Product Comparison

Export Result(s) to Excel

Would you like to make a decision using the EduTools Summative Decision Tool?

Too many products for side-by-side comparison. Displaying row comparison. To view a side-by-side comparison reduce the number of selected products to 3 or less.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

>> Discussion Forum

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

Discussions can be viewed by date, thread, or poster. Discussion threads are expandable and collapsible to view an entire conversation on one screen. Posts can contain URLs, file attachments and may contain HTML. The discussion software includes a formatting text editor which can create mathematic equations.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

Instructors can enable or disable editing of posts by students. Students can be emailed directly from discussion. Discussions can be set to read only. All topic titles will display at once in the "Topics" section at the top of the main threaded discussion page. Students have access to a visual editor when responding. When responding to a thread, users will be able to post response, cancel or preview posting. Date and time stamp will display in the time zone of the current viewer. All discussions are archived in perpetuity for admin or faculty access after a course is complete.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

By design (and request of our constituents), WebStudy email is a closed system for communication between students and instructors.
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

Discussions can be viewed by date, by thread, by title or by author. Users may create separate discussion environments for small groups. Discussion threads are expandable and collapsible to view an entire conversation on one screen. Posts can include media, equations, attachments or URL addresses. Posts can be either plain text or html. Administrators can enable or disable anonymous postings. The entire discussion can be saved or printed for off-line reading. Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any organizational unit. Users can associate a discussion with any course content. Users can limit discussions to specific time periods and for specific groups. In this version screens were re-designed to make the tool easier to understand hence tasks will take less time to perform. Discussion topics can be tied to learning activities. Discussion messages are then assessed using scoring rubrics, and that assessment is used to evaluate learning objectives and competencies. Discussions can be tied to grade items. Numerous options determine how the grade is calculated. Courses can enable peer review of discussion posts. Roles with appropriate permission can provide a 1-5 rating for discussion posts.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.
- Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

There are three discussion forum tools that CLE users may choose to deploy: 1) Basic Threaded discussion tool developed by University of Michigan 2) JForum Discussion and Private Messaging Tool developed by Foothill College) 3) Forums a new threaded discussion tool developed by Indiana University
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.
- Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
- Students can subscribe to forum RSS feeds.
- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

Post can be set to be rateabe - for both entry in to the gradebook, and/or peer reveiw. The roles system enables student monitors, etc.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.
- Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

ANGEL 7.3 includes an entirely new, high performance discussion engine. New view and navigation filters allow users to quickly view and navigate between messages. Students can filter their message view and navigation by: All Posts, Unread Posts, Read Posts, My Posts, Replies to My Posts, Draft Posts, Flagged Posts, Posts with Attachments and set any view as their default view. Discussion directions are always visible and fully expanded the first time a user enters a Discussion Forum. Message controls allow users to expand or collapse and sort messages.

Posts can be plain or formatted text or html and can include attachments, images or URLs. Students can categorize posts as problems, explanations, scientific explanations, comments, evaluations, or summaries. Forums can be shared across courses, departments or any institutional unit. Journal Mode provides a one-to-one environment for student-instructor exchange.

The entire discussion can be saved or printed for off-line reading. Users can subscribe to a forum and receive posts via email.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.
- Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
- Students can subscribe to forum RSS feeds.
- A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.

There are many other features and configurations of forums than are listed here.
Discuss

>> Discussion Management

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

Instructors can associate a discussion with any course content. Instructors can enable or disable anonymous posting, and determine whether student posts are re-editable. Instructors can determine if threads are graded or ungraded. Instructors can enable peer rating, which uses a 5-star scale. Instructors can determine if threads are moderated – if so, control over moderation can be delegated to any user. Instructors can view posting statistics to evaluate student participation. Instructors may create separate discussion environments for small groups of students and teaching assistants.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.

Faculty can add any content elemeent to discussion topics including outside URLs, graphics, Flash animations, text, etc. Faculty may create separate

discussion environments for small groups. Faculty can limit discussions to specific time periods by locking all thread posts so that there are no responses or edits made after that certain date. Threaded discussions are integrated directly with gradebook, allowing faculty to view all posts made by an individual student in the gradebook. Can be added anywhere into the content flow of the course; therefore, making them part of the sequential nature of the course content.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

Rather than "departments" our "Faculty Community" feature provides a discussion venue for instructors.
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

Multiple group topics/forums can be automatically created based upon rules (e.g. manual enrollment, self-enrollment, auto-enrollment into groups of x, o auto-enrollment into x groups).
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

JForum Features: * Forums can become visible on a certain date.
* Forums can become locked on a certain date (can read but not post).
* Forums and categories can be sorted.
* Unlimited forums and categories.
* Supports sticky and announcement topics. * User control of email notification and profile options.
* Bookmark functionality for favorite topics.
* Search functionality across a site's forums.
* "Watch" functionality for hot topics.
* Mark discussion as read functionality.
* Forums or categories can be accessible to certain groups as defined in JForum.
* Ability to move, delete, lock, and unlock topics.
* Ability to lock a topic, allowing users to read topic postings, but not respond.
* Ability to restrict a forum and/or topic to a specific group or section.
* Ability to grant fine grained permissions on a role or group basis.
* Support for 12 foreign languages. Permissions include:
o Category access

o Forum access

o Ability to post Sticky, Announcements, or Task topics

o Read only Forums

o Enable Karma

o Enable Bookmarks

o Enable Attachments

o Allow Download of existing attachments

o Ability to set number of allowed attachments, file upload size, and types of

allowable attachment extensions.

o Set users as moderators

o Disallow moderation in specific forums

o Ability for roles edit, delete, move, lock and unlock topics

Message Center Features include:

MC Development Led by Indiana University

The following discussion management features are currently available in Message Center: \
* Ability to create a template for permissions at the forum level and use that template for related topics. * Ability to lock a topic, allowing users to read topic postings, but not respond.
* Ability to restrict a forum and/or topic to a specific group or section.
* Ability to grant fine grained permissions on a role, group or section basis. Permissions include:

o New forum

o New topic

o New response

o Response to response

o Change settings

o Read

o Post to gradebook

o Mark as read

o Revise none, own or all postings

o Ability to set a default gradebook assignment for a topic

o Ability to save a draft of a forum and its topics

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

ANGEL allows an unlimited number of Discussion Forums, provides tools that reduce the amount of time spent managing discussions and increases visibility into class behavior. Instructors can set all posts to be approved prior to display or require only certain students' posts be approved. Search and message filters allow users to find messages, select all or specific messages and apply any of the following actions in one step: approve/reject, score, move, make sticky/unstick, lock/unlock, mark as read/unread, delete/undelete. Instructors can create posts in advance and schedule their post date. Instructors can configure discussions so students may only reply to top-level posts

Discussions function in threaded or nested modes. Instructors can designate students as forum moderators. Custom icons can be assigned to different post types. Instructors can choose to have their posts appear in a different color. Instructors can determine who is able to post new topics. Instructors can force new subject lines for replies to a message with “RE:” in the subject line. An optional peer rating tool allows users to rate and instructors to trac the value of peer posts.

Discussion At-a-Glance summaries provide users a quick graphical view of discussion performance and trends. Instructors can grade posts directly in the interface. Clicking on any post opens a grading interface that includes a quick comment option. Instructors can create rubrics that evaluate and create a score based on a student’s participation (posts, replies, replies to posts, average peer rating) and the average instructor score. Instructors can review discussion grades and adjust as necessary before posting all to the gradebook.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
- Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.
- Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.
- Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
- Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.

Discuss

>> File Exchange

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.
- Administrators can define disk space limitations for each user.

Students have a private folder into which they can upload and download files. Students can upload files to a shared group folder. Students can submit assignments using drop boxes. Instructors can upload files to the personal folder of a student. Students can also submit assignments to instructors via an integrated Assignment tool. Students and instructors can also exchange content outside of course boundaries. Students may access their folders an upload content using WebDAV. The system allows commenting, tracking, and versioning for documents.

Discuss

eCollege

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.

The dropbox is a central repository for content/assignment/file exchange, which can be viewed by individual baskets, a specific student or the entire inbox. Within an individual basket, one can send email, download attachments, move submissions to another basket or view all students who have not yet made any submissions. Dropbox baskets can be created independently or in the association with the creation of a content item. Files do not have to be documents;they can be almost any file type including .html, .swf, .mov, .doc and so on. Instructors can grade student submissions, enter comments and upload files back to the student for review. Any grade that is entered in the dropbox is displayed automatically in the gradebook. Virus detection technology also is used throughout the file upload/download process.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.

The term "drop box" is a Blackboard convention. We have similar functionality with a different metaphor. RE: disk space; it is unlimited

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.
- Administrators can define disk space limitations for each user.

Drop box assignment folders can be linked to grade items and instructors can associate feedback with uploaded assignments. The system could be setup to apply a naming convention to files (e.g. userid - date submited - name - file name). All users can use a private locker into which they can uploa and download files. Students can upload files to a shared group folder. Administrators can set folder permissions and quota tracking on their folders. Virus detection technology can be used throughout the file upload/download process. In this version screens were re-designed to make the tool easier t

understand hence tasks will take less time to perform. Group dropboxes can be setup so that each member of a group can submit to the same dropbox. The group can then be assessed as a whole through the Grades or Competencies tools. When a user submits a file to the dropbox they can choose to submit the file from their locker computer or their D2L locker (or group locker). Graders have a function that allows them to preview how a student would submit to the dropbox and even grade that submission to ensure it was setup properly. You can select multiple assignments and edit their properties at once. Educators can also use Manage Files to upload/download/zip/cut/copy/paste/delete files for the course. Educators can also manage these files with folders and if they have access, they can publish them to Learning Repository. WebDAV option is available for them to drag-and-drop files. Files can be copied between courses and re-used.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.

File Exchange can be accomplished in a number of different ways within the rSmart Sakai CLE. First by using the resources tool, students may share material with others in a group setting. Second, students may place material in a drop box and share with their peers. Third, students may create a portfolio of their work and share within anyone inside or outside the system. In addition: * Sakai optionally allows students to create their own project sites and add fellow students to their sites. This effectively puts all of the Sakai tools (chat, threaded discussion, calendar, file sharing, etc) in the hands of student defined groups to use as they see fit in sharing files or pursuing collaborative activities.

* Alternatively, students can submit assignments (inline or attachments) using the Assignments tool. Two versions of this tool are available - with grading or no grading capabilities, based on the needs of the adopting institution.
* Students can submit assignments in the JForum Discussion & Private Messages tool, including attachments and media. This allows for peer reviews o the submitted work.
* Students can submit materials in the Resources tool, if permissions for adding new resources is enabled by the instructor, allowing students to gather and share resources on a topic in a common location of the course site.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.
- Administrators can define disk space limitations for each user.

Students can share viles using the forum, the wiki, or their personal blogging space.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
- Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.
- Administrators can define disk space limitations for each user.

ANGEL allows an unlimited number of dropboxes.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.

Discuss

>> Internal Email

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.

Students can use the Blackboard Messages (internal email) to email individuals in their courses. Emails can be sent to all users, users by role, or individual users. Students can attach files to emails, and emails can contain URLs, file attachments and may contain HTML.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.

- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

Faculty can use e-mail to address student questions, concerns and issues in a one-to-one private email or faculty can send messages and files to groups of students. Students use this tool in a similar way - they can send private messages to faculty or use e-mail to communicate with class members on collaborative projects. Users can add multiple attachments to an email. After sending, users will be taken to a confirmation page that lists who the email was sent to and whether it was successful.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.

Additional feature for internal email include floating email facility for instructor use, retractable email, multi-class/single class view, team email
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

The Desire2Learn email system can be setup to support multiple modes: full email system, internal course-mail only, forwarded to an external account, IMAP, and other combinations. The email system also supports tracking/filtering correspondence by course, folders, personal address-books, search, and more. Emails can be composed using HTML editor, spell checked, saved as drafts, and can add multiple attachments. Flexible email permissions allow for different email options for each role. For instance, for certain roles, administrator can restrict receiving messages from email address that are not internal. Also, storage quotas can be defined individually for each role in the system.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

There are a number of tools in the rSmart Sakai CLE that support internal email:

* Private Messaging in JForum

* Messages Tool

* MailTool

The functionality of each varies slightly, but all offer internal email capability.

Additionally, the Announcements tool allows instructors to broadcast messages to the whole class. Announcements are posted in the Announcements tool and are displayed in the home page of a site, and they can (selectively) be sent to the students' personal email that is provided in the system.

Students can specify (user preference)whether or not they want to be notified via email about low-priority announcements. They can also choose to receive a daily digest of class announcements. These settings can be overwritten by instructors for high-priority, critical announcements.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

The messaging feature permits mail to classes, message history, etc.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.

- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

Course Mail (ANGEL's Internal email system) provides the functionality users are familiar with in their internet email systems such as folders, multiple attachments, blind carbon copies (BCC), HTML formatted messages with editors, custom viewing preferences, automatic spell check, etc. and augment it with features developed specifically to address educational needs. Course Mail can be shut off and provides the ability to allow mail to/from instructors not other class members. Instructors can send mail to all students in all courses in one action. Administrators can send mail to the entire learning community. Administrators can configure Course Mail to be sent to anyone in the learning community from within any course even if the mail recipient is not in that course. Consolidated mailbox includes all mail in one box no matter what course the mail is viewed from. Instructors can personalize email signatures for each course they teach. Tools to manage unacceptable behavior, e.g., cyber bullying, with fine levels of control.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.
- Students can use a searchable address book.
- Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.

Discuss

>> Online Journal/Notes

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
Students can make private notes about their course. Students can also use Portfolios to manage online journaliing.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can combine their notes with the course content to create a printable study guide.

The Journal is a place where students can make notes and record thoughts. Faculty can also use the Journal as an assignment area. Students have the option to share their Journal entries with faculty or keep them private. Posts can include .html tags to enhance style. Faculty can read and modify entries that students choose to share. The Journal is fully integrated with the gradebook. A cross-platform/browser visual editor is available to students and faculty when composing their journal entries or responding to student's entries.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can attach notes to any page.

Public and private notes; Public note availability is an institution selectable option
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can attach notes to any page.
- Students can combine their notes with the course content to create a printable study guide.

Users can make notes in a personal journal and may share them with their instructor. Students can make notes in a personal work area in preformatted text or HTML-style with tags and can perform spell checking. Users can choose to Blog in an environment that is either open to the public or restricted to users in their Learning Environment (determined by administrators). They can also choose to make entries private, supporting the concept of a Blog journal. A user has the ability to decide which entries they wish to receive comments and how long an entry appears on their list. Furthermore, RSS feed is supported in Blog feature such that users do not necessary need to login to Desire2Learn to see new headlines and articles. These features provide a safe and secure environment for a Blogger to communicate and add links, images, media files and more.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
Students can create an online journal using the Blogger tool which is available in each users private Workspace. Blogger allows for the creation of an online webblog composed of text, links, uploaded files or documents contained within the sytem. Online journals or weblogs may be kept within a user's private space or shared with others in the system. In addition, students can create a private "Notes" folder (and sub-folders) for their classes in the Resources tool of their MyWorkspace and attach documents or create and publish notes there.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms
Students can keep notes in their blog or profile.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can attach notes to any page.
- Students can combine their notes with the course content to create a printable study guide.

Students can share their notes with other students. They can make notes in a journal and choose to make the notes private or to share them with their instructor or with other students.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

Discuss

>> Real-time Chat

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Students can create new rooms.
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

The Java-based chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions and private messages. Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms. The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms. Instructors can view chat logs and share these with students. The virtual classroom tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
Discuss

eCollege

- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

The Chat tool supports private rooms, group rooms, private messages, the ability to ignore specific participants, various color identification schemes determined by the user and profile options set by each participant. The platform automatically creates archive logs for all chat rooms; however, faculty can set a non-archived chat if desired. Chat is integrated with the gradebook and is Section 508 compliant.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

Chat includes both audio & video - student video rights managed by instructor. Moderated and unmoderated venues; auto-generated Team chat
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The chat tool supports a limited number of simultaneous rooms.
- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Students can create new rooms.
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

Desire2Learn offers a AJAX-based HTML chat which doesn't require any plug-ins and has settings to optimize for screenreaders too (for accessibility). In addition, Desire2Learn offers a full synchronous chat whiteboard/canvas, presentation technology called LiveRoom(TM). There is also a built-in instant messaging tool, also known as Pager -- this tool can be used to send quick instant messages to others in contacts list. It is disabled during quizzes.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The chat tool supports a limited number of simultaneous rooms.

- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Students can create new rooms.
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

* Instructors can create new chat rooms or give students permission to do so. Multiple chat rooms may be used within a single site.
* The system clearly displays who is in the chat (a dot by the user's name in Users Present*), alerting site participants that others are in the chat with whom they can talk in real-time.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The chat tool supports a limited number of simultaneous rooms.
- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Students can create new rooms.
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The chat tool supports a limited number of simultaneous rooms.
- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

Chat is one feature of the ANGEL LIVE synchronous toolset included in ANGEL. In addition to chat, ANGEL LIVE includes virtual office hours, desktop sharing, whiteboard and instant messaging to support real-time learning.

Virtual office hours provide scheduling capabilities and a queue manager to control student access. Students queue in a visual waiting room until their appointment time, with options to sound a notification alert when the instructor is ready. The instructor can review the student queue and invite multiple attendees into the office for shared discussion.

Instant messenger allows sending and receiving to one person or the entire class and includes ability to block senders.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The chat tool supports a limited number of simultaneous rooms.
- The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
- Students can create new rooms.
- Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.
- The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

Discuss

>> Whiteboard

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.
- The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.
- The software supports group web browsing.
- The software supports application desktop sharing.
- The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.

The software supports a whiteboard that can have multiple instances in the same course. The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols, and image and PowerPoint uploading. The software supports group web browsing. The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.
Discuss

eCollege

- The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.
- The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.
- The software supports graphing, polling, and instructor moderation.
- The software supports group web browsing.
- The software supports application desktop sharing.
- The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.
- The software supports two-way voice chat.

All elements of the whiteboard are layered so that faculty members have full control to move or remove from the whiteboard at any time. The software automatically archives all whiteboard sessions for future viewing although recording can be paused. Faculty members also have the ability to see which student has posted, drawn, typed or created any element at any time. Faculty have full control of the whiteboard and can allow any participant to moderate, chat, offer audio and so on. Two-way voice over the internet (VoIP)is also supported. System also supports remote control so faculty can give control of applications or desktop to others, enabling true hands-on training and support.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.
- The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.
- The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.
- The software supports two-way voice chat.

Basic Flashcomm server based whiteboarding integrated into CMS
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.
- The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.
- The software supports graphing, polling, and instructor moderation.
- The software supports group web browsing.
- The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.

Rooms can be created easily and moderator has the ability to manage participants and the session. Participants can be "promoted" or "demoted", ask questions, raise hands, send private chat messages and more. Presentation management tools allow annotations, drawing canvas or whiteboard, resource sharing, quick link to course content, highly-scalable chat program, as well as a fully integrated web browser. LiveRoom Express option is also available for organizations that only need canvas whiteboard for their presentation needs. Content uploaded to LiveRoom can be re-used within the Learning Environment, and content used in the Learning Environment is available directly from LiveRoom. Finally, there is a built-in instant messaging tool, also known as Pager. This tool can be used to send quick instant messages to others in contacts list. It is disabled during quizzes."

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.
- The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.
- The software supports graphing, polling, and instructor moderation.
- The software supports group web browsing.
- The software supports application desktop sharing.
- The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.
- The software supports two-way voice chat.

The rSmart Sakai CLE can be integrated to work with Elluminate Live and offers these features when integrated.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The software supports application desktop sharing.

ANGEL's whiteboard supports image uploading and instructor moderation. Multiple users can interact on a whiteboard. The instructor controls access to the whiteboard. Objects on the whiteboard can be edited. Import content from any resources. Whileboard state is persistent and therefore not limited to one session.

Desktop sharing activity indicator lights show which users are using slower connections to enable proper presentation pacing.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9
It can supported by adding available 3rd party modules for Dim Dim, Elluminate or other products.
Discuss

PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS

>> Bookmarks

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
Students can create bookmarks to frequently-viewed content items.
Discuss

eCollege
This feature is presently not supported.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System
Not applicable to the WebStudy CMS metaphor.
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can create bookmarks in a private folder.
- Students can bookmark any content material in a course.

Users can create annotated bookmarks, one at a time, for specific courses. Students can bookmark content pages, creating a link that allows them to quickly return to any particular section in the course content. There is also a jump to last topic bookmark.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can create bookmarks in a private folder.

Bookmarking functionality is available in several tools. These include: *JForum Discussion & Private Messaging tool
*The WebContent tool which can be used to add bookmarks as tool buttons to any course site.
*The Resource tool allows bookmarks to be placed as resources.
*The Lessons tool also supports bookmarks as part of any module.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can share their bookmarks.
- Students can create bookmarks in a private folder.

Sort bookmarks by category. Set permissions to optionally allow others to use them.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

Discuss

>> Calendar/Progress Review

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.

- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.

Instructors can post course-related events and announcements in the course calendar or to the course homepage. The instructor can assign tasks by using the calendar and the instructor can enable an option so that the student can check their status at any point in a course. Students can check their grades on submitted assignments as well as compare their grades against the overall class performance.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.

The Course Checklist allows students access to the list of course activities with check-boxes attached as well as lists of any due dates for the items. Students can keep track of which course elements they have participated in, read, viewed and so on. Exams are automatically checked off after the student completes.

The Course Scheduler functions as the centralized scheduling point for start and end dates of course content and activities. All dates can be set from one page.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.

Calendar is designed to automatically place all assignments, assessments, readings into the proper place in time. It is not designed for user posting
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.
- Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.

The system also supports shared calendars, and the ability to look up other individuals availability for group meetings. There is also advanced import/export based upon the iCal standard to support integration with Microsoft Outlook or other calendar systems. There is also the ability post events across departments, the organization, or any other organizational unit. Events can be prioritized (e.g. normal, high, low). The system also supports auto-population of calendar from key tools such as quizzing, dropbox, etc.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.

Calendaring/Progress Review functionality

* Users each have a personal home page that provides a calendar summary of upcoming activities, deadlines, events, etc in any of their group sites
*Users can create new items on their personal home page * Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
* Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
* Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance in the appropriate assessment tool.
* Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials in the wiki tool.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.
- Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.
- Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.

Calendars can include personal, course or group or institution-wide events. Customize calendar view as either list or grid to suit individual preferences. Instructors can also post announcements on the course homepage.

Instructors and students stay organized with What's New and Tasks presented at login. ANGEL's Activity at a Glance and Grades are also presented at login on the course homepage. A click on any graph takes the user to more detail. Students can compare their individual performance to class performance.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
- Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
- Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
- Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.
- Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.

Discuss

>> Searching Within Course

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.

Students can search all course content and chat or virtual classroom session recordings by name or dates.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can search all discussion threads.
- Students can search chat or virtual classroom session recordings.

Threaded discussions: If the thread is unread, the contracted listing will be displayed in bold and with a closed envelope
icon next to it. If a thread was posted by an instructor, the contracted listing will be displayed as both bold and green. The instructor name will have a prefix (i.e. Professor) to easily distinguish instructor postings from student postings. The software for both chat and virtual classroom sessions are automatically archived for future viewing.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.
- Students can search chat or virtual classroom session recordings.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.

Desire2Learn Learning Repository allows course content/files to be stored/searched/accessed within the course by users in the system by utilizing standard based metadata. For more information on Learning Repository, please refer to section on Content Sharing/Reuse below.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.

The rSmart Sakai CLE includes the Sakai Search Tool, a powerful tool that allows a Google like search of all content in a Sakai instance. Anything that is a Sakai entity can be indexed and searched. This includes all Content placed in ContentHostingService which includes content in Resources, Attachments, OSP, Wiki, and all messages in Chat, Email, Announcements, and Messages. The search tool reads all MS Office type documents, PDF's and extracts the first 2M of text from types that appear to be text based.
*Wiki tool allows search across Wiki pages
* JForum Discussion & Private Messages includes search capability of topics and messages.
* The Help Tool includes search functionality of Help documentation included with the application.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.
- Students can search chat or virtual classroom session recordings.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can search all course content.
- Students can search all discussion threads.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can search all discussion threads.
- Students can search chat or virtual classroom session recordings.

Discuss

>> Work Offline/Synchronize

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can compile and download the content for an entire course into a format that can be printed or stored locally.
- Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline.
- Students can download course content and discussion group content with a PDA.

Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline. Students can

download course content into a format that can be accessed on a mobile device and synchronize calendar events with a PDA.
Discuss

eCollege
This feature is currently not supported.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can compile and download the content for an entire course into a format that can be printed or stored locally.
- Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline.

Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be dynamically linked from within the online course or viewed offline. Students can compile and download the content for an entire course into a format that can be printed or stored locally.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
Some offline functionality is provided in the Lessons, Assignments and Wiki tools. * Instructors can download the content of lessons (Melete Lesson Builder) into a format that can be printed, stored, or edited locally using a web publishing tool.
* Instructors can download assignments with attachments in one simple click for off-line grading. A folder is created on the instructor's desktop with sub-folders for each student and their attachment submissions.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can compile and download the content for an entire course into a format that can be printed or stored locally.
- Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline.
- Students can download course content and discussion group content with a PDA.

ANGEL's PDA Mode makes ANGEL accessible offline.
Podcasting (course syndication) enables instructors to broadcast audio or video files, links or content items by placing an item in a course syndication folder, enabling students to work offline.
Students easily download music and video files to iPods or other MP3 players. Files can also be played in a standard browser – no MP3 player required
Text items are syndicated to RSS-enabled browsers or readers.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

Discuss

>> Orientation/Help

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

Students can access online tutorials, a student manual, the product knowledge base, and the product reference center.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

eCollege provides an internal 24/7/365 Help Desk to support students, instructors and administrators, ensuring that someone will always be there to offer users support even after regular school hours, weekends and holidays.

There are several resources available to prepare end users to use the eCollege solution. All students are automatically enrolled in the Student

Orientation Tutorial course, which walks them through all features of the courseware and provides tips on taking an online course. Likewise, instructors are enrolled in a self-directed tutorial, the Instructional Design Tutorial, which provides them with instructional design and course development guidance. Other resources that are available to users include:

· Online Tutorials: Walks user through course system and quick overview of the course creation process.

· Online Help Manual: Accessible from every page of the LMS. Opens context-sensitive help for the specific task users want to accomplish, and links ou to the eCollege Help Desk if the answer that a user is looking for is not provided.

· Design Tips: Offers suggestions for how to create and use specific elements of the course (i.e., examples of what to include on the Course Home Page or in the Syllabus).

· Browser Test: Provides guidance to users on minimum hardware and system requirements; found on the login page of your online campus.

· ID/Password Reminder: Provides help if users forget their login ID or password.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

WebStudy provides toll free and email support 24X7 to all administrators, faculty and students as part of its ASP offering.
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

The system includes an online guides. Users can access context sensitive help for each of the major tools. Help items are further customizable by the institution. Users can use keywords to search a guide and other help documentation made available by the organization. Institutions can also create FAQs and help files, as well as custom widgets to organize access to orientation information.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

The rSmart Sakai CLE comes with context sensitive help enabled and includes access to online tutorials focusing on different aspects of using the system.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

ANGEL 7.3 adds “How-To” mini tutorials on the most frequent uses of ANGEL to user documentation. Field level help includes comprehensive assistance as well as a feedback loop to solicit input from users for future modifications.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
- The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.

Discuss

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT TOOLS

>> Groupwork

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

The software supports assigning students into groups by the instructor. Each group can have its own shared file exchange, private group discussion forum, synchronous tools, and group email list.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

The Group Manager automatically generates an e-mail alias, private chat room and document sharing area for each group. All course content, such as threaded discussion, also can be assigned to a specific group at any time.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

Discussion forums and team chat areas are automatically created by CMS when the group is created
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

Each group can have its own shared group presentation folder, discussion forum, chat room, group email list, polls, assignments, activities, assessments, shared calendar events, file exchange, assigned group leadership. A user can assign grades to entire groups. When creating group categories you can provide the members of those groups with their own areas in the discussions, dropbox and locker tools. Users now have a 'group homepage' where they can see all of the groups they belong to, and what group workspaces are available. Options exist to automatically enroll new users in a course into groups based on pre-defined logic (i.e. X number of people per group, or a maximum of X groups).
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.

- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

There are a variety of ways of structuring group activities in the rSmart Sakai CLE. Through use of group providers instructors can have students automatically assigned to sections. Alternatively, instructors or teaching assistants may create groups manually, and give students the ability to sign up for groups or change groups to which they have been assigned.
*Groups can be facilitated by a designated individual in an instructor or TA role.
* Access to assignments can be group specific. *Access to resources can be group *Access to Discussion Forums can be to group specific. In discussion forums groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.
*Access to Calendar items can be group specific

Sakai also supports the ability to allow students and instructors to create project sites, enabling users to have a private site with a full set of site tools (email archive, forums, chat, resources, etc.) for group work and collaboration.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

All functionality available in an ANGEL course is available in an ANGEL group. Instructors can associate groups with any course content and create separate discussion environments for small groups. Groups can be open to all or only a select set of students. Instructors can create groups manually o ANGEL's random team generator can guide instructors through the team creation process and can create teams based on instructor-defined criteria.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can assign students to groups.
- The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.
- Students can self-select groups.
- Each group can have its own discussion forum.
- Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
- Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.
- Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.

Discuss

>> Community Networking

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

If allowed, students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups. These groups can have their own catalog, templates, discussion boards, and more.

Discuss

eCollege

- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

The Chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions. The Chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and faculty to provide answers. Within a course, users have the ability to participate in multiple chats at the same time. This can take place within a course or across courses.Users are also able to keep the chat rooms open while they work in other areas of the course.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

Users from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums. Users can create online clubs, interest, and study groups. Users can send email to their groups, use a shared chat space, calendar and announcements, and share material privately within the group. Additionally, Desire2Learn platform can be used as a collaboration environment for executive committees and corporate working groups. For instance, Desire2Learn Community is enrolled in a version of Desire2Learn Learning Environment that has been specifically configured to work more as a community space than a straight learn course delivery environment.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

Sakai supports the ability to allow students, instructors, researchers, administrators, etc to create project sites. Project sites can be limited in membership or can be made publicly joinable. Collaboration Sites: Course and project sites can be "joinable," allowing users to join interest groups and projects without the permission of a lead facilitator. Any user in the system with the right role (as chosen by the site owner) may become a member of a "joinable" site. Project sites provide a space for users to engage in various types of collaboration with a full set of tools (calendar, announcements, resources, discussion, email archive, group wiki pages, blogger, forums, chat, etc.) at their disposal for group work.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

If allowed, students can create online clubs, interest or study groups with access to email, calendar, announcements, discussions, etc.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.
- Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.

Discuss

>> Student Portfolios

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.
- Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.
- Students can export their personal home page.

Students can create a personal home page. Personal home pages may include their photo, personal information, and links to important websites. Students may create portfolios, which can be private, shared with courses, shared with other users, or public. Students can contribute links, documents, or template-driven content to their portfolio, and can control the portfolio's look and feel. Portfolios can be exported.
Discuss

eCollege

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.
- Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.
- Students can export their personal home page.

eCollege has formed a partnership to integrate Foliotek within the eCollege system. The online portfolio solution enables institutions to define portfolio templates and align those templates to desired learning outcomes. Students align digital files from their personal storage repository to the defined templates and use convenient communication tools to reflect on their learning and personal development. Students also can share their personal portfolio, either internally to constituencies within the institution, such as career counselors, advisors or classmates, or externally with potential employers and other interested parties. Specific schools or programs can assign and create ePortfolios to students within that program. These assessment portfolios can be tied to standards or outcomes and defined by administration or faculty. Students can also create a personal portfolio that may house materials relevant to employment, licensing boards, etc. Additionally, the portfolio tool allows faculty to assess student work, provides students with the ability to upload a repository of personal files, and gives students the capacity to grant "access" to any person for any amount of time. The portfolio can be taken with the student after graduation, if desired.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.
- Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.

In addition to the personal "homepage" concept, a special "Student Presentation" area is provided.
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.
- Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.
- Students can export their personal home page.

Desire2Learn also offers a full ePortfolio product (see www.Desire2Learn.com).
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
The rSmart Sakai CLE includes the full set of Open Source Portfolio tools. The OSP tools enable creation of personal portfolios for self assessment, teacher assessment, institutional accreditation, etc. A rich set of data artifacts or templates for collecting student artifacts and facilitating reflection upon them is included. Also included is integration of portfolio goal management and data points tools with CMS functionality, most notably, the Sakai assignments tool. Goal management allows anyone at an institution to define a set of goals, map them to established criteria or ratings and track studen performance based on submission of data artifacts associated with these goals.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Students can create a personal home page in each course.
- Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.
- Students can export their personal home page.

Students have a private personal folder and a public course/team folder for displaying their work. Private personal home pages can include a list of all discussion posts they have submitted, their photo, personal information, links to websites, artwork or pictures. Private folders can be made to be accessible system wide to display student work.
Students can use their public personal home page in a course to display their work in that course when assigned by the instructor. Students can export their portfolio to an external email address.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

Discuss

ADMINISTRATION TOOLS

>> Authentication

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
- The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
- The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.
- The system supports Shibboleth.
- The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).
- Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

Administrators can set courses to be publicly accessible or protect access to individual courses with a username and password. The system can also authenticate against an external LDAP server, Active Directory, Microsoft's .NET Passport Web Service, or using other protocols (Kerberos, Shibboleth, and CAS have been implemented). SIF is also compatible. User sessions can be encrypted with SSL. Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against multiple sources in the event that the primary source fails. Passwords stored in the system database are encoded.
Discuss

eCollege

- Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

With eCollege's hosted solution there are no servers or software applications to buy or deploy. All the hardware, software, networking and archiving capabilities needed are provided. The APIs allow eCollege modules to integrate seamlessly with each other. The CMS also supports back office systems, leverages licensed content and integrates with additional third-party applications.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
- The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
- Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

LDAP functionality in testing
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
- The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
- The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.
- The system supports Shibboleth.
- The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).
- The system can authenticate against IMAP, POP3 or secure NNTP.
- Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

The system has a password reminder option and students can maintain their own passwords. Administrators can set password length restrictions and

require password changes after the initial logon and after a specified period of time. Single Sign On option is also supported. User logins can be encrypted with the Secure Sockets Layer protocol.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
- The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.
- The system supports Shibboleth.
- The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).
- The system can authenticate against IMAP, POP3 or secure NNTP.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
- The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
- The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.
- The system supports Shibboleth.
- The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).
- The system can authenticate against IMAP, POP3 or secure NNTP.
- Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.
- The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

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Discuss

>> Course Authorization

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The system supports restricting access based on roles and roles can also be customizedby the service provider.
- Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools.
- Administrators can distribute the permissions and roles across multiple institutions or departments hosted in the server environment.

- Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.

Administrators can create multiple domains, and designate users, courses, roles, and brands to each domain. Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools. Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses. Administrators and Instructors can assign different levels of access to the system or to specific courses based on pre-defined roles. Administrators can delegate administration of the system to different organizational entities within an institution or consortia. The system can access authorization information stored in an LDAP directory.
Discuss

eCollege

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- Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.

Which course tools display in the eCollege system can be controlled by utilizing the integrated system of roles and permissions. Each role contains a collection of rights. Rights are usually granular to the course feature level (threads, Dropbox and so on) and can be set up to allow visibility, participation administration or no access. Roles can be assigned to users at a campus or course level. The course developer can turn on or off any course tool in a course at any time. For example, an Educational Partner may choose to turn off the e-mail tool for a specific course, or group of courses, by using a specific role.

Course access levels, branding requirements and reporting needs will vary within one institution; therefore, the system supports flexible, customizable course and program structures. eCollege allows institutions to create roles and rights to be assigned to each user when accessing different courses, to have separate branding for separate entities within an institution, and to organize reports based on the various entities and sub-entities within the hierarchy. Benefits include consistency with an institution's on-campus structure and
flexibility around the node structure. Access for roles is granted and restricted as each user is assigned rights in a specific node.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The system supports restricting access based on roles and roles can also be customizedby the service provider.
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Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

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Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

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A rich authorization schema provides for unparelled levels of flexibility surrounding course authorization. The system can be configured to fully open sites or limit access to them based upon institutionally defined roles and configuration parameters. rSmart works individually with each institution to define a unique set of roles and permission structures that support the necessary configuration of that institution.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

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Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

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- Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.

Discuss

>> Registration Integration

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can add students to their courses manually or allow students to self-register.
- Administrators can batch add students to the system using a delimited text file.
- Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using delimited text files.
- The software supports data interchange with student information systems through an event-driven API.
- The software supports integration with SCT Banner, SCT Luminis, Datatel, PeopleSoft 8 or customized integration with other SIS or portal systems.
- The software is compliant with the IMS Enterprise Specification for Student Data.

Administrators and Instructors can batch add students to a course using a delimited text file or students can self-register. Administrators can batch create courses, users, and enrollments in the system. The software supports integration with student information systems through an event-driven API o through their tool which is based on scheduled system extracts. Administrators can transfer student information bi-directionally between the system and an SIS in batch or in real time. The system supports the use of SOAP-based data integration. Integration with Student Information Systems is available through existing plug-ins. The service provider will assist, as a services engagement, in transferring student registration information between the CMS and the institutional SIS. The software is compliant with the IMS Enterprise specification for student data.

Discuss

eCollege

- Administrators can batch add students to the system using a delimited text file.
- Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using delimited text files.
- Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using IMS Enterprise Specification v1.1 XML files via web services.
- The software supports integration with SCT Banner, SCT Luminis, Datatel, PeopleSoft 8 or customized integration with other SIS or portal systems.
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Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

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SCORM 2004 Ed. 2 certified by ADL CoLabs

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

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Registration Information is available in the system via two tools: Roster and Profile: Roster Tool: Provides a list of all users in the site, a link to an individual user's profile, a picture the user has made available to all users and an official photo ID for use by the administrative users of the site. The Roster tool now uses a new API to manage privacy.

Profile Tool: The profile tool allows a user to enter or choose to display public and personal information, including a university ID picture if available. The profile tool can have university provided or individually provided information about any user in the system. It can be edited, restricted/opened/hidden anc can include personal images or institutionally provided images.

The user may choose whether this information is public or private. Users who have logged into the application may search for another user's profile using this tool to obtain any information that a user has chosen to make public.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

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Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

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ANGEL's Extended Enterprise Integration (XEI) Framework simplifies the complexity of integration by allowing easier configuration of data sources, direct mapping of fields between systems and the use of standards and specifications.
Discuss

Moodle 1.9

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Discuss

>> Hosted Services

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.

The product provider offers a hosted system that includes 99.75% Service Level Agreements with guaranteed system availability and performance on a network of high-performance, fault-tolerant servers with fail-over capability including load balancing and clustering, managed software installation, redundant Internet connections, redundant and conditioned power, redundant hosting platforms, 24x7x365 monitoring, 10GB – 20GB storage space to start, managed bandwidth usage, redundant T3 connections, daily data backups and weekly tape backups, and a secure facility with environmental control and a modern alarm/security system.
Discuss

eCollege

- The product provider offers **only** a hosted solution.

As a true .asp outsource solution, every user is on the latest version of eCollege. Customers never have to upgrade to newer versions as all upgrades are made available to everyone automatically.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.
- Hosting and support services from Commercial Affiliates.

Hosting from Rackspace Ltd. Hosted solution is preference
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.

The product provider offers a hosted system that includes 24x7x365 monitoring, redundant hosting platforms, intrusion detection, nightly backups, options for geographical disaster recovery, and service level agreements on a network of high-performance, fault-tolerant servers with fail-over capability with redundant Tier 1 network connections.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.
- Hosting and support services from Commercial Affiliates.

rSmart offers a range of hosting and support options. The rSmart open source support subscription includes:

* An rSmart-certified open source software distribution, including the packaging and testing required for a professional software release * Regular maintenance releases and updates
* Regulatory updates as required (Kuali) * Multi-tier software support and trouble-shooting assistance
* Ongoing development in cooperation with the community to improve the software * Intellectual property assurances

* 24/7 Access to the rSmart Network (RSN), our web-based personalized support portal that includes a self-help knowledgebase, documentation, templates, tools, and other useful resources

A portion of your annual subscription underwrites rSmart's contribution to the open source community in the form of software development and community leadership that are critical to the sustainability of the projects we support. Be confident knowing that your subscription indirectly strengthens the open source community.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.
- The product provider offers **only** a hosted solution.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The product provider offers a hosted solution.

ANGEL Learning offers hosting services with 24x7x365 comprehensive web environment monitoring that ensures peak performance, fully redundant systems and daily backup with offsite storage. A historically stable 99.8% uptime standard is offered, with additional options available to meet individual institution needs. Provider personnel perform all maintenance and upgrades, but institution retains complete control of teaching and learning functionalit and set up.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Hosting and support services from Commercial Affiliates.

Moodle itself is FREE to use, but optional hosting services are provided by Moodle Partners.

Discuss

COURSE DELIVERY TOOLS

>> Test Types

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Multiple choice
- Multiple answer
- Matching
- Ordering
- Jumbled sentence
- Calculated
- Fill-in the blank
- Short answer
- Survey questions
- Essay
- Questions can contain other media elements (images, videos, audio)

Discuss

eCollege

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Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

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Discuss

>> Automated Testing Management

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The system can randomize the questions and answers.
- Instructors can create self-assessments.
- Instructors can set a time limit on a test.
- Instructors can permit multiple attempts.
- The students are allowed to review past attempts of a quiz.
- The system supports a MathML editor for the inclusion of mathematical formulas in both questions and answers.
- Instructors can specify whether correct results are shown as feedback
- The system supports proctored tests.

Instructors can create different levels of feedback messages. Instructors can import questions from existing test banks. Instructors can set dates and times for when students must access tests. Instructors can use passwords to restrict access to tests. Instructors can use the MathML and WebEQ equation editors to enable students to enter and edit mathematical notations. Instructors can create unit-specific tests or course-level tests. Instructors can provide personalized comments for essay/short answer questions, and can add comments to assessment results. Instructors can create extra-credi questions that can be scored separately. Instructors can differentially weight tests and create grading rules. Instructors can choose which attempt(s) to include in the grade calculations. Instructors can override the automated scoring and determine how to communicate test results to students.
Discuss

eCollege

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WebStudy Course Management System

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Assessments support AV in questions

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

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Moodle Rooms

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- The system supports proctored tests.
- The system supports Remote Quiz Protocol which allows questions to be rendered and scored externally to the system via standards-based web services.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

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Question Sets allow instructors to group questions and apply different delivery rules to each group. Mastery Mode presents questions in a self-study mode that allows students to drill against a set of questions until they achieve the proficiency level set by the instructor. Ability to fine-tune how students receive review commentary. Reviews can be presented any number of days after a user submission, after the assessment is disabled or after a specific date.
Secure Browser enables secure testing without a dedicated lab. The browser blocks all other programs and locks the student in the testing environment. The secure browser can easily be provided to a remote proctor allowing distance students to travel to a local setting for secure testing. An additional medium security quiz option restricts mouse and keyboard functionality by not allowing right clicking, printing, etc.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

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Discuss

>> Automated Testing Support

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can create personal test banks.
- Instructors can create system wide test banks.
- Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.
- The system provides test analysis data.

Instructors can create question pools, an export and import those pools. The system provides analysis data for surveys and test item results can be exported for analysis.

Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can create personal test banks.
- Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.
- The system provides test analysis data.

Test analysis data includes mean, median, mode, range, SIQR, Standard Deviation, Difficulty (P Value), as well as both exam and question level statistics.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can create personal test banks.
- Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

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There is a consolidated question library for quizzes, surveys and self assessments. Test questions can incorporate images, sound, video and other media types. Questions can be built with the tool or instructors can import and export questions from external test banks in the IMS QTI specification format. Questions can be randomized to provide different questions to different students. Random values can be generated for variables to provide different questions to different students. Users can also use HTML editor and Spell Check feature to respond to questions. You can set a time limit on a test and give special access for individual students. Assessments can be restricted by IP address or a password. Assessments can be shared across several organizational units, and data can be aggregated during report generation. Quizzing allows you to customize reports on user and question data that can be exported. Users can override the automated scoring and determine how to communicate test results to students. At the users descretion, questions can be edited on multiple quizzes at the same time and in the question library. Students can also be locked out of the instant messaging tool and have their copy/paste and print tools restricted while taking a quiz.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can create personal test banks.
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Instructors can import an assessment as a test or as a question pool. Additionally, instructors can create new tests and quizzes in MS Word and import using the import feature in the 2.4 version of the CLE.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

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Item Analysis reports reliability, discrimination, difficulty, frequency and distribution and mean for each assessment item to evaluate the assessment's ability to discriminate between students who understand the material and those who don't.
Assessment-at-a-Glance assessment summary displays assessments completed, in process or not yet attempted; shows high, low, median and mean scores for all submitted assessments; details distribution of question types and points assigned to each question type; and, provides a view of all assessment settings in one place.
True algorithmic questions provide instructors the ability to create formula-based questions that automatically generate replacement values for variables and calculate correct answers for each student who takes an assessment.
• WebEQ/HTML Editor Variable Replacement
• Dependent Variables
• Automated Performance Rubric allows multiple conditions that support varying degrees of precision.
• Support for a wide array of functions, constants and operators.
• One-page process for setting up an algorithmic question.
Keyword Manager ensures the consistent use of keywords in assessments for tagging all assessment items.
Questions Banks in ANGEL Learning Object Repositories manage assessment item storage, organization and retrieval. Assessment item inventory can be searched by term, keyword, standard, objective and question difficulty or question type. Search results can be previewed and individual questions selected for inclusion. Questions are stored in the database only once to preserve disk space. Updates to source question can flow automatically to all instances of that question if those subscribing to the question choose.
Question Pool items are selected using powerful search tools so they can be configured with exactly the questions instructors want individual pools to contain. Question Pools search results can be fine tuned with any of all of these parameters: question type, question bank location, difficulty level, keywords, associated standards, associated objectives. Selection boxes allow removal of specific results from the results set.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can create personal test banks.
- Instructors can create system wide test banks.
- Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.
- The system provides test analysis data.

Discuss

>> Online Marking Tools

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can choose to mark each student on all questions or to mark each question on all students.
- Instructors can choose to evaluate student responses anonymously.

- Instructors can enable students to rate and comment on submissions of other students.

Instructors, and teaching assistants can mark paragraph questions, and mark and return assignments turned in through the Assignment tool. Instructors can provide feedback on quizzes and tests through annotations.

Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can choose to mark each student on all questions or to mark each question on all students.
- Instructors can enable students to rate and comment on submissions of other students.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

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Desire2Learn 8.3

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Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

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Discuss

Moodle Rooms

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Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

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Discuss

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- Instructors can choose to mark each student on all questions or to mark each question on all students.
- Instructors can choose to evaluate student responses anonymously.
- Instructors can enable students to rate and comment on submissions of other students.

Discuss

>> Online Gradebook

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Instructors can add the grades for offline assignments to the online gradebook. Instructors can sort and view grades in the gradebook by assignment, by student, by category and for all students on all assignments. Instructors can import and export a comma-delimited version of the gradebook from/to an external spreadsheet program. Instructors can search the gradebook to find all students who meet a specific performance criteria, mark, or status such as exam completion. Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ raw scores, percentages, letter grades or pass/fail metrics. When ar instructor adds an assessment or assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook. The gradebook supports the creation o custom columns which can contain either grade information or other instructor-determined details. Instructors can delegate the responsibility for grading assignments. Instructors can manually edit all grades. The software automatically calculates the average grade on each assignment. Instructors can download the results of a test across sections of a course and across semesters. Instructors can aggregate data and perform item-level analysis of individual survey items across the entire system.

Discuss

eCollege

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Gradebook supports weighting and / or point based assessment. All course tools associate with the gradebook allowing the instructor to see only the student's work they are interested in at the time.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Users can grade assignments, essay type quizzes/exams online and provide feedback. Grades from quizzes and assignments can be updated in Gradebook tool automatically. There is the ability to manually edit all grades using just the keyboard. Gradebook tool is useful for basic statistical analysis and final grade calculation. The software automatically calculates the minimum, maximum, and average grade on any grade items including assignments and quizzes. Grade items can be grouped according to grade categories created by instructors. For instance, grade items Quiz #1 and #2 are part of Quiz category/section. Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percentages, letter grades or pass/fail metrics and even create custom grade schemes. Furthermore, grade items can use built in formula editor to create functions which includes If statement, Max/Min, Sum, Avg, etc. to aggregate multiple grade items together allowing instructors to create complex grades scenarios for their course. The Gradebook supports import/export comma-delimited (csv) files. All Gradebook activities are tracked and stored in event logs. Learning Environment alsc supports the creation of scoring rubrics that can be used as a scoring guide for subjective and quantitative assessments. Rubrics can be created and copied for use within a course, or shared across the organization. Rubrics can have any number of evaluation levels and have numerical components to allow for automatic evaluation, or evaluated manually using existing assessment tools. Many grade items and categories can be selected and edited at once. Grade items can be tied to learning objectives. Learning activities are evaluated based on numeric values for those items and compared to achievement threseholds defined by the instructor; or can be evaluated manually using a scoring rubric. There is now a setup wizard that walks a new user through the process of setting up their gradebook. When importing grades, new grade items can now be created. A new view of grades has been created that shows all items in an editable format. The user can easily tab through the data fields to enter grade values for any user. Users can choose to email any selected user from the grades tool.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Gradebook Setup Wizard configures the gradebook. Batch grade allows the grader to enter the same grade for multiple students with just a click. Link a single grading column to several content items, e.g., give different teams different quizzes; every quiz is in the same gradebook column. Categories for assignments, e.g., quizzes, homework, dissection, with unlimited category configurations. Edit multiple categories or assignments at once. Auto-calculate category weights. The gradebook sums the number of possible points for each assignment. That number becomes the category weight. Make a change and weights dynamically recalculate. Weights are supported independent of actual points for a category. Override any grade for any user on any assignment. Lock grades by assignment to manage exceptions. Flag a category as extra credit. When viewing grades, users are paginated and "frozen" while the pane to the right of the students is scrollable. Easily switch to viewing a particular category or just averages. Switch between viewing percentages, scores or chosen default for all items on the screen. Grade with points or percentages. Enter whichever you prefer. ANGEL calculates the other. Printer friendly format.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
- Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.
- Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.
- Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
- Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.

Discuss

>> Course Management

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can release materials based on a single criteria (date, grade, etc.) or instructors can use Boolean expressions to identify multiple selective release criteria.
- Instructors can set up specific course content that is released on a specific date and must be completed by students before they continue with the course.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on previous course activity.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on student performance.

Instructors can selectively release assessments, announcements and other materials based on previous course activity, previous grade, or specific start

and end dates. Instructors can specify start and stop dates for the entire course or for specific materials.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can release materials based on a single criteria (date, grade, etc.) or instructors can use Boolean expressions to identify multiple selective release criteria.
- Instructors can set up specific course content that is released on a specific date and must be completed by students before they continue with the course.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.

Access based on previous course activity or performance being addressed by intelligent tutoring functionality - in design
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can release materials based on a single criteria (date, grade, etc.) or instructors can use Boolean expressions to identify multiple selective release criteria.
- Instructors can set up specific course content that is released on a specific date and must be completed by students before they continue with the course.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on previous course activity.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on student performance.

Supported versions of IMS CP packages can be imported and also exported from any course in the Learning Environment. Users (that have permission to do so) have the ability to choose individual items to copy/import/export. For instance, instructors can choose a single quiz and specific topic to export rather than exporting all quizzes and content. Also, courses can be reoffered by using Copy Course Component feature. Competencies can be assessed automatically using quizes, surveys, dropbox assignments and manually using an online rubric builder. There is a single interface that controls which tools an organization will use. Each course can then choose which of those tools they actually want to use (i.e. the Organization may enable the 'LiveRoom' tool, but a given course may turn that off it they don't want to use it).
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.

Instructors can release learning sequences or materials based on start dates (Lesson Builder tool AND Resources tool). Conditional release of material based on pre-defined criteria such as student performance in another tools is coming with the CLE 2.6 release.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on previous course activity.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on student performance.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can release materials based on a single criteria (date, grade, etc.) or instructors can use Boolean expressions to identify multiple

selective release criteria.
- Instructors can set up specific course content that is released on a specific date and must be completed by students before they continue with the course.
- Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on previous course activity.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on student performance.

ANGEL Agent Technology enables faculty to predefine acceptable student performance levels and monitors student performance and course activity and executes faculty-defined actions on a scheduled or event-driven basis. Actions that occur in response to student behavior include sending a personalized email, releasing content based on performance, notifying advisors or mentors. Feature granularity allows the instructor to monitor a class, a group within a class or individual students.
Learning Outcomes Management tools enable instructors to map any course content or assessment item to state, accrediting body or professional certification standards or institution, department or instructor objectives. Institutions administer standards for all faculty to use. Instructors map content and assessments using powerful browse and searching tools. Mapping progress reports show which content items and assessments are mapped to each standard and identify gaps in coverage. Scheduled or ad hoc reports show student progress against standards/objectives.
Date Manager helps instructors prepare to teach their courses in a new semester. The manager displays every lesson item in a course and all dates associated with that item in a single tabular view. A calendar pop-up shows an active lesson item and two months of dates with dates the class meets highlighted. Instructors select a date and select the appropriate scheduling buttons: visible or hidden, assigned or due; enabled or disabled.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.
- Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.

Discuss

>> Student Tracking

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.

The Performance Dashboard contains at-a-glance statistics about student access, grades, and Discussion Boar participation. The Early Warning Systen allows instructors to set rules for acceptable performance, and track students based on those rules. Students who appear to be at risk can be notified within the system, and notifications are tracke. Instructors can get reports showing the number of times and date on which each student accessed course content, discussion forums and assignments. Instructors can set a flag on individual course components to track the frequency with which students access those components.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
- Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
- Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Administration can share this tracking information with the user, if desired. A data warehouse, stores the information the Learning Environment logs sucl that large reports can run during normal business operations. All data in the data warehouse is documented in the Data Dictionary such that 3rd party reporting tool can be used to access the data. Flexible data set definitions allow for many reports to be generated. Reporting supports many filters as well as render types including Tabular, Area, Line, Bar and Pie graphs.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.

The CLE includes the Sakai Site Statistics tool. The Site Statistics tool collects and displays statistical data about the class as a whole or about student activity within the class. Instructors can review this from a tool on the course home page. As yet, there are no tools for generating reports from this data but we anticipate this capability in a future release.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
- Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
- Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Activity-at-a-Glance statistics presented at login report student logons, mail messages, discussion posts, grades and so on. Instructors click on any graph for more detail.
Unified reporting engine distills and delivers extensive course information in one central console. Configure, customize, display and share course report via a single, easy-to-learn console. Monitor performance and patterns of activity in real-time. Easily pinpoint at-risk behavior. Intervene proactively. Securely share learner performance reports with parents, mentors and other stakeholders.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
- Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.
- Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
- Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
- Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

Discuss

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

>> Accessibility Compliance

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AA guidelines.

To comply with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act, the software implements the following features: a tool for instructors to add alt tags to uploadec images, alt tags on all system images, data tables that are optimized for use with screen readers, documentation to assist students and instructors in the use of the assistive technologies the software supports, appropriately titled framesets that describe the functionality of the frames layout, and support for most screen reader technology including JAWS. Developers and designers on the staff of the product provider are trained in the use of Section 508 standards and development techniques.
Discuss

eCollege

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Partially conformant
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.

Desire2Learn actively tests with the JAWS, and other screen readers and assistive technologies. The company works with clients, the accessibility community and the W3C to validate and identify accessibility features. Users can also change font sizes and styles to meet their accessibility needs. The Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) is an industry standard template for recording how a product or service conforms to Section 508 standards. This VPAT outlines the compliance of Learning Environment 8.3.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.

All core components of the Sakai application are reviewed for accessibility standing. The latest results can be found here:
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/2ACC/Sakai%27s+Current+Accessibility
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AA guidelines.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AAA guidelines.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.

Learners can create or upload personalized accessibility profiles. Accessibility Wizard enables each user to create a customized accessibility profile that addresses personal needs either before or after login. All profiles are easily edited and previewed. When the user is satisfied with profile settings, Accessibility Wizard completes the profile template for the user. Screen reader optimization settings include selecting preferred speech rate, voice pitch, volume and more.
Supports ACCLIP. Students or faculty who have defined accessibility needs in other systems can import them directly into their ANGEL profile.
ANGEL administrators can create default public accessibility profiles for screen readers and for visually impaired and color deficient users to provide accessible experiences in accordance with institutional policies.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
- The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.

Discuss

>> Content Sharing/Reuse

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation and review.
- The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.

The system supports sharing content across course and institution boundaries. The system provides a central content repository where course content files can be stored and accessed by other instructors. Instructors can designate their files to be private or publicly accessible. Content files can also be shared with specific groups or users as well as individuals outside of the system. Instructors can create links to content files in the central content repository so that changes made to the linked content are automatically displayed in their courses. Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation and review. Instructors can describe course content using metadata. The repository supports IMS, Dublin Core, and custom tagging standards.
Discuss

eCollege

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.
- For any content in the repository, users can view reports displaying every course in the system that is currently using the selected item.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- For any content in the repository, users can view reports displaying every course in the system that is currently using the selected item.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation and review.
- The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.
- For any content in the repository, users can view reports displaying every course in the system that is currently using the selected item.

Desire2Learn Learning Repository tightly integrates with Desire2Learn Learning Environment to provide a central content/learning object repository where learning objects can be stored and reused by users in the system. By utilizing user roles and management tool in Learning Environment, different permission settings can be applied to multiple repositories. Learning Objects (i.e. assets, topics, modules, and course) can be published to the Learning Repository using industry metadata standards including IEEE LOM, Dublin Core, GEM and CanCore. Searching within the Repository can be done through Basic Search, Advance Search and Local Browsing of custom taxon schemas. Local browing is an alternative to searching for key words and titles (or any other fields defined in metadata), users can also search by browsing through classification and taxonomy. Moreover, both havesting and federated searching is supported which allows users to search in external repository search as MERLOT. When desired learning objects are found, it can be dynamically or statically linked to the repository, retrieved or exported in IMS format.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.

Material can be imported or copied from one course site to another upon site creation. Material in the content repository of a site can be accessed across the system by any user who is a member of the site and has permission to "read" the content. Addionally, each user has a personal workspace, which can be used to store and/or distribute materials across the entire system. Materials from this workspace can be imported into any course or project site. This allows each instructor or student to maintain their own local space which is accessible only to themselves but can be used to copy material into various project and course sites or move material around as needed.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation and review.

Using the Cisco CRS repository.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.
- The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.

Unlimited, fully integrated, standards-based Learning Object Repositories that enable storage, tagging, searching, sharing, linking, reuse and management of learning objects are embedded in the ANGEL LMS. Share and reuse learning objects across courses, sections, departments, schools, campuses, institutions. Ability to link to content in a learning object repository. Content updated in the repository is updated wherever it occurs. Browse and search and create and edit capabilities. Flexible permissions for easy access control. Search the MERLOT (Multimedia Education Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) learning objects database and link to appropriate objects without leaving the ANGEL environment.
Assessment content sharing through Question Banks and Question Pools. See Automated Testing Support.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.
- The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.

Discuss

>> Course Templates

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.
- Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Instructors can use templates to create course content. Content can be uploaded through WebDAV or a form.The templates include a rich text content editor. Instructors can categorize course content as announcements, calendar entries, course units, discussion forums, handouts, instructor biography, lecture notes, links, syllabus and course descriptions, tips, FAQs and resources. Instructors can create new content templates. A Course Creation Wizard enables instructors to easily set up a course using templates.
Discuss

eCollege

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.
- Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.
- Course templates may contain selective release criteria and custom gradebook columns that persist with each new course instance.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.
- Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.
- Course templates may contain selective release criteria and custom gradebook columns that persist with each new course instance.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Course templates containing either layout or content can be created at any level above the specific section level. Instructors can create announcements calendar entries, discussions, links, syllabus, course descriptions and other course content using templates that include a HTML editor (a.k.a. WYSIWYG content editor), or upload and choose content from the system-wide content library. Instructors can create new content templates. Instructors can incorporate course functions into specific course templates.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

The CLE allows instructors or their designees to re-user material from existing sites. Material can be selected on a per tool basis, enabling an instructor to migrate assignments in one site, dicussion topics in another and a syllabus from a third if so desired.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.
- Course templates may contain selective release criteria and custom gradebook columns that persist with each new course instance.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Create and publish content templates complete with directions and the ability to personalize course content. Ability to design content wizards – embedding consistent pedagogy into the wizard steps.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The software provides support for template-based course creation.
- Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.
- The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.

Discuss

>> Customized Look and Feel

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

Institutions can apply their own institutional images, headers and footers across all courses. Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes and the order, name, and function of menu items for a course. Through domains, a system can support multiple institutions, departments or schools on a single installation, including images, headers and footers as well as courses, users, and roles.
Discuss

eCollege

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

Look and feel elements and rights are determined by the institution at setup.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational divisions on an individual server setup. Each unit can be separately branded. Distinct designs can also be applied at both the course and specific section level. The user can customize the appearance of a course by changing the order and name of menu items and the location and width of the navigation bar. Custom tools can be created and quickly added and removed from course or student home pages. Students can customize the sounds, colors, font sizes, and layout of the tools within the interface. Administrators can change the availability, order and name of menu items. Depending on user's role and permission, the user has access to certain tools/features in the learning environment. Users can choose any page as the first page that is viewed when the content tool is accessed.The instructor can view any feedback that was left for content topics and review both detailed and summary information. Multiple modules or topics could be selected and their properties could be editted at once. Users can choose any page as the first page of the content area.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.

Instructors can change the skin and color schemes for a course, provided that more skins have been installed in the system. Many custom course skins have been developed by the Sakai community and are available as a free download. Edia has recently contributed a skin manager tool which allows for greater customization and management of skins in an instance of Sakai.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

The user can customize the look and feel of the ANGEL interface to suit individual preferences.
• Drag-and-Drop components of portal pages.
• Theme editor enables easy selecting/editing of an array of predefined themes included in ANGEL, or the user can easily create a new theme.
• Extensive toolset to assist the user in customizing their homepage to include items of interest (e.g., courses, groups, email, etc.). Even within an item, for example, courses, the user can identify which courses they wish to display and always have the ability to unhide those courses that were not selected.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The system provides default course look and feel templates.
- Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
- Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.
- Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
- The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can appl its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.

Discuss

>> Instructional Design Tools

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

Instructors can create both linear and nonlinear learning sequences using a content library. Instructors can access information and tips and tutorials on instructional design and on creating a collaborative learning environment. Instructors can create relationships between assignments and required resources which can then serve as templates for future lessons. The product provider also offers instructional design services for a fee to help instructors create their courses.
Discuss

eCollege

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

Desire2Learn also has Desire2Learn QuickLinks which allows a user to quickly link to resources (e.g. a quiz, assignment, form, survey, etc.) from all tools and to turn them into topics within the course.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

At present, instructional design functionality is handled in the Lesson Builder tool, a tool that allows users to create learning sequences. Lessons can be released automatically based on start and stop dates. Lessons can be archived and moved from one site to another or exported using IMS Content Packaging.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

ANGEL's flexibility provides the instructional designer or instructor unlimited options for presenting and organizing course content, including: folders, wel pages, uploaded files, threaded discussions, hyperlinks, quizzes, surveys, and drop boxes.
Master Courses ensure consistent pedagogy, instructional integrity and course look and feel across all sections of large enrollment courses. Individual course sections refer to the content in the ANGEL Master Course. A designated lead instructor has permission to edit Master Course content. Changes made to Master Course content apply to all course sections. Flexible permissions give alternate instructors such as course section teaching assistants rights to supplement Master Course content with unique files, assessments and other learning objects to enable individualized instruction.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.
- Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
- Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.

Discuss

>> Instructional Standards Compliance

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- SCORM 1.2
- SCORM 1.3

The software has been issued a certificate of compliance with SCORM 1.2 level LMS-RTE3. The software has been self tested to support SCORM 2004 (aka SCORM 1.3) and is undergoing independent SCORM 2004 certification. The system supports the following standards: IMS Metadata vocabulary v1.2.1, IMS Content Packaging 1.1.2, IMS Enterprise Specification 1.01. The system includes tools to facilitate the migration of course content between different versions of the software.
Discuss

eCollege

- SCORM 1.2

SCORM 1.2 ADL Certified
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- IMS QTI 1.2.1
- IMS QTI 2.0
- SCORM 1.2

SCORM 2004 Ed 2
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- AICC
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.3
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4
- IMS QTI 1.2.1
- IMS QTI 2.0
- IMS Enterprise 1.1
- IMS Metadata 1.2.2
- IMS Metadata 1.3
- SCORM 1.2
- SCORM 1.3

The competencies tool support IMS RDCEO. Desire2Learn also support more recent versions of IMS Enterprise. For metadata, D2L supports IEEE LOM, Dublin Core, GEM and CanCore. The system includes a tool to import courses from other learning platforms into Desire2Learn.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4
- IMS QTI 1.2.1
- SCORM 1.3

* IMS Common Cartridge - Sakai supports import of Common Cartridge materials.

* IMS Tool Interoperability - Sakai has a contributed tool (University of Michigan) supporting the IMS Tool Interoperability Specification.

* Sakai supports SCORM 1.3 using a SCORM loader and SCORM player from the contributed library.

* The Melete Lesson Builder supports IMS CP.

* The Tests & Quizzes tool supports IMS QTI.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- AICC
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.3
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4
- IMS QTI 1.2.1
- IMS QTI 2.0
- IMS Enterprise 1.1
- SCORM 1.2

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4
- IMS Enterprise 1.1
- IMS Metadata 1.3

As an IMS GLC contributing member, ANGEL Learning actively participates in standards creation and management. In addition to the standards markec on the checklist, ANGEL supports these additional IMS standards and is SCORM® 2004 certified.

• the IMS Common Cartridge format
• IMS QTI 2.1
• IMS TI – Tools Interoperability
• IMS ACCLIP – Accessibility for Learning Information Packages

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- AICC
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.3
- IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4
- IMS QTI 1.2.1
- IMS Enterprise 1.1
- SCORM 1.2
- SCORM 1.3

Discuss

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

>> Client Browser Required

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
A full browser matrix is available. Compatible browsers for Windows 2000 include IE 6.0, Netscape 7.1 and 8.0, Firefox 1.0. Compatible browsers for Windows XP include IE 7.0, and Netscape 7.1. Compatible browsers for Mac OS 10.2 and 10.3 include IE 5.2, Netscape 7.1, Firefox 1.0, Safari 1.0, 1.1, 1.2 and 2.0.
Discuss

eCollege
Standard browsers are acceptable including Firefox Safari and IE.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System
PC - IE 5.5+, Netscape, Firefox, Mozilla; Mac - Safari, Firefox, Netscape
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3
IE, Netscape, Firefox, and Safari are the most popular browsers used. A full list of supported browsers is provided. All tools are supported across different OSs (e.g. Mac, PC, etc).
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
The software supports: Internet Explorer 5.5+, Netscape 7.1+, Mozilla Firefox for Windows, and Netscape 7.1+ or Mozilla Firefox on the Apple OS. Some functions in Sakai will not work well or will not work at all in Safari or Internet Explorer for the Mac. Javascript must be enabled.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms
Works fine on Firefox/Windows.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3
While ANGEL products generally function well in many browsers, the following are supported and tested:

• With PCs running Windows OS: Internet Explorer and Firefox

• With Macs running OS X: Firefox

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

Discuss

>> Database Requirements

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- The system supports Oracle.
- The system supports MS SQL Server.

- The system supports MySQL.

Discuss

eCollege

- The system supports Oracle.
- The system supports MS SQL Server.
- The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- The system supports MS SQL Server.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- The system supports MS SQL Server.
- The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The system supports Oracle.
- The system supports MS SQL Server.
- The system supports MySQL.
- The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The system supports Oracle.
- The system supports MS SQL Server.
- The system supports MySQL.
- The system supports PostGreSQL.
- The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- The system supports MS SQL Server.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The system supports Oracle.
- The system supports MS SQL Server.
- The system supports MySQL.
- The system supports PostGreSQL.
- The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.

Discuss

UNIX Server

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- A Unix version is available.

Discuss

eCollege

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- A Unix version is available.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- A Unix version is available.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- A Unix version is available.

Discuss

>> Windows Server

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

eCollege

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- A Windows version is available.

Discuss

COMPANY DETAILS/LICENSING

>> Company Profile

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
Founded in 1997, Blackboard is a public company (NasdaqNM:BBBB) that has over the years acquired CourseInfo, Web-Course-in-a-Box, Prometheus, and WebCT course management systems. The Company's product line consists of the Blackboard Academic Suite (including the Blackboard Learning System, Blackboard Community System, and Blackboard Content System) and the Blackboard Commerce Suite. Blackboard is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
Discuss

eCollege
eCollege, a true .asp provider of eLearning since 1996, provides a comprehensive outsource solution to support the growth of online distance programs for K-12, colleges, and universities. As a provider with all of the hardware, software and support services under one roof, eCollege offers single-point accountability to assure programs provide a high-quality experience for students, which translates into strong program retention and enrollment growth for the institution.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Available http://www.webstudy.com
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3
Located in the US, Canada (3 offices with headquarters in Kitchener-Waterloo), Australia, and the UK. Desire2Learn was founded in 1999. It employs over 185 people and is privately held.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
The rSmart Group supports open source software in education. Our passion is education. We believe in the promise of technology to help educators and learners.

The rising cost of software and growing distance between vendors and schools stifles innovation and puts the promise of education technology at risk. A new model based on open source is emerging where the old "vendor" model is failing. The open source model stimulates innovation and reduces costs. We embrace the spirit of freedom and innovation driving open source and work collaboratively on projects leading the way in education.

We're leading the shift toward open source in education. Commercial support is essential for widespread adoption of open-source applications. Our

business enables adoption at institutions of all shapes and sizes through a comprehensive offering of services and support.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms
Moodlerooms provides fully hosted Moodle, is a Moodle partner which provides 10% of all revenue back to Moodle.org for future development.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3
Founded in 2000, ANGEL Learning emerged from research and teaching experience at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Today ANGEL Learning has grown from a campus-based organization of university researchers and teachers to a profitable firm with global reach. Having emerged from the academy ourselves, our core values reflect those of our customers well. In independent research conducted by the IMS Global Learning Consortium, educators who use technology ranked ANGEL Learning number one in customer satisfaction. ANGEL world headquarters are in Indianapolis, Indiana.

ANGEL Learning's flagship products are the ANGEL Learning Management Suite (LMS) and the ANGEL ePortfolio system. Our products have been honed by use – with millions of students and instructors served from K to corporate. We enjoy a reputation for creating products with exceptional ease o use, excellent vision into learner progress and for keeping our commitments.

Simple. ANGEL works the way educators works. The ANGEL LMS intuitive interface puts technology in the background and brings the educational experience to the foreground.

Powerful. ANGEL's comprehensive, rich feature set does work for the instructor, assembling learner information and bringing it forward to the instructor to provide instant perspective into learner progress and behavior.

Open. ANGEL's open architecture, API's and published data base schema enable institutions to adapt the ANGEL LMS to institution-specific needs.

The ANGEL LMS won the Software & Information Industry Association CODiE award for Best Postsecondary Course Management Solution in both 200 and 2007 and is the only product to win the award two years in a row.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9
Moodle Pty Ltd is the company that organises funding and pays for core development, support plus quality assurance, allowing a broad community to help work on any aspect they want to.
Discuss

>> Costs / Licensing

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
The annual license fee is based on FTE students in an institution (or school within an institution) or consortium. In some markets, the annual license fee is determined on a per-user basis.
Discuss

eCollege
eCollege cost is based on a student technology fee - per student / per course. Institutions pay only for what they use with no licensing fee. As well, the more the instituion grows, typically the more the individual student cost goes down. eCollege's success is based on the institution's success.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Available sales@webstudy.com
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3
There is an initial startup fee. The license fees are typically based on either an FTE or per user/enrollment depending on the client requirements.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
There is no cost for the CLE and no licensing fees associated with its use. A free-trial version of the software is available for download from the rSmart website: http://www.rsmart.com. Interested individuals may create a personal account in our Sakai CLE Sandbox to test out the application before downloading. http://www.sakaisandbox.com
Discuss

Moodle Rooms
GPL, dowload and isntall, or run it on our servers.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3
The standard ANGEL license is based on the number of user accounts required by an institution. A user account is a unique username that is marked a active in the database. A single user may be enrolled in more than one course or group and still counts as one user. The annual license fee includes the right to use, the upgrades during the term, and support for the ANGEL administrator(s). It permits use of the system in production and on staging or development servers.

When comparing pricing models, it is important to understand that ANGEL's pricing includes essential capabilities. Specifically, the APIs, published database schema, integration tools, content management module, learning object repository, the portal environment and Learning Outcomes Management functionality are all included in the ANGEL LMS.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9
Moodle is free and distributed under the GPL license.
Discuss

>> Open Source

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)

Discuss

eCollege

Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System

Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3

Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE

- The software is distributed under one of the OSI-approved licenses.

Discuss

Moodle Rooms

- The software is distributed under one of the OSI-approved licenses.

Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3

Discuss

Moodle 1.9

- The software is distributed under one of the OSI-approved licenses.

Discuss

>> Optional Extras

The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)
The Blackboard Academic Suite is a tightly integrate set of products encompassing Course Management, Content Management and community building through a Portal server. Underlying the technology is the Blackboard Building Blocks architecture, a set of standards-based, open APIs. The APIs are available for free as part of the Blackboard Software Developers Kit (SDK). Using the Blackboard Building Blocks APIs developers can integrate applications, tools and services – called Building Blocks, to customize and enhance the Blackboard software. Clients can search for and download nearly 200 Building Blocks (commercial, free and open source) from the online catalog.
Blackboard Academic Suite is fully internationalized and is available in 8 languages including language packs for English, Spanish, Italian, French, Simplified Chinese Japanese, Portuguese and German. A language pack editor enables clients to create their own language packs or edit existing languages and share them with their peers.

Blackboard offers a range of professional services to help clients reach their e-Learning goals by providing services for strategic planning,

implementation and customization, training, ASP and 24x7 support.
Discuss

eCollege
Program Intelligence Manager - allows for "data-mining" to assess and correlate activity, grades, etc. Portfolios - allows student and / or institutions to "showcase" work for accreditation, assessment, or potential employment opportunities. ExamGuard - integrates with Questionmark's product to "lock down" browsers during system exams. Content Manager - allows instructors or groups to hold content in a central repository for easy updating and sharing of content.
Discuss

WebStudy Course Management System
Extra features include grapics / AV drag & drop repository plus others
Discuss

Desire2Learn 8.3
There are numerous other features and functionality provided by Desire2Learn, including (but not limited to) a full survey tool, advanced data warehouse, self-assessments, advanced blogging, ePortfolio, web services, robust learning object repository, and advanced in-line HTML editor.
Discuss

The rSmart Sakai CLE
Customizability, flexibility and control.
Discuss

Moodle Rooms
nWki advanced wiki, outcomes system, gradebook import/export.
Discuss

ANGEL Learning Management Suite v. 7.3
Additional ANGEL Products: ANGEL ePortfolio.
ANGEL ePortfolio provides both students and institutions a digital destination to collect evidence of educational growth and assessment. Students can build electronic portfolios of their educational achievement and personal growth. Institutions can manage evidence of program achievement.ANGEL offers a full range of customer and professional services to support ANGEL adoptions: Application Hosting Services, Education & Training, Professional and Technical Consulting and Advisory Services.

Discuss

Moodle 1.9
Moodle has a wide range of third-party modules that can extend functionality in different ways.
Discuss

Reference Citation: EduTools. (2009). CMS: Product Comparison System. Retrieved January 13, 2009 from http://www.edutools.info/compare.jsp?

pj=4&i=614,605,577,616,610,555,606,579