

Good times in closed systems

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- This presentation will briefly feature my coming to grips with moving to a SAAS hosted Moodle instance, the limitations I encountered (and you might), and strategies to achieve cool stuff without the normal access to plugins.

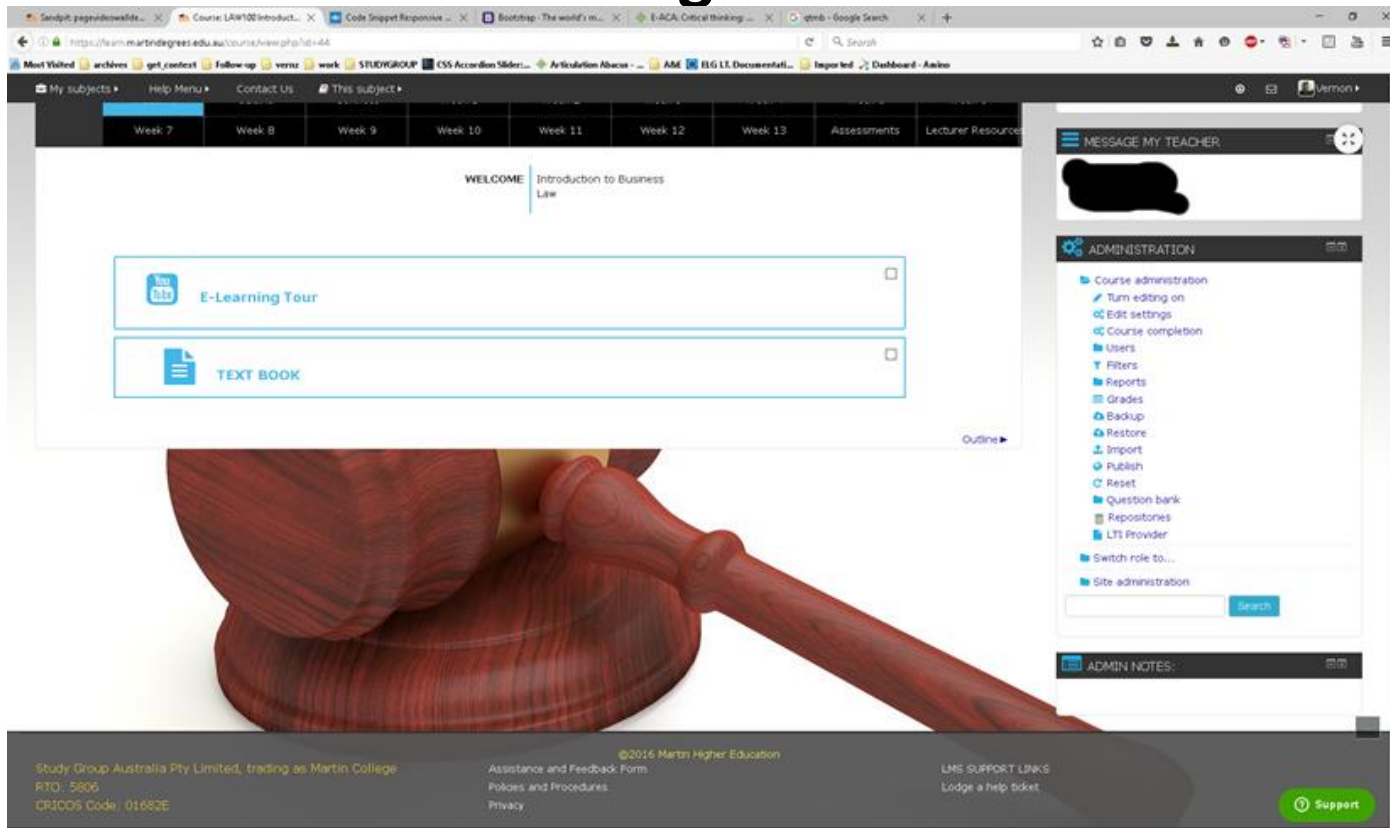
Where did it all start?

Plugins for everyone



Sourced from: <https://giphy.com/gifs/excited-oprah-shouting-y8Mz1yj13s3kl/media>
<https://modicum.agency/blog/animated-gifs-fair-use-copyright-law/>

Plugins for look and feel



The screenshot shows a Moodle LMS interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for 'Week 7' through 'Week 13', 'Assessments', and 'Lecturer Resources'. Below this, a 'WELCOME' message is displayed, followed by two buttons: 'E-Learning Tour' and 'TEXT BOOK'. On the right side, there's a sidebar with sections: 'MESSAGE MY TEACHER', 'ADMINISTRATION' (containing links like 'Course administration', 'Turn editing on', 'Edit settings', 'Course completion', 'Users', 'Filters', 'Reports', 'Grades', 'Backup', 'Restore', 'Import', 'Publish', 'Reset', 'Question bank', 'Repositones', 'LTI Provider', 'Switch role to...', and 'Site administration'), and 'ADMIN NOTES'. At the bottom, there's a footer with copyright information for '©2016 Martin Higher Education', 'Assistance and Feedback Form', 'Policies and Procedures', 'Privacy', 'LMS SUPPORT LINKS', and 'Lodge a help ticket'. A green 'Support' button is also visible.




The screenshot shows a Moodle LMS interface with a login screen. The background is a dark, abstract image. In the center, there's a login form with fields for 'Username or email address' and 'Password'. Below the fields, there's a 'Log in' button. To the left of the login form, there's a sidebar with a 'Site administration' link. To the right, there's a sidebar with a 'Log out' link. At the bottom, there's a footer with copyright information for '©2016 Martin Higher Education'.

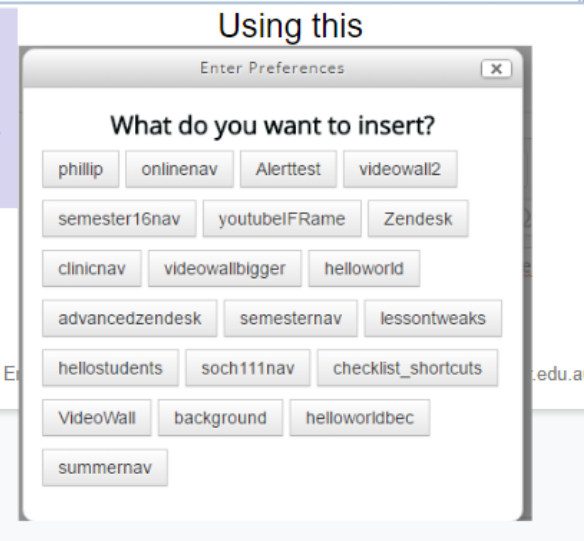
Plugins for function and form

Templating plugin - Generico

Into this



Using this



Auditing plugin - Workflow

Course Auditing Workflow

Currently active task

First step

To be completed by

You, or any other Teacher

Show names (1)

Instructions

1. Check the course name is correct
2. Check the start and finish dates are correct

Comments

No comments have been made about this step yet

Tasks for completion

- ☐ 1. Check the course name is correct
- ☐ 2. Check the start and finish dates are correct

Inner: 1044 x 871
Outer: 1050 x 1040

It was good.



But then I changed jobs

Image sourced from:

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/man-adult-businessman-laptop-1459246/>

What? Can't just add plugins?

My current job uses a SAAS Moodle hosted by a company hereafter referred to as “another provider”

Only plugins from a set list are allowed

Anything not on the list attracted a development fee and an ongoing maintenance fee

Not a happy camper



So how do I make things look cool?

1. Hard work

1. Hard work

1. Hard work

Option 1: Template Courses

The screenshot displays the 'Course Template Master' dashboard within the UCOL system. The top navigation bar includes the UCOL logo, user roles (STUDENTS, STAFF), language (English (en)), a search icon, and a user profile for 'Vernon Spain'. The left sidebar, titled 'CourseTemplateMaster', lists various course components: Participants, Badges, Grades, Course Introduction, Assignments, Other Assessment and Quizzes, Class discussions and Social, Start building the rest of your course, and New Topic. Below these are links to Dashboard, Site home, Calendar, Private files, My courses, and NZ Diploma in. The main content area is titled 'Course Template Master' and shows a breadcrumb trail: Dashboard / Courses / CourseTemplateMaster. It features six interactive tiles: 'Course Introduction' (with a green background), 'Assignments' (with a white background and icons), 'Other Assessment and Quizzes' (with a blue background and figures), 'Class discussions and Social' (with a blue keyboard background), 'Start building the rest of your course' (with a grey background and a cone), and 'New Topic' (with a grey background and a cone). The right sidebar contains three sections: 'Assessment Activities' with a 'NOW' indicator and an 'Overview of students' button; 'Course Resources Accessed' with a 'NOW' indicator and an 'Overview of students' button; and 'Admin - Please ignore'. At the bottom of the right sidebar is a 'Web Resources' section with the text 'Here are some useful UCOL resources:' followed by links to 'Library Guides' and 'Student Intranet'.

CourseTemplateMaster

- Participants
- Badges
- Grades
- Course Introduction
- Assignments
- Other Assessment and Quizzes
- Class discussions and Social
- Start building the rest of your course
- New Topic

Course Template Master

Dashboard / Courses / CourseTemplateMaster

Course Introduction

Assignments

Other Assessment and Quizzes

Class discussions and Social

Start building the rest of your course

New Topic

Assessment Activities

NOW

Mouse over or touch bar for info.

Overview of students

Course Resources Accessed

NOW

Mouse over or touch bar for info.

Overview of students

Admin - Please ignore

Web Resources

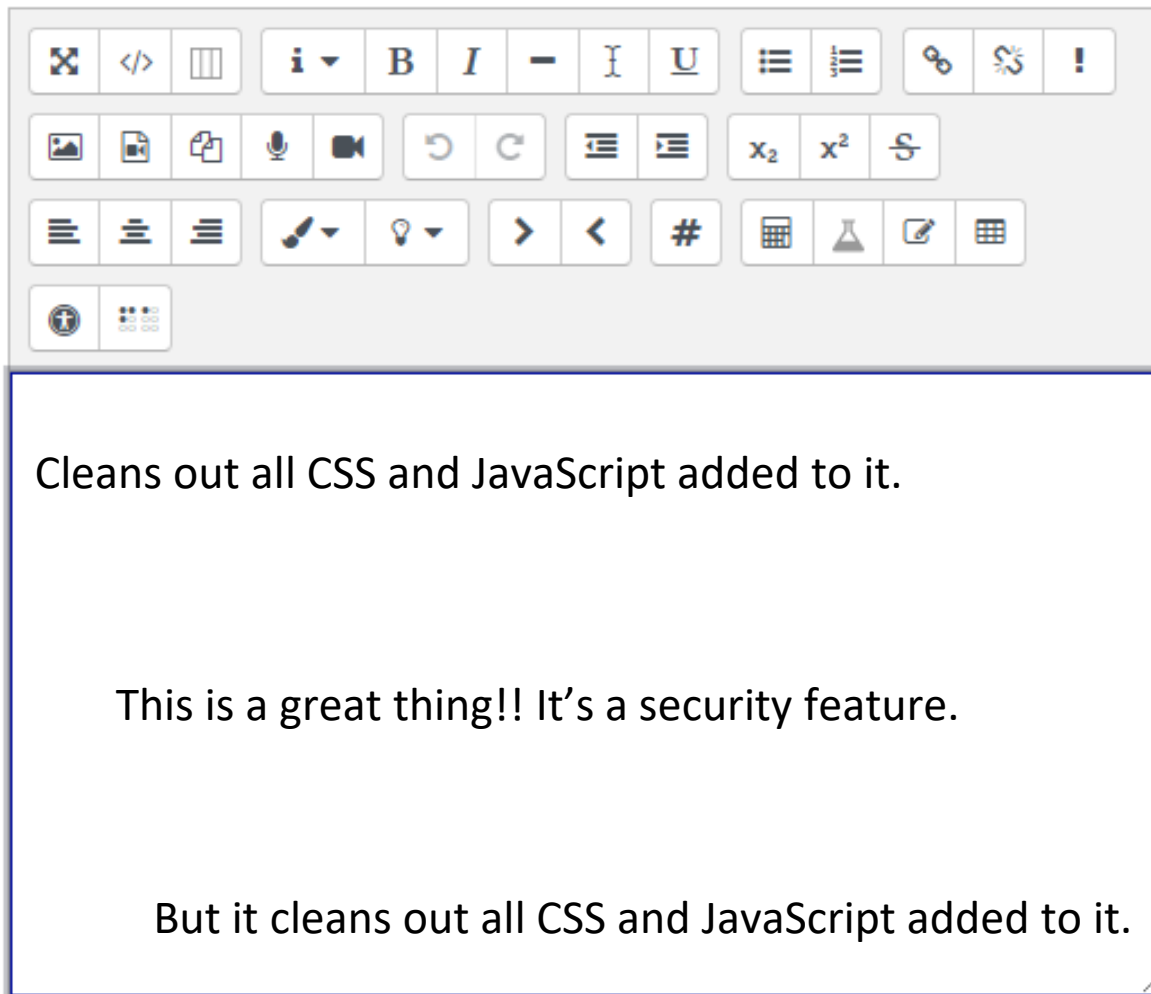
Here are some useful UCOL resources:

- Library Guides
- Student Intranet

▼ Description

Course summary ?

The Moodle editor?



The screenshot shows the Moodle rich text editor interface. The toolbar at the top contains various icons for text formatting (bold, italic, underline, strikethrough, text color, background color), list creation (bulleted, numbered, table of contents), indentation, undo/redo, source code, and other functions. Below the toolbar is a large text area with a blue border. Inside the text area, the following text is displayed:

Cleans out all CSS and JavaScript added to it.

This is a great thing!! It's a security feature.

But it cleans out all CSS and JavaScript added to it.

Course summary ?

files

Maximum size for new files: Unlimited, maximum attachments: 1



The screenshot shows the Moodle file manager interface. It features a toolbar with icons for file operations (upload, delete, rename, move, copy, paste) and a list of files. The text "Files" is visible below the file list.

Option 2: Additional CSS (is your friend)

Many Moodle themes have an “Additional CSS” area in their theme settings

In Boost it's called
Raw initial SCSS and
Raw SCSS

I've only used it to
tweak the theme
before

[A walkthrough can be found here from the New Orleans Moodle moot](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJmbqplE20)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJmbqplE20>

STUDENTS ▾ STAFF ▾ English (en) ▾

HOME

Dashboard / Site administration / Appearance / Themes / Boost

Boost

General settings Advanced settings

Raw initial SCSS
theme_boost | scsspre

```
$font-size-base: 16px;  
$font-family: "Open Sans","Helvetica Neue",Arial,sans-serif!important;  
$brand-primary: #193980;  
.course-content li {  
  margin-left: 1em!important;  
}
```

Default: Empty

In this field you can provide initialising SCSS code, it will be injected before everything else. Most of the time you will use this setting to define variables.

Raw SCSS
theme_boost | scss

```
.que.ddimageortext div.droparea img, form.mform  
fieldset#id_previewareaheader div.droparea img {  
  border: 1px solid #000;  
  max-width: none;  
  min-width: 800px!important;  
}  
  
/* New Assignment Attempt visibility*/
```

Default: Empty

Use this field to provide SCSS or CSS code which will be injected at the end of the style sheet.

Site wide solutions – Additional CSS



Not just for changing existing CSS but can add new CSS classes as well

This allows the administrator to create code templates that teachers can use to add visual improvements or customisations to individual areas

A two part solution

The HTML: Applied on page or label/activity etc via the editor

The CSS: applied at the site level via the additional CSS area

An example: Page background YouTube video

#HTML: Placed in a block in a course

```
background video
<div class="video-background">
  <div class="video-foreground">
    <iframe src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/W0LHTWG-UmQ?controls=0&showinfo=0&rel=0&autoplay=1&loop=1&playlist=W0LHTWG-UmQ" frameborder="0"
      allowfullscreen></iframe>
    </div> </div>
<div id="vidtop-content">
<div class="vid-info">
  <h1>YouTube Fullscreen Background Demo</h1>
  <p>The International Space Station orbits the Earth every 92 minutes, with its crew seeing a sunrise 15 times a day. It exists as a scientific, educational, and engineering platform in low orbit, 330 to 435 kilometres above the Earth.
  <p>Original timelapse by Riccardo Rossi (ISAA), used under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Raw photos courtesy of
  http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/<a href="/500/Use-YouTube-Videos-as-Fullscreen-Web-Page-Backgrounds">Full article</a> </div></div>
```

#CSS: Applied at site level

```
* { box-sizing: border-box; }
.video-background { background: #000; position: fixed; top: 0; right: 0; bottom: 0; left: 0; z-index: -99; }
.video-foreground, .video-background iframe { position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 100%; height: 100%; pointer-events: none; }
#vidtop-content { color: #fff; z-index: 2; }
.vid-info { padding: 1rem; font-family: Avenir, Helvetica, sans-serif; }
.vid-info h1 { font-size: 2rem; font-weight: 700; margin-top: 0; line-height: 1.2; }
.vid-info a { display: block; color: #fff; text-decoration: none; background: rgba(0,0,0,0.5); transition: .6s background; border-bottom: none;
  margin: 1rem auto; text-align: center; }
@media (min-aspect-ratio: 16/9) { .video-foreground { height: 300%; top: -100%; } }
@media (max-aspect-ratio: 16/9) { .video-foreground { width: 300%; left: -100%; } }
@media all and (max-width: 600px) { .vid-info { width: 50%; padding: .5rem; } }
.vid-info h1 { margin-bottom: .2rem; }
@media all and (max-width: 500px) { .vid-info .acronym { display: none; } }
```

#Adapted From: <https://codepen.io/dudleystorey/pen/PZyMrd>

Giggity



CAUTION

The site-wide CSS is exactly that.. Site wide.. Be prepared for those changes to appear everywhere.

Make sure you don't interfere with existing CSS.. It must be unique code or you could break your site

Limitations to site-wide CSS

I wanted individual CSS for particular pages like a unique course page

The moment people heard I could customise the look and feel they asked for **logos to make their courses look more unique**

But the logo location is very special and if I add the CSS I used site wide it'll affect all the other site courses....

How do I add it just on an individual course page or activity?

Option 3: Trusted Content

An important permission that should be highly controlled!!!

Moodle will always thoroughly clean text that comes from users to remove any possible bad scripts, media etc that could be a security risk.

The Trusted Content system is a way of giving particular users that you trust the ability to include these advanced features in their content without interference..
On a page by page basis.

Source: https://docs.moodle.org/37/en/Site_security_settings#Enable_trusted_content


[STUDENTS](#) ▾ [STAFF](#) ▾ [English \(en\)](#) ▾




[Vernon Spain](#)  ▾



[Dashboard](#) / [Courses](#) / [BNursing Template Course\(GRID\)](#)

This section contains all your important (non-teaching) course information. Be sure to check back here regularly as this content is likely to change. If there is anything missing that you feel would be of benefit to you and your peers then please do let your tutor know.



This forum is where your tutor will post important messages regarding this course. You are automatically subscribed to email alerts. In order to ensure you don't miss any announcements, make sure your email address is correct in your user profile.

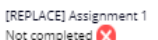


Assignments

Other Assessment and Quizzes

Class discussions and Social

► NOW



Not completed

Overview of students

► NOW



Mouse over or touch bar for info.

Overview of students

 [Compose New Email](#)

 Signatures

⚙ View Drafts

 [View History](#)

 Alternate Emails

- ⚙ Configuration

Weird requests for in-lab quiz layouts

STUDENTS ▾ STAFF ▾ English (en) ▾

Quiz navigation: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

Vernons New Sandpits

Dashboard / My courses / Miscellaneous / Vernons New Sandpits / Week 3 / demo marsha / Preview


Question 1

Not yet answered

Marked out of 1.00

Flag question

Edit question



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◀ Cookery Redone

Jump to...

Pre Placement test v1 ▶

Finish attempt ...

But I can't find that setting/access that "trusted Content" setting?

Speak to your Moodle Administrator.

But, if he or she are smart are smart they won't give you access...

but will instead sit down and create what you need in-terms of templates or code that will allow you to do your own thing.

Practice it elsewhere

Get your own dev/practice site.

I have two or three or...

Moodlecloud at least

<https://moodlecloud.com/>



Thanks and Credits

- My Line manager: Gianetta Lapsley (“It’s better to ask for forgiveness than permission”).
- My Co-Worker: Kirstine White for her support “and patience”.

Plugins mentioned:

- Generico (styling and more) https://moodle.org/plugins/filter_generico
- Workflow block (auditing) https://moodle.org/plugins/block_workflow

Questions??

