Magic with Moodle 3 - Layout and Images

Layout, navigation and Images

Examples from staff in Schools around the University

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Background

The aim is not only to make Moodle look interesting, but to:

- improve navigation for students,
- increase engagement
- provide alternative ways to present information
- improve the student experience of Moodle.

All Schools have templates which were created in consultation with staff in each School. These aim to:

- keep modules across a School consistent
- provide a better experience for the students when trying to find items such as assignments.
- make it easier for staff – it's a usable starting point
- be flexible to suit your needs – for example, you can add more sections (topics) – BUT bear in mind the principle of consistency.

What did staff do?

By adding the block Module Navigation Moodle shows a “table of contents” automatically picked up from the Section name.

NOTE In the current Moodle (from July 2015) a table of contents appears automatically in the NAVIGATION block in every module.

You can also add images, a Wordle¹ or a Prezi², even using images for navigation.
What did students think?

- Students overwhelmingly request clear navigation.
- They would prefer consistency across their modules.
- They like important items easy to locate.
- Staff may need to provide ways to navigate when students are new to the module and want a lot of introductory information and help with navigation.
- AND support for students after they have become familiar with the module and just need to get quickly to the important places.

Tips and recommendations

- Start simple.
- Don’t make the images too big or overdo it with too many.
- Keep graphics discreet and useful to students – should fit with the overall University / Moodle design.
- If students have to scroll every time they visit the page, they will get frustrated.
- Use the blocks available such as Module Navigation.
- Keep any embedded items such as Prezi or video to a minimum.
- Put just a few graphic items on the front page or it will take too long to load.

More information:

- Presentation about this case study
Moodle Help

- How to add an image to a Moodle label, page or other text area
- How to get images ready for Moodle

How to achieve this

- Creating a word cloud using tagxedo.com [blog post]

1Wordle – a way to create visual word maps of a piece of text or important concepts (wordle.net or tagxedo.com

2Prezi is an alternative to Powerpoint with unusual zooms and transitions