

Implementing LMS in a large higher-education institution

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Topics covered

- Reasons for LMS implementation
- Why open source / Moodle?
- LMS – Omega

Reasons for LMS implementation

- Actual need
- Because we can?
- Redundancy of communication channels?
- Coolness factor

Open source or NOT?

- **Lower** costs
- Philosophy of openness
- Ease of selection, localization and customization
- Value added – investment in IT staff

Issues (challenges)

- Teacher/student IT literacy
- Lack of Croatian interface / reference materials
- **YALP** - Yet Another Login / Password
- Broadband access – a prerequisite?
- Server availability (uptime)

Expectations & Misconceptions

- Replacement for face2face classes
- Less work for teachers/students
- Better communication and functionality
- VC for everyone...
- Teacher demographics (profession, age, IT literacy)

LMS Omega

- Based on **MOODLE**:
 - Fits like a glove
 - Modular
 - Localized interface (thanks to our initiative/effort)
 - Ease of use
 - User community
 - Open source

Omega – “people behind the scenes”

- 2 project leaders:
 - Jadranka Lasić-Lazić
 - Mihaela Banek-Zorica
- IT support “team”: 2 IT guys

FFZG stats

- **6500+** students
- **500+** teachers & TAs
- **23** departments
- **1300+** “face2face” courses
- **90+** PCs in computer labs/libraries

Omega stats

➤ **Currently:**

- **3700+** students
- over **220** teachers and TAs
- over **270** courses

➤ **Goals (no time frame):**

- **4500+** students
- **350+** teachers and Tas
- **500+** courses

Omega – specs

- OS: Debian Linux
- Web-server: Apache 2
- Hardware:
 - Dell PowerEdge 2600
 - 2xXeon 2,4GHz
 - 4 GB RAM
 - 6x32GB U320 SCSI disks – RAID5

Our users' favorite Moodle features

- Resource upload/linking
- Assignments
- Forums
- “News forums” as mini mailing lists
- Quizzes
- Glossaries
- Chats
- Wikis

Critical points

➤ **Time of year:**

- beginning/end of the semester
- new users (teachers & students)

➤ **Version change/update:**

- sudden interface changes
- lack of or addition of new features/capabilites

➤ **Hardware breakdown/power loss:**

- one word – catastrophe
- minor breakdowns, short period power losses

Reality check

- Constant increase in user/course numbers
- HW prerequisites – proportional growth
- More choices/capabilities enabled – **lower** functionality/usability
- Users with requests for higher customization – rather small group, easily handled

So, what lies ahead?

- LO repository / E-portfolio
- Additional education for teachers
- More terminals for students
- E-quality of e-learning
- Authorization method for non-institutional users (mainly students)

This time next year, Omega, we'll be...

➤ New hardware:

- Dell PowerEdge 1955 (blade)
- 5x2xXeon 3GHz
- 5x4 GB RAM
- 5x2x146GB U320 SCSI disks – RAID5

➤ Storage solution:

- Dell PowerEdge 2950
- 1,8 TB HDD space



Any questions?

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Links, etc.

➤ <http://del.icio.us/jklindzic/eqibelt>



Thank you!

Hvala!