WATTLE
Moodle 3.3 Upgrade – New Features & Key Differences

The Australian National University

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1. Navigation

1.1. User Friendly Messaging and Alert

Upgraded version will provide a quicker access to notifications whenever a user is on Wattle.

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**New Version (Moodle 3.3)**

**Previous Version (Moodle 3.1)**

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**Key message for all users:**

The alerts may be more convenient than forum digests and email notifications. Consider checking Wattle rather than email for course-related communication.
1.2. MyMoodle Page (Dashboard) Improvements

New and improved dashboard provides information about course progress, upcoming activities and assessable Moodle activities from the new course overview block.

A user can see their enrolled courses and recently overdue activities in one section under multiple tabs.

### New Version (Moodle 3.3)

**Timeline view**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recently overdue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM M33 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Oct, 11:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next 7 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amu-265 private and mandatory fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Oct, 00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next 30 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment Due 30/10/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherry Training Sandpit M3.3 Interi...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Oct, 00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Assignment Due 30/10/2017 |
| Sherry Training Sandpit M3.3 Interi... |
| 30 Oct, 00:00   |
| Add submission  |

### Courses view

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSN1001 - Business Reporting and Analysis - Sem 2 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consent Matters: Boundaries, Respect and Positive Intervention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAWS1204/LAWS6104 Contracts - Sem 2 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Key messages for students:

The **Timeline** tab shows overdue and upcoming tasks. **Turnitin** tasks will be available in the timeline tab for Semester 1, 2018.

The **Courses** tab splits up current, past and future courses.

The **Navigation panel** has a shortcut to every visible activity in every course.

Key messages for staff:

Set the correct **course start** and **end dates** during setup, these determine how Courses appear on the **In progress**, **Past** and **Future** Courses lists on the Dashboard. Rollover courses will default to term dates.

Images in the **Course summary** will no longer appear on the My Moodle page (Dashboard).

2. **General Usability Enhancement**

2.1. Accessing Grades

A user can access Grades from Navigation block in the upgraded version. Staff can go to grades setup using the “Gradebook setup” link in the course administration block.

Previously, access to Grades was available in the administration block.
Did you know?

Gradebooks for the courses you are teaching and taking including the final grade are accessible from the drop-down menu in the header.
2.2. Accessing “Switch role to …”

Lecturers and course administrators can now switch role from the header dropdown menu. In the previous version, this feature was accessible in the administration block.

New Version (Moodle 3.3)

Previous Version (Moodle 3.1)
2.3. Activity Completion Management

Activity completion feature will enable the lecturers to set activity completion based on predefined rules. **To utilise this feature, lecturers must enable course completion tracking from the course settings.**

Once the feature is activated, the course admin can update the activity completion settings from Course administration > course completion.

Lecturer can configure activity completion definition for individual activity type.
Lecturer can also add and update settings for bulk activity completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities / resources</th>
<th>Completion tracking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August - 5 September</td>
<td>Winter Night Market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key messages for students:**

The Courses tab on the Wattle homepage shows a donut chart of the number of activities you have completed in some courses. Tick tasks on the course site to indicate you have completed them.

**Key messages for staff:**

Students see personalised completion status on the Wattle home page for each course. Set completion criteria for *every* required activity, and exclude all other tasks.

Note: Non-Moodle activities such as Turnitin assignments are not included.

Completion tracking is now easier to set up and administer in bulk, after activities are created.
2.4. Stealth Activity

Earlier versions of Moodle had a “quirk” that allowed activities (or resources) to be hidden inside “extra” weeks or topics, but still be accessible to students. These were known as “orphaned” activities and allowed Moodle users to achieve particular designs for their courses.

Now in Moodle 3.3 you can put any activity or resource into “stealth mode” to achieve this same effect in a more officially-supported way.

It is a two-step process. First lecturers need to hide the content.

Once the content link is hidden from student, they need to make it available to them. Note the difference between Show and Make available. Show is to unhide the activity and Make available is to create Stealth activity.

Lecturer can use the content link in any other content such as the course main page.
Key messages for staff:

Use stealth activities to streamline the appearance of the course main page and navigation pane.

Review Orphaned or hidden sections. To speed up course-editing, consider using stealth activities closer to context on the course main page instead of orphaned sections.

2.5. Media Drag and Drop

Lecturers were able to drag and drop document files in the Moodle course.

The drag and drop functionality in Moodle 3.3 allows audio and video files dragged and dropped to the course page.
Key messages for staff:

It is now easy to drag-and-drop video and audio files onto the course main page. Users have the option to create a label displaying the resource as well.

Use with discretion: a bulky main-page may be inconvenient or inaccessible on slow networks or mobile devices.

2.6. New Media Player – Video JS Player

Newly introduced Video JS player provides controls to define video size in the page. The new media player is also responsive to the screen size and resizes when played in full screen mode.
Key message for staff:

Set the maximum size of the video player, but understand that it will shrink to suit each user’s device.

Link to the transcript, to help hearing impaired and international students.

2.7. Interactive Report With Graphs

Interactive and responsive charts now show reports dynamically to course participants.
3. **Assignment Enhancements**

3.1. **Student Choice Responses By Lecturer**

A lecturer will now be able to select on behalf of students in the choice activity.

![Sports assignment choice](image)

**Key message for students:**

A Choice activity asks you to make a selection. Staff now can make a response on your behalf.

**Key message for staff:**

Notify students in writing (e.g. course announcement) that you will/will not be overriding responses in a Choice.

Use this capability to assign inactive participants to specific options.
3.2. Negative Score Rubrics

Moodle has improved its rubric feature and it now allows the negative scores for the Rubrics grade calculation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Very poor</th>
<th>Some effort at consistent and appropriate style</th>
<th>Good effort at consistent and appropriate style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>1 points</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>No relevant content</th>
<th>Limited content and of limited relevance</th>
<th>Good content with suitable relevance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 points</td>
<td>1 points</td>
<td>2 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late submission penalty</th>
<th>Submitted late</th>
<th>Submitted on time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key message for staff:

Consider storing penalties (such as for lateness) as negative marks in an Assignment rubric.

Highlight and explain negative mark criteria to students.

Example for the late submission penalty for the 100 points assignment

Consistent with ANUP_004604 items 7, 8 & 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late submission</th>
<th>10 days</th>
<th>9 days</th>
<th>8 days</th>
<th>7 days</th>
<th>6 days</th>
<th>5 days</th>
<th>4 days</th>
<th>3 days</th>
<th>2 days</th>
<th>1 day</th>
<th>On time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANU penalty</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-45</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-35</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3. Filetype Restrictions For The Submission

The lecturer can specify the types of file the students may upload to the assignment. The file types may be added with their file extension, such as .png and mp3, or else as image/png and audio/mp3. Leaving the field blank will allow all file types. File types are separated with commas. If the file types have been restricted, then when students attempt to submit the assignment, they will see a message telling them which files are accepted:
Key message for staff:

Plan your response to failed and late submissions arising from this last-minute technical hurdle.

Consider all reasonable variations such as .docx, .docm, .dot, .dotx, .dotm, .html, .txt, .rtf, .odt, .pdf, .xlsx, .xlsm, .xls, .xlt, .xltx, .xltm, .ods, .csv, .tsv, .txt, .tab, .pptx, .pptm, .pps, .ppsx, .ppsm, .pot, .potx, .potm, .opd, .jpg, jpeg, .gif, .png, .svg, .tiff, (etc)

3.4. Assignment Overrides

A lecturer can override a deadline for an individual or group from the assignment settings link. When adding overrides for a group, it is possible to have one group override trump another. This is achieved by moving the override up/down on the group overrides page.

Override setup – Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Overrides</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A - Mon-Tue-Wed</td>
<td>Open Monday, 11 September 2017, 12:00 AM</td>
<td>![Group Override Icon]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due date Wednesday, 13 September 2017, 12:00 AM</td>
<td>![Up Icon]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B - Wed-Thu-Fri</td>
<td>Open Wednesday, 13 September 2017, 12:00 AM</td>
<td>![Down Icon]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due date Friday, 15 September 2017, 12:00 AM</td>
<td>![Down Icon]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Override setup – individual

Key message for staff:

It provides flexibility to setup assignment dates that can be different from rest of the class.

If each group is assessed on a different day or timeslot, create one assignment with a group-override for each group.

If an extension is granted to a student, add a user-override for the individual or use grant extension as currently available.

Overrides will usually be more appropriate than changing the assignment due date or creating a separate copy of the assignment for each date.

Lecturers can create overrides: the Tutor role normally cannot.

Students see the override dates in the Calendar.

4. Forum Enhancements

4.1. Discussion Locking

With discussion locking enabled, individual discussion threads can be closed down after a set period of inactivity.
Key message to students:

Some discussions will “lock” and not accept new posts after a time. Start a new discussion or contact staff.

Key message to staff:

Consider discussion locking instead of time-restricting single-topic forums.

To re-open discussion in a locked discussion, reply (as a lecturer or tutor).

5. Gradebook Enhancements

5.1. Grade by Reminder For Lecturers

This feature enables setting smart alerts in the course overview to remind lecturer to grade assignment by predefined date. It helps lecturers identify what student work needs their attention.

Key message to staff:

Only the Assignment tool has this reminder. Use another methods for prompting Turnitin marking.
6. **Course Enhancements**

6.1. **Course End Dates**

Moodle 3.3 now offers Course end dates. This feature will help managing courses and will also help setting up course listing display.

![Edit course settings](image)

**Key message for staff:**

Course start date and Course end date (in course settings) will affect the listing on Wattle home page, and the “current week” highlight in courses using weekly-format.

Course start and end date will be set to applicable Session or Semester dates during course creation.

Course start and end date do not restrict access or activity in a coursevity in a course.