Moving from Student Records to Moodle+ for Assessment Management

Richard Oelmann
University of Gloucestershire
roelmann@glos.ac.uk @uoglearningtec1 @Oelmann_Richard
https://www.slideshare.net/RichardOelmann

The Challenge

EMA through Student Records

- Assessments as a mix of physical hand ins and file submissions
- Early adoption of Mahara Portfolios and Moodle Quizzes
- List of ~100 development requests for improvements to the system

The Challenge

EMA through Student Records

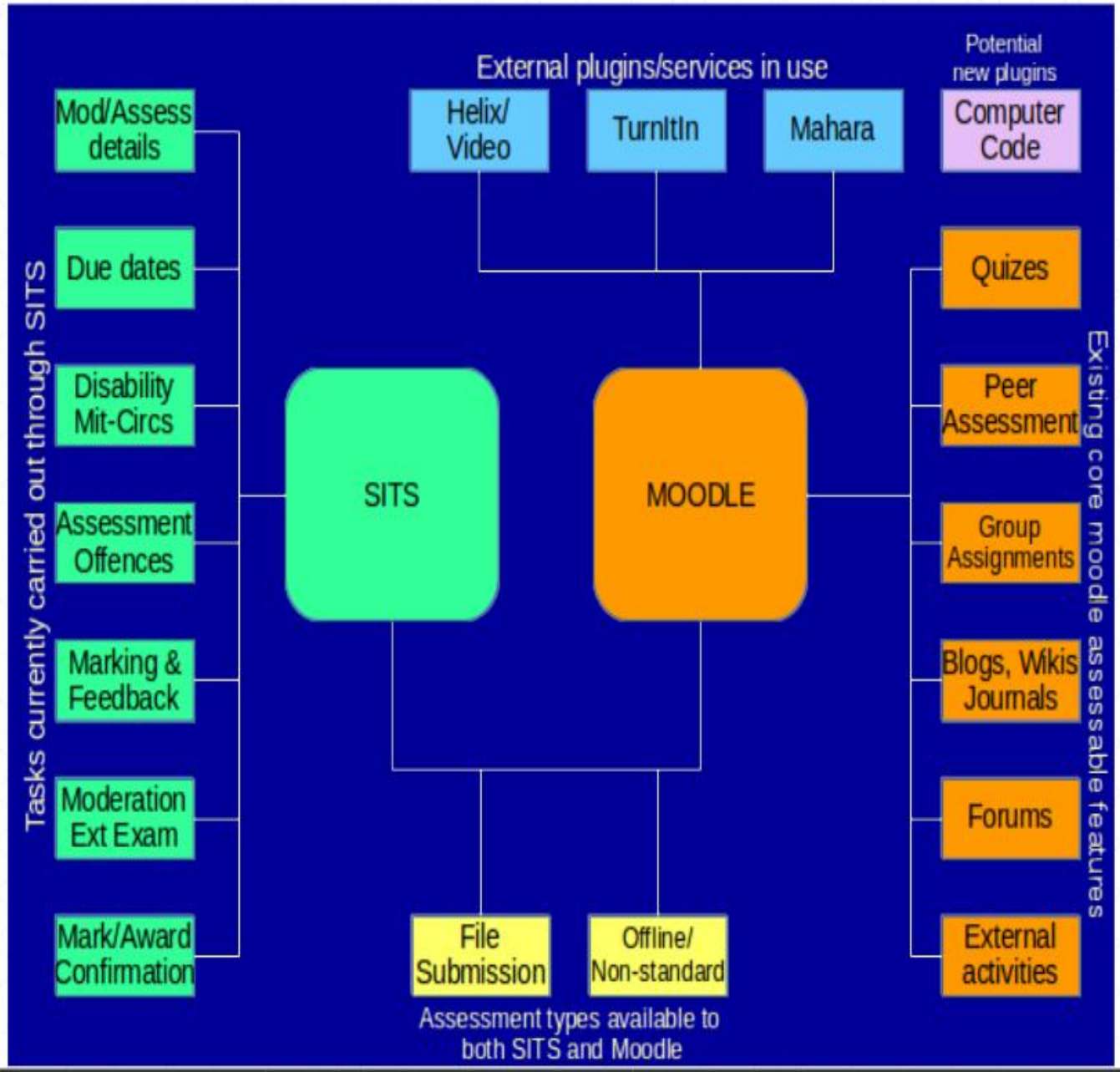
- Assessments as a mix of physical hand ins and file submissions
- Early adoption of Mahara Portfolios and Moodle Quizzes
- List of ~100 development requests for improvements to the system

Moodle would do the majority of these 'out of the box'

- Integrate and automate existing practices with Student Records
- Integrate and automate existing practices with University's Data Warehouse

The Challenge

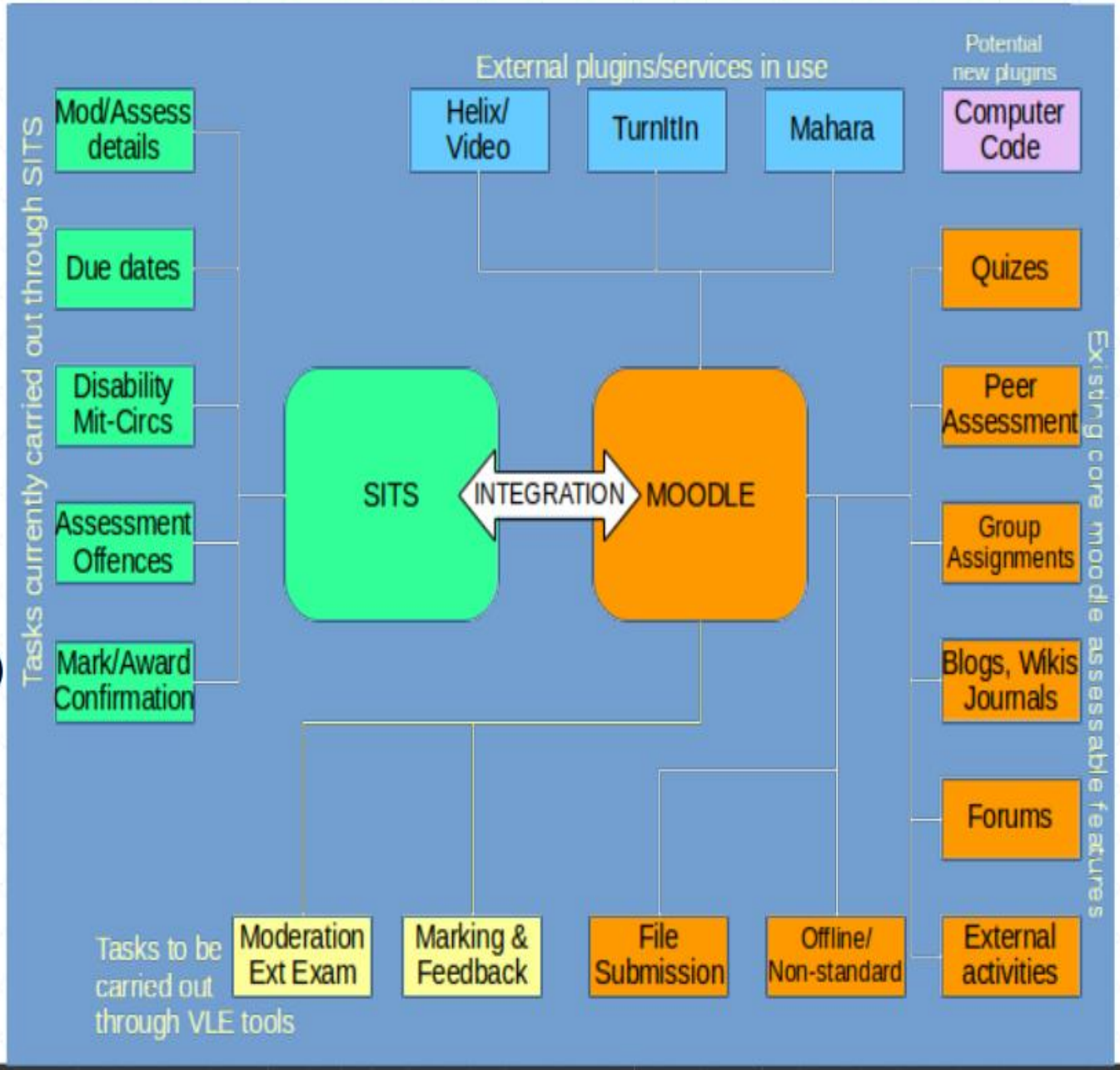
To utilise the best features of each system and integrate them as seamlessly as possible.



The Solution

VLE to be used as the front end for assessments

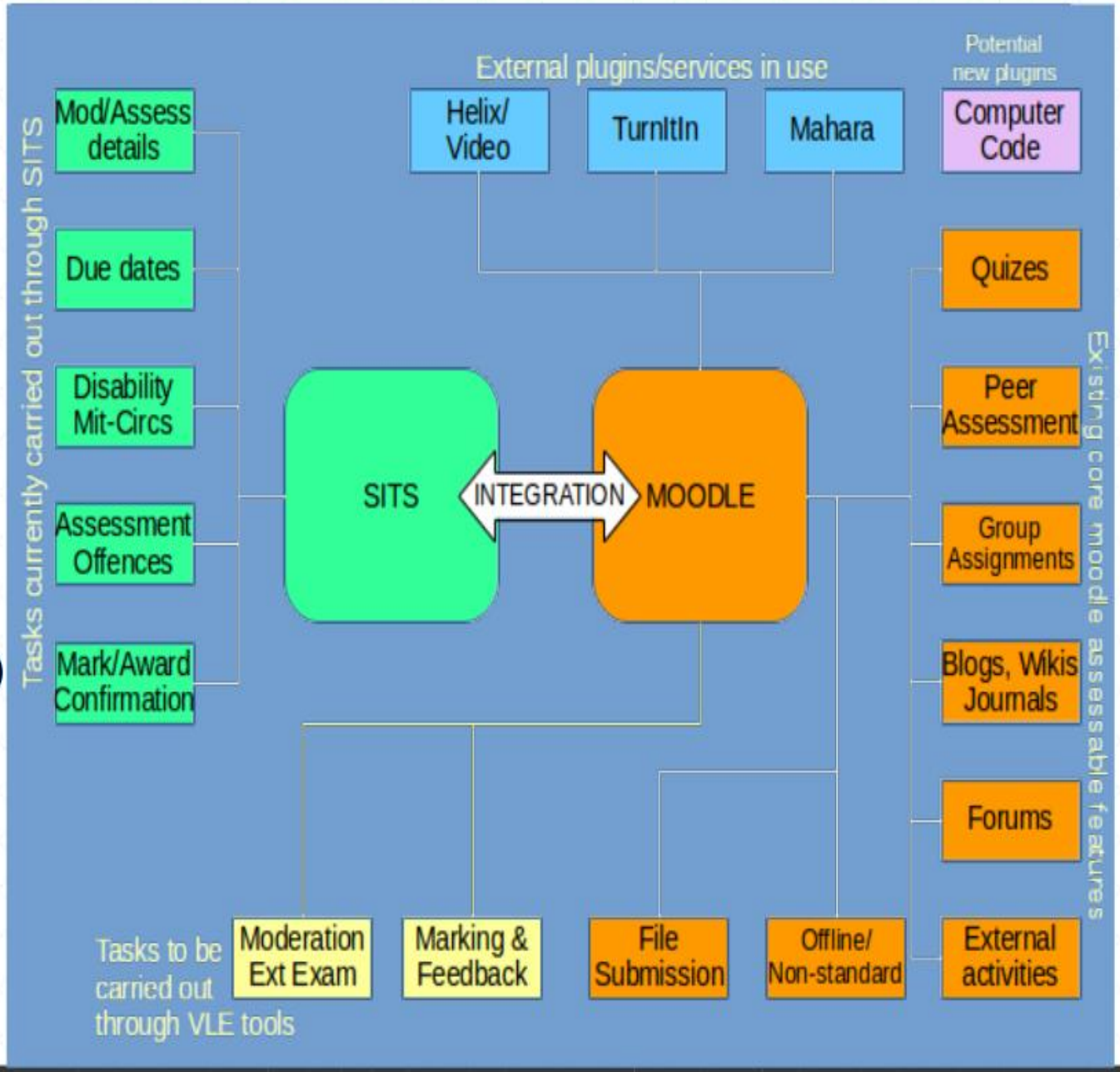
Student Records to be used for...



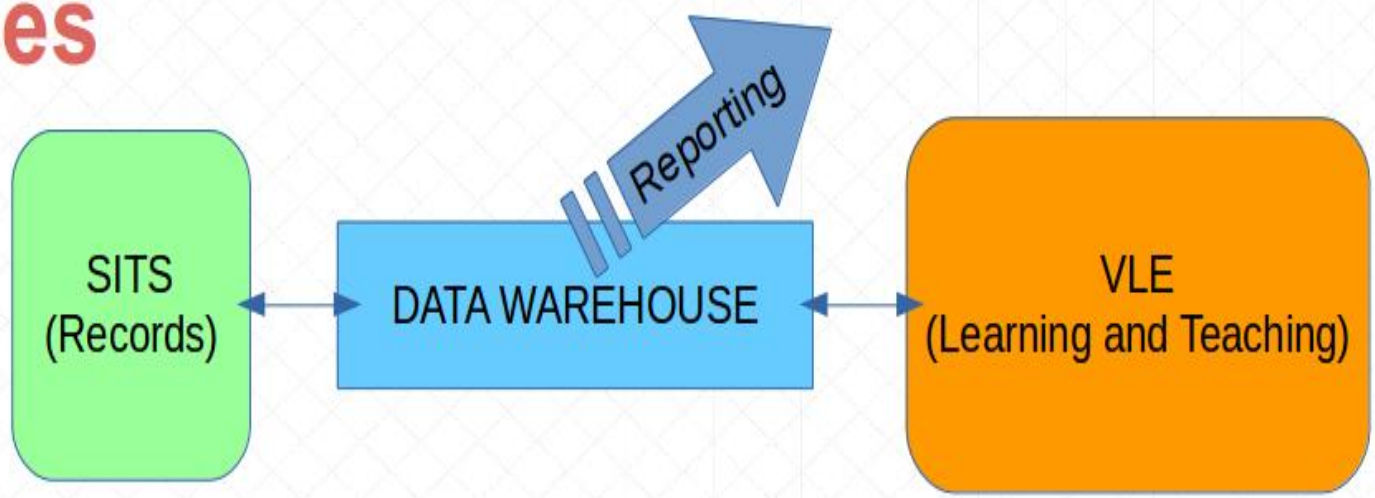
The Solution

VLE to be used as the front end for assessments

Student Records to be used for Records



The Sources



Courses and Modules

Enrolments (staff and students)

Category structures

Validated course details

Feedback due date

Individual extensions

Due dates

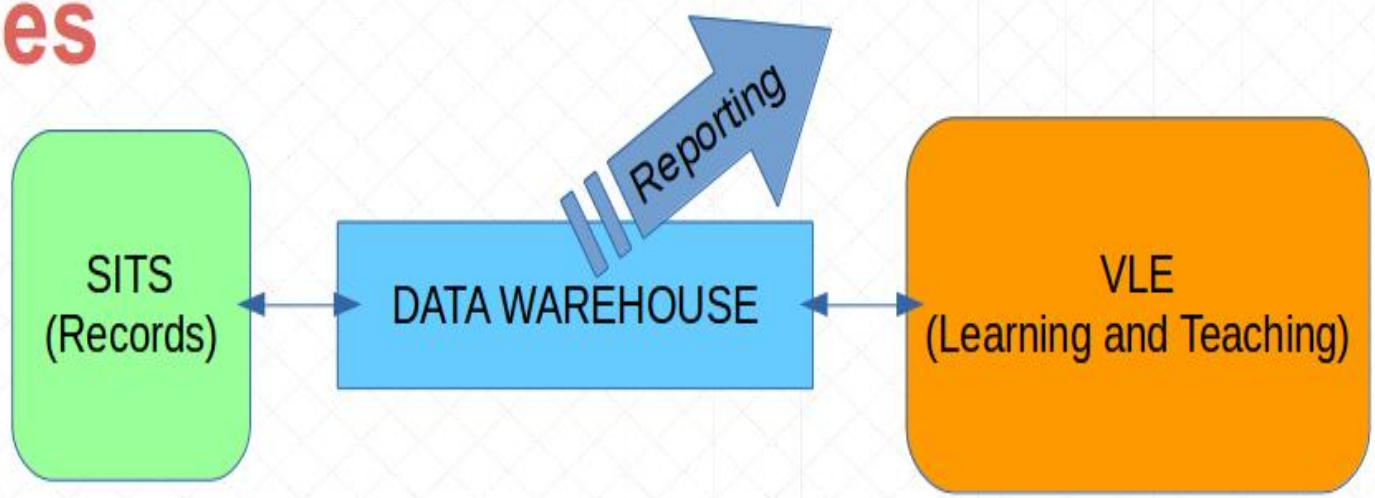
Assessment Brief

Actual submission date

Student submissions

Grades/Marks

The Sources



Courses and Modules

Enrolments (staff and students)

Validated course details

Feedback due date

Category structures

Individual extensions

Due dates

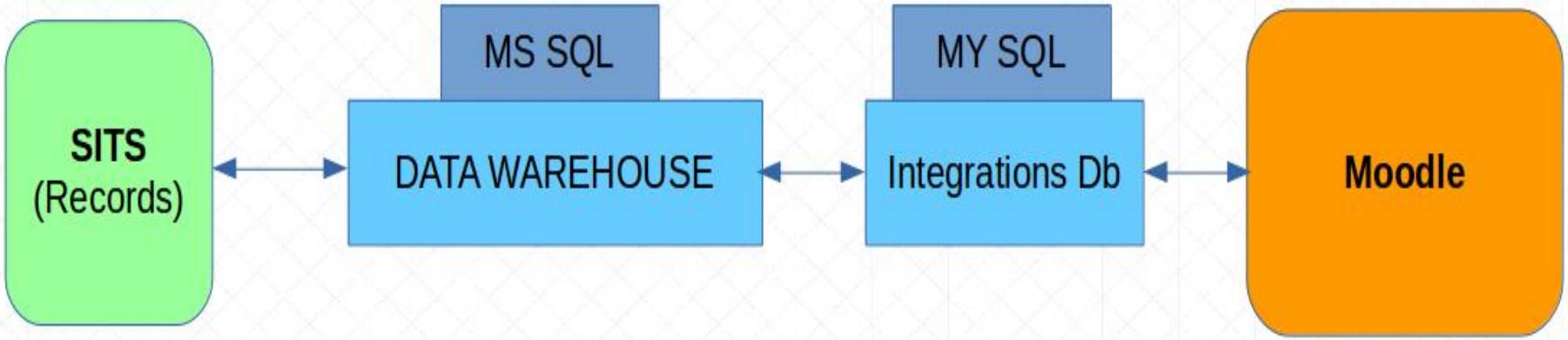
Assessment Brief

Actual submission date

Student submissions

Grades/Marks

The Techie Bit



API/Webservices

Direct Db reads/writes

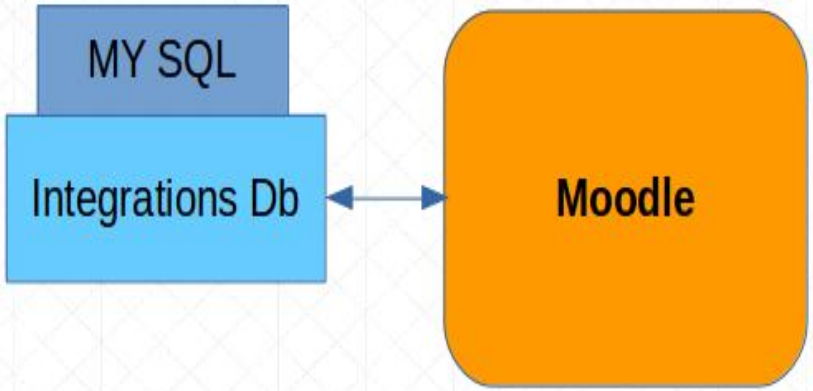
Direct Db reads/writes
Scheduled tasks

Scheduled tasks
Local Plugins

Moodle APIs
Direct Db writes out

The Techie Bit

- Local Plugin to manage connection to external Integrations Db
- AssessmentSettings
- AssessmentDates : **Moodle**→
- AssessmentExtensions :→**Moodle**
- AssessmentFeedbackRelease : →**Moodle**
- AssessmentGrades : **Moodle**→

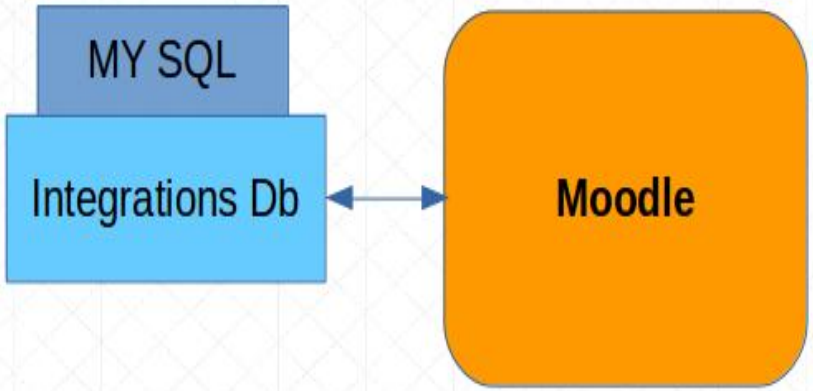


Scheduled tasks
Local Plugins

Moodle APIs
Direct Db writes out

The Techie Bit

Connection – a link code generated by the DataWarehouse gets added to any assessable activity (idnumber) during an Assessment Scrutiny Process, when dates are confirmed.



Scheduled tasks
Local Plugins

Moodle APIs
Direct Db writes out

Implementation

1. Entire process carried out based on academic staff and student input
2. Ongoing input from project board, reps from Schools, Management, SU
3. Pilot phase during summer 2019
4. 96% attendance at staff training events run by the Learning Technology team
5. Full roll out from September 2019

Staff training

1. Mandatory training during Semester 3 (Easter through the summer)
2. Refreshers during September
3. Early pilots (including those familiar with using Moodle from other institutions or from formative assignments) feeding comments into staff training
4. **Focus on policy and practice as the driver – tech as support to achieve that**

Pilot Phase issues

1. Early pre-pilot – no integrations, just using Moodle+ and transferring manually
2. Handling offline activities (*Coventry University/Catalyst – BarCode scanning*)
3. No feedback passed to Student Records – grades only (*MyFeedback report and link from online tutor portal*)
4. Completing switch from Helix/Medial to Planet eStream
5. In initial piloting we didn't have integrations to pass Quiz grades in place
6. Timing of release for 'special' grade codes (eg Suspected Breaches)

Pilot Phase issues

Overall, very positive feedback –

- **The use of Moodle as a single user interface was very well received.**
- **Range of possible assessable activities to be managed in a consistent manner improved (**including eStream, Mahara, extended usage of Quizzes**)**
- **No need to hop between VLE and Student Records.**

Full Roll Out issues

1. Accurate data from central systems
2. Practice doesn't always match policy
3. Dates – not being ready, being changed (see #2)
4. Link codes not being added, or not added correctly
5. Timing of moderation, sometimes outside the 20 working days (see #2)

Full Roll Out issues

1. Accurate data from central systems
2. Practice doesn't always match policy
3. Dates – not being ready, being changed (see #2)
4. Link codes not being added, or not added correctly
5. Timing of moderation, sometimes outside the 20 working days (see #2)

Did I mention:

Practice doesn't always match policy

Addressing issues

1. Ensure accurate data from central systems – **ongoing**!
2. Ensure practice matches policy – **ongoing! It's ingrained!**

Addressing issues

1. Ensure accurate data from central systems – **ongoing**!
2. Ensure practice matches policy – **ongoing! It's ingrained!**
3. Easier adding of link code – *roll out a click button to replace copy and paste*
4. Address timing of grade/feedback release (see #2)

   Release to students to remain automatic at 20 working days

   Release to Student Records to move towards a click button
5. Ongoing tweaks based on user feedback (eg. hiding total grade calculations)

   These are mainly css tweaks as we try to avoid hacking core or third party code as far as possible, to ensure maintainability.

#Mahoodle19

July 1st 2019

University of Gloucestershire – Oxstalls Campus

Open for anyone interested in using Moodle and Mahara to support learning and teaching

Portfolios, Assessment and beyond - How openness can support learning and teaching

https://t.co/Ff1NTTXNiP