How to Install a “Sandbox” Moodle on Your Windows PC

Rick Jerz
The University of Iowa

www.rjerz.com
Rick-m@rjerz.com
Objectives

• Overview
• Install Moodle on PC with XAMPP
  • Install Moodle on Mac with MAMP
• Examples of what you can do
  • Some moodle settings
  • Some php.ini settings
  • Some custom CSS
    • Color top bar
• Add a plugin
  • “Collapsed Topics”
Overview

• A “sandbox” Moodle
  • Not for production!
  • For education and experimenting
Can and Can’t Do

• Can
  • Experiment with many Moodle settings
  • Act as manager, teacher, student
  • Create courses and move to production
  • Create quizzes and move to production
  • Themes and CSS
  • Explore add-ins

• Can’t
  • Email related items
  • Have others log in (from the Internet)
  • Cron is limited
Many Ways to Install

• Moodle.org installers  
  • One-step, but often lack some feature

• Install manually!  
  • XAMPP + Moodle, Windows PC  
  • MAMP + Moodle, Macintosh computer
Moodle Requirements

- A moodledata folder
- A database
- The moodle application
What do we have?

- A working copy of Moodle
- A local “server” running
- Nothing in Moodle, yet!

**Review Steps:**
- Start XAMPP Control Panel
- Start Apache and MySQL servers
- Go to localhost/moodle in your browser

- Make NOTES!!!!!
Examples of Experimentation

- Adjust some settings
- Edit settings in php.ini
- Add Custom CSS
- Install a plugin
Moodle Settings

- Turn off guest access
- Administration / Plugins/ Authentication / Manage authentication
- Guest login button = Hide
php.ini Settings

- Find and edit php.ini
- Turn on intl, xmlrpc, soap
- Add my favorites:
  - `upload_max_filesize = 128M`
  - `post_max_size = 128M`
  - `memory_limit = 384M`
  - `max_input_time to 600`
  - `max_execution_time to 300`
  - `max_input_vars = 5000;`
- Stop and restart the Apache server
Custom CSS

• Change color of upper bar
  • (Distinguish sandbox from production moodles)

• Administration/Appearance/Boost/Advanced Settings

• In Raw SCSS, add the following:
  .bg-white
  {background-color: orange !important;}

• Purge caches
Moodle Plugins

- Collapsed Topics

- Others that I use
  - Checklist
  - Configurable Reports
  - A few ATTO utilities
Summary

• A “sandbox” moodle on your computer is great!
• Can’t do this with other LMSs.
• I hang out in the Moodle.org forums, if you need me.
The End

• For more support, including this video, go to

www.rjerz.com
Future Topics

- Reinstalling
- Installing more than one
- Setting up opcache
- Modifying the database config file
- Backup/restore of Moodle
- Migrating Moodle
  - Production to local, and vice versa