then I go to the Addition quiz and click on “Question Bank” to view its questions. I check the checkboxes for each question, then “with selected” “move to…” and select the “Kathy-Math\_Basics-Master” bank, the category, “Addition,” and click “Move Questions.” Moodle shows that they have been moved. I repeat this process and move the questions from the other three quizzes. I return to the course-level bank, “Kathy-Math\_Basics-Master,” and see questions in the four categories, along with the one honesty administrative question in its own category. I tell Kathy that from this point forward, when she wants to add more questions, she should add them to this master bank. Placing questions in a Master Course and its course-level bank prevents question replication when a course is copied, helping avoid unwanted database growth. Editing a question from this master course-level bank automatically updates all instances of that question. This can be beneficial, but it can also be a drawback. So, be sure to know what you’re doing. In Moodle 4, teachers faced challenges in sharing questions between courses. Moodle 5 simplifies this process, allowing Kathy to access any course-level question bank in any course she teaches. Teachers with advanced knowledge of question banks can quickly create a course-level bank, add questions, and use them while developing new quizzes. I prefer this method of creating questions first, then creating quizzes. Kathy tells me that her colleague Norman has given her a file with a few of his multiplication questions. She wonders how she might use this. Importing questions is easy to do, and they can be imported anywhere. I have Kathy go into her Math\_Basics-Master course-level master bank, select the Multiplication category, which currently has three questions, then click on Import, and then Moodle XML format, which is how Norman exported it. She can drag and drop the file into this area and click “Import.” There are now five questions in it. Wow, that’s pretty easy! You may notice that Kathy, not Norman, is the author of the imported questions. If you would like a different name to appear, you can log into this course as the “owner,” like Norman, and perform the import, or import questions using a bogus user, such as McGraw-Hill. Remember to respect copyright when sharing resources. For example, publisher question banks are often designed for teachers using the publisher’s textbook, not for others, so be mindful when sharing questions. Moodle still supports “tags,” so if Kathy wants to get more elaborate, she could tag questions with “Level1”, “Level2” etc., labels. Questions that might fit either level course can be tagged with both. By doing so, later, when picking questions randomly for a course, you can then pick from questions with the tag “Level1,” for example. You might notice that adding a tag creates a new version of the question, with the editor’s name, as shown in this example. Kathy wants to randomly select multiplication questions, tagged with Level II, into her “Math Basics II” course. She enters the course and clicks on the multiplication quiz. She chooses to add randomly selected questions, switches to her master bank, multiplication, adds a Level II tag constraint, applies these filters, and then adds two questions. When she previews the quiz, everything looks good. Kathy shows Norman her master question bank. He says, “That looks great! Can I use it?” Kathy needs to add Norman as a teacher in her Master Course to allow Norman to use her master question bank. I can do this at Kathy’s request. Now, Norman can use the question bank. He creates a quiz in his course and then adds three randomly selected multiplication questions from Kathy’s master bank. When you add another teacher to your master course, you share all questions in your master course bank. If you want to share only specific questions, you could create a separate course with its own course-level bank containing only those questions you want to share. This takes a bit more effort and planning, but it demonstrates the flexibility that Moodle 5 provides. If you want to allow a teacher like Norman to use questions but not edit them, you can add Norman to the Master course as a “non-editing teacher” and then make some adjustments to the non-editing teacher role. Specifically, enable the ability to view and use all questions. (Allow question:useall and question:viewall). Changing role settings is a bit advanced and quite powerful. In Moodle 4, teachers could not easily share question banks. The Moodle administrator would have to implement some special role changes for Norman. Alternatively, Kathy could export her questions for Norman to import, providing him with independent versions. This Moodle 5 feature of sharing question banks between courses and teachers is entirely new. Maximizing its benefits will still require some thought. Yep, that is not so hard. A popular plugin called “Sharing Cart” has been used to share quizzes and quiz questions. I haven’t used Sharing Cart much, but it appears to be a well-behaved plugin. From my experiments, it seems to work as expected in Moodle 5. If a copied quiz contains quiz-based questions, they are duplicated. If it contains questions from a question bank, they are not duplicated. For sharing Cart to work, the teacher must be in both courses, the original and the target courses. Sharing Cart used to allow individual activities to be shared, but in Moodle 5, it only allows sections to be shared, not single activities. Therefore, Sharing Cart is more of a method to share sections rather than questions. Quizzes can be copied by sharing the section where they reside. If your goal is to share questions, I believe you should use Moodle 5’s question bank sharing features. Currently, Sharing Cart version 5 has some issues, so the developers are not providing it for download while they make fixes and improvements. Now that you’ve grasped the basics of Moodle 5’s question banks, I’ll explain what occurs when you upgrade a Moodle 4.5 site to Moodle 5.0. Any quiz-level questions in a 4.5 course will remain at the quiz level in this course in Moodle 5. Additionally, all course-level questions will be stored in a course-level bank in Moodle What happens to category-level and system-level question banks when upgrading Moodle 4.5? Questions that were in a Moodle 4.5 category-level bank, in my example, “Business,” are moved into a newly created course, adopting a name that reflects the 4.5 category. This new course can be found in Admin > Courses > Manage courses and categories, with a name starting with “Shared teaching resources for category,” followed by the category name from Moodle It functions like a template course, as I demonstrated earlier. The administrator can change its name, decide who can access it by adding participants, edit questions, and reorganize it if needed. Courses that use the 4.5 category-level questions will now show that they originate from this new course. Questions that were in the Moodle 4.5 system-level get moved into a system-level question bank, which can be found at Home, Question banks, and is named “System shared question bank.” Typically, only the administrator has access to this new system-level bank, just like in Moodle 4.5. This is a very elegant upgrade solution, and I congratulate the programmers. Some folks on Moodle.org reported upgrade failures when their sites used custom question or quiz plugins, which I don’t use, so my upgrade worked fine. The Moodle documentation describing upgrading is quite good. A course backup from an earlier version of Moodle might have quizzes that use questions from Moodle’s system, category, course, or quiz levels. This “Operations Management” course backup from Moodle 3.11 included quizzes with questions at all four levels. When I restore this course into Moodle 5, the entire question bank—meaning every question from the Moodle 3.11 site—is imported into the Moodle 5 course. This can result in many redundant questions, undesirably bloating your database. It’s a long-standing problem. After restoring the course and checking the question instances report, I see that all questions in the Category: Business in Moodle 3.11 are now in Moodle 5. Quiz-level questions remain at the quiz level. Course, category, and system-level questions are combined into a single, shared course-level bank. As far as I know, the only way to avoid importing all questions is to back up the original courses without questions by unchecking this checkbox. However, the restored courses will then lack both questions and quizzes. You would need to recreate the quizzes, export specific categories from Moodle 3.11, import them into Moodle It’s a lot of work, but I prefer this method to keep my question bank cleaner. Either option is up to you. When you backup and restore a Moodle 5 course into Moodle 5, or copy a course, the categories are preserved. It would be great if this also worked with courses from earlier Moodle versions. This issue is one of the fixes included in Moodle 5, moving forward. When you edit a question and click “Save changes,” Moodle creates a new version of that question. It doesn’t matter what kind of change you make—whether fixing text, feedback, the correct answer, or even making no changes at all —using “Edit” and “Save changes” will generate a new question version. When adding questions to a quiz, you can choose which question version to use. The default is the “Always latest” version. Moodle allows the instructor to select specific earlier question versions, but I don’t recommend doing this unless you have a good reason and fully understand the consequences, such as being unable to apply future question revisions. I always pick “Always latest.” If a quiz uses the “Always latest” question version and the question is edited and saved, the changes will not apply to previous student quiz attempts unless the quiz is “regraded.” This regrading feature is a powerful Moodle feature, so take some time to learn how to use it. Most other LMSs don’t have this regrading feature. The administrator can manage question versions, such as editing them and deleting unused ones. What an instructor can do is more complex because it depends on whether the instructor has access to question banks and if any role changes have been made. I recommend experimenting with versioning to better understand how it works. Question versioning appeared in Moodle 4, but is now even more relevant since multiple teachers can share and edit questions easily. Sometimes it's interesting to see how other LMSs handle question banks and quizzes, like the Canvas LMS. Canvas has two quiz engines called “classic” and “new.” This Canvas demo site that I use does not offer a way to use the “new” quiz engine, so I can only comment on the “classic.” The new quiz engine may offer better question sharing features, but it also has some disadvantages that lead people to stick with the “classic.” The Canvas “classic” quiz engine provides quiz-level and course-level banks, similar to those in Moodle. However, if you create a quiz by selecting specific bank questions, these questions are unlinked from the bank, which is like making a copy of a quiz question in Moodle. To keep quiz questions linked to the question bank, you must have a quiz randomly select questions from the bank. Canvas does not support sharing questions directly between courses through question banks. For example, if you teach three sections of the same course and want to update one question, you must do so separately in each course. My university Canvas quiz support person once told me, “If you are coming to Canvas from Moodle, you will be disappointed.” This was when I was using Moodle 3. Moodle has made many improvements to its quiz engine since then. Moodle’s quiz engine is much better than what Canvas and other LMSs offer. The ability to share question banks in other courses and with other teachers is pretty powerful stuff! Based on my experience with teachers, I believe that a small percentage will utilize these new shared question-level bank features, but those who do will be amazed at what they can now accomplish. In Moodle 5, you can combine private and shared question banks into a quiz to achieve any goal. I provided an example of how to organize question banks, but Moodle is very flexible, so it's up to you to decide what works best for you. I have shown you a simple scenario in which the teacher doesn’t use banks, an intermediate scenario in which a course-level bank is used, and an advanced scenario in which a master question bank is created and used. Before I end this presentation, I’ll share a few notes. There is no overall question bank to be managed, like in pre-Moodle 5. Questions are managed in courses. Moodle 5 quiz engine still has a few bugs, but I have been impressed with how quickly some are being fixed. When exporting questions from earlier versions of Moodle to be imported into Moodle 5, I prefer to export with “Write context to file” disabled. This provides a cleaner imported question bank without empty higher-level categories that you would likely want to manually remove. Any question, quiz-level or course-level question bank can be exported. It has not yet been decided if teachers should be able to decide if a course-level question bank is shared. I recommend this feature to remove some confusion when many course-level banks belong to a teacher. Adding another teacher to a course allows them to edit the question banks. Be careful! Make sure teachers are trained and know what they are doing. Moodle’s question versioning can help you identify who has edited a question. I like the idea of a Master Course that includes question banks organized into categories. In my master course, I also add topics, activities, and resources set up the way I prefer, which I can use as a template when creating new courses. The Sharing Cart plugin makes it easy for me to copy these template topics to other courses as needed. Be sure to experiment to get acquainted with these new features! Thanks for spending time with me and learning about this topic. I hope that you have enjoyed what I've shared with you. If you ever have any questions or need my help, please let me know. [Happy Music]