



Debugging from the Trenches

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Don't do it in production !



When the BUG comes up

DON'T PANIC Be yourself



Debugging mindset

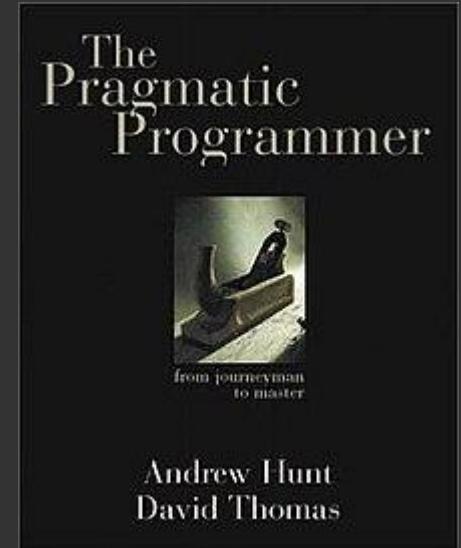
- Fix the Problem, Not the Blame.
- Don't Assume It – Prove It.
- The best way to start fixing a bug is to make it reproducible.
- Note what happens before and after.
- Don't Live with Broken Windows. (The Boy Scout Rule)
- Explain the bug to someone else. (Rubber duck)
- Stay aware of what you're doing.
- Understand Stack Traces
- Test Your Software, or Your Users Will.
- A bad Unit Test is worse than No Test. Robert C. Martin (Uncle Bob).
- Ask yourself questions.

Debugging checklist

- Is the problem being reported a direct result of the underlying bug, or merely a symptom?
- Is the bug really in the code? Is it in the OS? Or is it in third party packages?
- If you explained this problem in detail to a coworker, what would you say?
- If the suspect code passes its tests, are the tests complete enough? What happens if you run the test with this data?
- Do the conditions that caused this bug exist anywhere else in the system?

Debugging checklist

- Is there an easier way?
- Am I solving the right problem?
- Why is this a problem?
- What makes it hard?
- Do I have to do it this way?
- Does it have to be done at all?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pragmatic_Programmer

```
$CFG->debug =  
(E_ALL | E_STRICT);
```

Moodle Debug Developer

Dashboard / Site administration / Development / Debugging

Debugging

Debug messages debug

DEVELOPER: extra Moodle debug messages for developers debug

Default: NONE: Do not show any errors or warnings

If you turn this on, then PHP's error_reporting will be increased so that more warnings are printed. This is only useful for developers.

Default: Yes

Set to on, the error reporting will go to the HTML page. This is practical, but breaks XHTML, JS, cookies and HTTP headers in general. Set to off, it will send the output to your server logs, allowing better debugging. The PHP setting error_log controls which log this goes to.

Display debug messages debugdisplay

Debug email sending debugsmtp

Default: No

Enable verbose debug information during sending of email messages to SMTP server.

Performance info perfdebug

Default: No

If you turn this on, performance info will be printed in the footer of the standard theme

Show origin of language strings debugstringids

Default: No

If enabled, language string components and identifiers are displayed when ?strings=1 or &strings=1 is appended to the page URL.

Show validator links debugvalidators

Default: No

Enable if you want to have links to external validator servers in page footer. You may need to create new user with username w3cvalidator, and enable guest access. These changes may allow unauthorized access to server, do not enable on production sites!

Show page information debugpageinfo

Default: No

Enable if you want page information printed in page footer.

Save changes

Moodle Debug Developer

config.php

```
$CFG->debug = (E_ALL | E_STRICT); // === DEBUG_DEVELOPER
$CFG->debugdisplay = 1; // unless watch the logs.
$CFG->debugusers = '2,8'; // List of user ids that always see debug
// messages.
$CFG->cachejs = false; // Prevent JS caching
$CFG->debugstringids = 1; // Show origin of languages strings
$CFG->langstringcache = false; // Disable language strings cache
$CFG->themedesignermode = true; // Disable CSS and image cache
$CFG->divertallemailsto = 'root@localhost.local'; // Divert all outgoing emails
// to this address
$CFG->noemailever = true; // no emails or other messages should ever be
// send to real users
$CFG->divertallemailsexcept = 'tester@dev.com, fred(\+.*)?@example.com'; // 
// Send emails only for certain email addresses you want to let through for
// testing.
```

Moodle Debug Developer

config.php

```
$CFG->perfdebug = 15;  
$CFG->debugpageinfo = true;
```

You are logged in as Admin User ([Log out](#))
[Reset user tour on this page](#)

Home
4.016969 secs
Included 290 files
Pieces of content filtered: 0
DB reads/writes: 35/3
Session (core/session/file): 7.5KB

RAM: 8.5MB
Contexts for which filters were loaded: 0
Strings filtered: 0
DB queries time: 0.28588 secs
RAM peak: 9.5MB
Filters created: 3
get_string calls: 282
Load average: 2.17

Caches used (hits/misses/sets)

core/databasemeta [a]	core/string [a]	core/yuimodules [a]
** static acceleration **: 10 / 9 / 0 cachestore_file: 9 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 462 / 65 / 0 cachestore_file: 65 / 0 / 0	cachestore_file: 3 / 0 / 0
core/plugin_manager [a]	core/capabilities [a]	core/plugin_functions [a]
cachestore_file: 3 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 311 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 1 / 12 / 0 cachestore_file: 12 / 0 / 0
core/contextwithinsights [a]	core/repositories [r]	tool_usertours/tourdata [a]
** static acceleration **: 0 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0	cachestore_static: 0 / 8 / 16	** static acceleration **: 0 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0
core/fontawesomeiconmapping [a]	core/langmenu [a]	core/message_processors_enabled [a]
** static acceleration **: 0 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 3 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 0 / 1 / 0 cachestore_file: 1 / 0 / 0
core/observers [a]	tool_monitor/eventssubscriptions [a]	
** static acceleration **: 0 / 2 / 0 cachestore_file: 2 / 0 / 0	** static acceleration **: 0 / 2 / 0 cachestore_file: 2 / 0 / 0	

Total: 891 / 104 / 16
This page is: General type: course. Context Course: testS (context id 30). Page type course-view-topics.
[Purge all caches](#)

Debugging

PHP

```
if ($CFG->debugdeveloper) {  
    ...  
    debugging('Argument $record must be an instance of stdClass.',  
    DEBUG_DEVELOPER);  
    ...  
}
```

JS

```
define(['core/log'], function(log) {  
    log.info(...);  
});
```

Web inspector

Code Linting

<https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Linting>

PHP_CodeSniffer & Local_codechecker (by Tim Hunt)

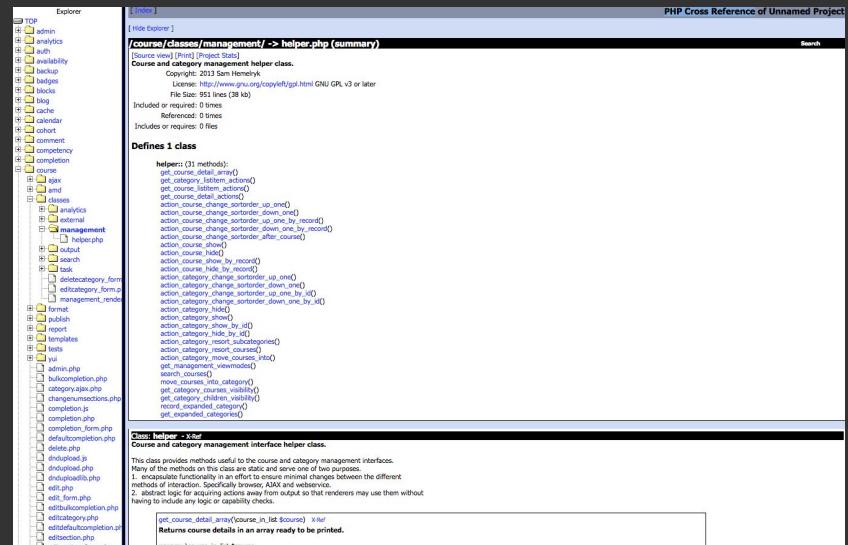
JavaScript (ESLint) <https://eslint.org/>

CSS/SCSS/LESS (stylelint) <https://stylelint.io/>

Lint in Editors (Sublime, Atom, Vim, ...)

PHPXREF

<http://phpxref.sourceforge.net/>



Profiling

Dashboard / Site administration / Development / Profiling

- [https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Profiling_PHP#Tideways for php7](https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Profiling_PHP#Tideways_for_php7)
- <https://tracker.moodle.org/browse/MDL-62280> (Tideways XHProf)

Dashboard / Site administration / Development / Profiling

Profiling

Enable profiling profilingenabled Default: No

If you enable this setting, then profiling will be available in this site and you will be able to define its behavior by configuring the next options.

Profile these profilingincluded

/my/

Default: Empty

Integration Master

Dashboard / Site administration / Development / Profiling runs / /my/index.php

Summary of last run of /my/index.php

Run ID	2b52f308621162d0fc88bcd0ecf64c1
URL	/my/index.php
Date	4 May 2016, 11:04
Execution time	616.406 ms
CPU time	203.928 ms
Function calls	96462
Memory used	5223 KB

Mark as reference run / comment Save changes

[View profiling details](#) [Export this profiling run](#)

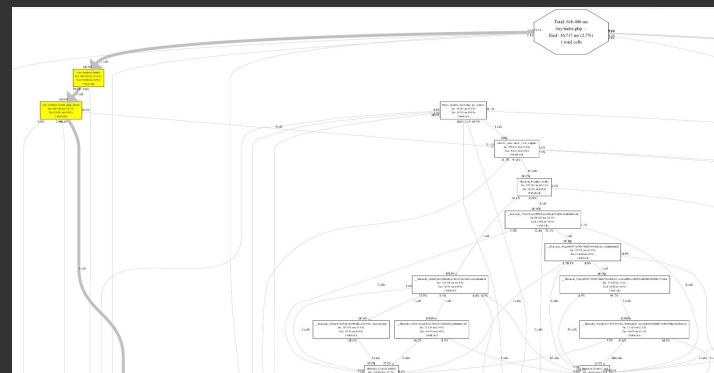
Integration Master

Dashboard / Site administration / Development / Profiling runs

Profiling runs

[Import]

URL	Date	Execution time	CPU time	Function calls	Memory used	Comment
/my/index.php	4 May 2016, 11:04	616.406 ms	203.928 ms	96462	5223.273 KB	



Run tasks

```
php admin/tool/task/cli/schedule_task.php  
--execute="\tool_cohortroles\task\cohort_role_sync"  
--showdebugging
```

```
iMac-de-Carlos:stable_master carlosagile$ php admin/tool/task/cli/schedule_task.php --execute="\tool_cohortroles\task\cohort_role_sync" --showdebugging  
[Execute scheduled task: Sync cohort role assignments (tool_cohortroles\task\cohort_role_sync)  
Sync cohort roles...  
Added 0  
Removed 0  
... used 2 dbqueries  
... used 0.45213103294373 seconds  
Scheduled task complete: Sync cohort role assignments (tool_cohortroles\task\cohort_role_sync)
```

In Moodle 3.6:

```
php admin/tool/task/cli/adhoc_task.php --execute
```

```
[iMac-de-Carlos:cli carlosagile$ php adhoc_task.php --execute --showdebugging  
Server Time: Wed, 27 Jun 2018 22:24:39 +0200  
  
Execute adhoc task: core\task\build_installed_themes_task  
... started 22:24:39. Current memory use 11.1MB.
```

Web Service

CURL

curl

```
'http://localhost/m/stable_master/webservice/rest/server.php?moodlewsrestformat=json' --data 'wsfunction=tool_mobile_get_config&wstoken=08788646962394c92aab6c26a3be7abe&section=mobileapp' | python -m "json.tool"
```

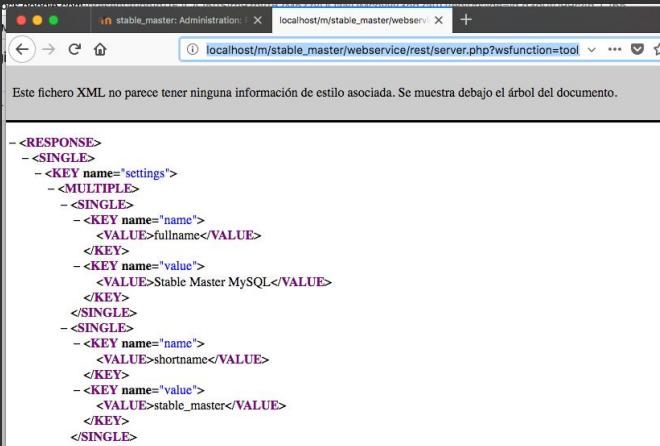
```
iMac-de-Carlos:tdd carlosagile$ curl 'http://localhost/m/stable_master/webservice/rest/server.php?moodlewsrestformat=json' --data 'wsfunction=tool_mobile_get_config&wstoken=08788646962394c92aab6c26a3be7abe&section=mobileapp' | python -m "json.tool"
% Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time   Time Current
          Dload  Upload   Total   Spent    Left  Speed
100  375  100  283  100    92    336   109 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:--  445
{
  "settings": [
    {
      "name": "tool_mobile_forcelogout",
      "value": false
    },
    {
      "name": "tool_mobile_customlangstrings",
      "value": false
    },
    {
      "name": "tool_mobile_disabledfeatures",
      "value": false
    },
    {
      "name": "tool_mobile_custommenuitems",
      "value": false
    },
    {
      "name": "tool_mobile_apppolicy",
      "value": ""
    }
  ],
  "warnings": []
}
```

Web Service

BROWSER

http://localhost/m/stable_master/webservice/rest/server.php?wsfunction=tool_mobile_get_config&wstoken=08788646962394c92aab6c26a3be7abe

http://localhost/m/stable_master/webservice/rest/simpleserver.php?wsusername=wstest&wspassword=wstest&wsfunction=core_user_create_users&users[0][username]=mootesdev&users[0][firstname]=Test&users[0][lastname]=MootWS&users[0][email]=mootesdev@moodle.com&users[0][password]=12345&users[0][customfields][0][type]=cp&users[0][customfields][0][value]=08208



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `localhost/m/stable_master/webservice/rest/server.php?wsfunction=tool_mobile_get_config&wstoken=08788646962394c92aab6c26a3be7abe`. The page displays an XML document with the following content:

```
<RESPONSE>
  - <KEY name="settings">
    - <MULTIPLE>
      - <KEY>
        - <KEY name="name">
          <VALUE>fullname</VALUE>
        <KEY>
        - <KEY name="value">
          <VALUE>Stable Master MySQL</VALUE>
        <KEY>
      </KEY>
    </MULTIPLE>
  <KEY name="name">
    <VALUE>shortname</VALUE>
  <KEY>
  - <KEY name="value">
    <VALUE>stable_master</VALUE>
  <KEY>
<KEY>
```

The browser interface includes standard navigation buttons (back, forward, search, etc.) and a status bar at the bottom.

Web Service Resources

WS API

[https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Web services API](https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Web%20services%20API)

Dev Docs

[https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Creating a web service client](https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Creating%20a%20web%20service%20client)

MoodleHQ WS Clients:

<https://github.com/moodlehq/sample-ws-clients>

Juan Leyva Master of WS

<http://es.slideshare.net/juanleyva/mastering-moodle-web-services-development>

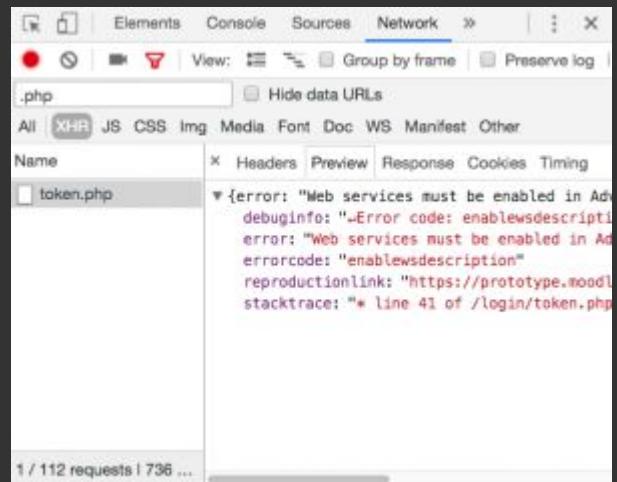
Moodle Mobile

Debugging WS Request

https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle_Mobile_debugging_WS_requests

Use an online web version of the app that can be easily debugged using the Chrome browser.

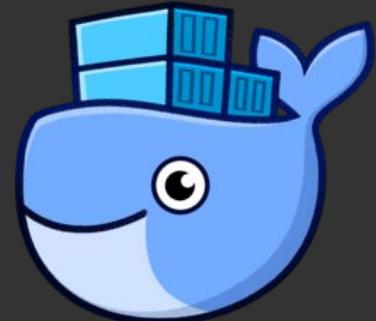
<https://prototype.moodle.net/mobile/webapp/>



Development using Chrome or Chromium

https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle_Mobile_development_using_Chrome_or_Chromium

ionic serve --browser chromium



Docker to the rescue

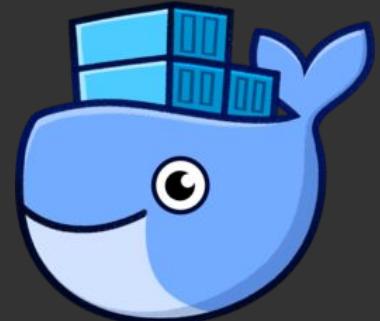
LDAP

```
docker run -p 389:389 --name my-openldap-container --hostname  
ldap.example.org --env LDAP_REPLICATION=true --detach  
osixia/openldap:1.2.0
```

```
docker run -p 6443:443 --name phpldapadmin-service --link  
my-openldap-container:ldap-host --env  
PHPLDAPADMIN_LDAP_HOSTS=ldap-host --detach  
osixia/phpldapadmin:0.7.1
```

You can go to <https://localhost:6443/> in your browser
login: cn=admin,dc=example,dc=org
password: admin

<https://tracker.moodle.org/browse/MDL-61296>



Moodle Docker

<https://github.com/moodlehq/moodle-docker>

moodle-docker: Docker Containers for Moodle Developers

[build](#) [passing](#)

This repository contains Docker configuration aimed at Moodle developers and testers to easily deploy a testing environment for Moodle.

Features:

- All supported database servers (PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle XE)
- Behat/Selenium configuration for Firefox and Chrome
- Catch-all smtp server and web interface to messages using [MailHog](#)
- All PHP Extensions enabled configured for external services (e.g. solr, ldap)
- All supported PHP versions
- Zero-configuration approach
- Backed by [automated tests](#)

Oracle Example

```
export MOODLE_DOCKER_WWWROOT=/Home/dev/htdocs/moodleoracle  
export MOODLE_DOCKER_DB=oracle  
cp config.docker-template.php $MOODLE_DOCKER_WWWROOT/config.php  
bin/moodle-docker-compose up -d  
bin/moodle-docker-wait-for-db
```

Expose local servers to internet

NGROK (<https://ngrok.com/>)

```
ngrok by @inconshreveable

Session Status           online
Session Expires          7 hours, 57 minutes
Version                  2.2.8
Region                   United States (us)
Web Interface            http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding               http://[REDACTED] -> localhost:80
Forwarding               https://7be57f55.ngrok.io -> localhost:80

Connections              ttl     opn     rt1     rt5     p50     p90
                           9       0      0.13    0.03    7.03   23.20

HTTP Requests
-----
POST /m/stable_master/lib/ajax/service.php                                         200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php                                         200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/lib/javascript.php/1529600956/lib/jquery/jquery-3.2.1.min.js 200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/lib/requirejs.php/1529600956/core/first.js                  200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php                                         200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/lib/javascript.php/1529600956/lib/requirejs/require.js       200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/core/1529600956/i/course             200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/core/1529600956/moodlelogo           200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/theme/1529600956/favicon            200 OK
GET  /m/stable_master/theme/font.php/boost/core/1529600956/fontawesome-webfont.woff2 200 OK
```

```
iMac-de-Carlos:tdd carlosagile$ ssh -R 80:localhost:80 serveo.net
Forwarding HTTP traffic from https://lacrima.serveo.net
Press g to start a GUI session and ctrl-c to quit.
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/course/view.php%3Fid=3
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/favicon.ico
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/course/view.php%3Fid=3
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/styles.php/boost/
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php?rol
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php?rol
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/lib/javascript.php/1529
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/c
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/lib/javascript.php/1529
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/c
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php?m=1_
_mathjaxloader/loader/loader-debug.js
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/font.php/boost/co
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/lib/requirejs.php/15296
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/image.php/boost/t
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/lib/javascript.php/1529
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/theme/yui_combo.php?3.1_
esize-event-resize.js&3.17.2-event-hover/event-hover.js&3.17.2.event-touch/event-touch.js&3.17.2/eve
&3.17.2/event-valuechange/event-valuechange.js&3.17.2.event-tap/event-tap.js
HTTP request from 81.39.149.102 to http://lacrima.serveo.net/m/stable_master/lib/ajax/service.php?se
```

SERVEO (<https://serveo.net/>)

MDK - Moodle Development Kit

- <https://github.com/FMCorz/mdk> developed by Frédéric Massar
- https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Moodle_Development_kit

```
#update mdk
sudo pip install --upgrade moodle-sdk
#your mdk config file.
./moodle-sdk/config.json
#place where save script that you want to run like mdk run SCRIPT
./moodle-sdk/scripts
#upgrade your Moodle instances
mdk upgrade --all --update
#config your master branch
mdk config set masterBranch 36
#install a new instance of Moodle
mdk create -v master -n stable_master -i --run users mindev
#install a new integration instance of Moodle
mdk create -v 34 -n int34 --integration -i --run users mindev
```

MDK - Moodle Development Kit

```
#create a new branch MDL-56141-master-test
mdk pull MDL-56141 -t
#run phpunit tests and init the environment
mdk phpunit -r -u mod/assign/tests/locallib_test.php
#run behat tests and init the environment
mdk behat -r --tags=@message_popup
#install community plugins
mdk plugin install tool_policy
#create a new clean branch MDL-61575-master
mdk fix 61575
#force push the commits.
mdk push -t -f
#do the magic backport
mdk backport -v 35
```

GDPR Privacy Utils for testing

[*https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Privacy API/Utilities*](https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Privacy_API/Utilities)

Scripts to:

- Test of privacy API compliance
- Test of exporting user data
- Test of deleting user data

Save the scripts into .moodle-sdk/scripts

Run scripts with \$mdk run testcompliance.php

```
|iMac-de-Carlos:stable_master carlosagile$ mdk run testcompliance.php
/usr/bin/git remote -v
/usr/bin/git config --get remote.origin.url
Running 'testcompliance.php' on 'stable_master'
Copying /Users/carlosagile/.moodle-sdk/scripts/testcompliance.php to /Users/carlosagile/dev/pri
/opt/local/bin/php /Users/carlosagile/dev/private/m/stable_master/moodle/mdkscriptrun1..php
The following plugins are not compliant:
=> local_moodlecheck

Testing the compliant plugins:
== antivirus_clamav (antivirus_clamav\privacy\provider) ==
    Claims not to store any data with reason:
        'The ClamAV antivirus plugin does not store any personal data.'
== availability_completion (availability_completion\privacy\provider) ==
    Claims not to store any data with reason:
        'The Restriction by activity completion plugin does not store any personal data.'
== availability_date (availability_date\privacy\provider) ==
    Claims not to store any data with reason:
        'The Restriction by date plugin does not store any personal data.'
== availability_grade (availability_grade\privacy\provider) ==
    Claims not to store any data with reason:
        'The Restriction by grades plugin does not store any personal data.'
== availability_group (availability_group\privacy\provider) ==
    Claims not to store any data with reason:
        'The Restriction by group plugin does not store any personal data.'
== availability_grouping (availability_grouping\privacy\provider) ==
```

More Tools

Test your code online <https://fiddles.io/#>

JSFiddle

SQLFiddle

Chrome Dev Tools

<https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/>

Test APIs and WS with Postman

<https://www.getpostman.com/>

Catch mails with MailCatcher

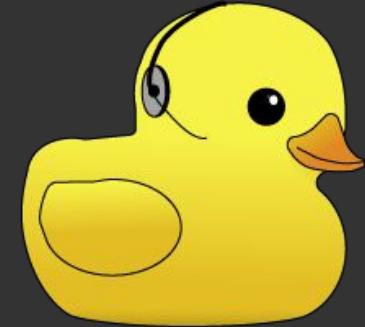
<https://mailcatcher.me/>

Thank
You

Extra Bonus

Rubber Duck Debugging

<https://rubberduckdebugging.com>



1. Beg, borrow, steal, buy, fabricate or otherwise obtain a rubber duck (bathtub variety)
2. Place rubber duck on desk and inform it you are just going to go over some code with it, if that's all right.
3. Explain to the duck what your code is supposed to do, and then go into detail and explain your code line by line.
4. At some point you will tell the duck what you are doing next and then realise that that is not in fact what you are actually doing. The duck will sit there serenely, happy in the knowledge that it has helped you on your way.



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