Content Collection Discussion
Strategies for Managing Content : Where next with Blackboard’s Content Management System

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The original vision for the use of the CMS (2005):

- All content delivered through the VLE to be stored in CMS departmental folders and linked to from the LMS

- Make the CMS an open and searchable repository for learning and teaching materials that both staff and students have ‘read’ access to by default, regardless of department

- Have a storage hierarchy that is humanly readable and managed by each department individually

- The creation (over time) of a ‘high value’ catalogue of reusable learning and teaching objects

- Have all objects in the CMS appropriately described with metadata

CMS = Content Management System or Content Collection
LMS = Learning Management System
Current lay of the land (Jan 2013):

- Most BUT NOT ALL content delivered through the VLE is stored in the Institutional area of the CMS

- The Content Tab has been removed from student access by popular consent (though is still fully searchable to staff)

- Vision of reusable content, multiple linking to content items within and across departmental boundaries not realised
  - except within HYMS – specific to its teaching model
  - No resources developed have been deemed of sufficient reusability to warrant maintaining a catalogue of such objects

- Very few uploaded resources are adequately described with metadata

- Since the 2010 upgrade the Content Collection has been fully integrated with the LMS (without needing a separate CMS license)
Basic CMS Usage Stats

Files in the /institution folder

- PDF: 56662
- Images: 46809
- Word Doc: 34490
- Flash: 25271
- PowerPoint: 23603
- HTML: 13533
- Video: 12047
- Excel: 2443
- All other: 25299

Linked to a course site: 102336
Not linked to a course site: 137821

Files linked to from more than 1 site: 39064
However this is almost certainly due to multiple rollover of sites

Files linked to from more than 5 sites: 2921
This only accounts for 1% of all files so we can conclude there is very little genuine sharing of resources across multiple sites.
Other reasons for the current review:

- Archiving
  - Our current implementation doesn't automatically result in an exact archive of a module at roll-over

- Permanent URLs (XIDs) aren't humanly readable
  - We had to develop a widget to translate XID URLs to show the full path

- Adaptive release only really works when using the 'Courses' space

- Content Collection search facilities are ineffective and slow
  - The search tool itself undermines the point of entering metadata

- The Content Collection based Portfolio is out of sync with current needs
  - Evolving E-Learning spaces (Google services impact)
Discussion

- How does your institution derive value from the CMS – what are the key drivers and benefits for teaching and learning?

- Has the development trajectory for the Next Generation LMS platform (with the introduction of the xythos architecture) had any impact on your institution’s thinking – in terms of the role of the CMS in supporting content management?

- What are your future plans for content management (for restricted access / fee-paying and open education courses)?
Blood Work

Vampire, Vampyre or Nosferatu?

Attached Files: Researching your blood line (44.88 KB)

A common problem is making sure colleagues and victims alike understand your genus. The origin of your blood line is the key to your rightful definition. The attached resource provides you with some useful research guidelines into discovering what kind of creature of the night you truly are.

Biting techniques

Attached Files: A biting appraisal (9.154 KB)

Ex-sanguination technique is, of course, a pre-eminent question to those newly sired and, for the discerning and refined of palate, should be seriously considered. This resource includes illustration of the key bite zones and the effect the choice will have on both taste and also the response of the victim.

Style

Attached Files: Cloaks and Lace or Armani with Grace (pdf) (188.476 KB)

There are many fashions that a creature of the night can adopt and also wear with panache but, as I’m sure you are aware, the real difficulty is deciding on which is for you. Only very few of us can pull off the classic “cloak with gratuitously large collar schtick”. This resource provides some useful guidelines on maximising your visual impact.
COPY FILES AND LINKS

Y2013-xxxxxx Course Site

Y2012-xxxxxx Course Site

COURSES/Y2013-xxxxxx

INSTITUTION/DEPT/Course Name

COURSES/Y2012-xxxxxx