Got LATTE?

Brandeis University's Enterprise-Wide Moodle Implementation

Lori Dembowitz
Jim Lambert
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Agenda:

• The Brandeis Moodle Implementation
  Lori Dembowitz

• Technical and Programming Details
  Jim Lambert

• Enterprise-level Product Management
  Janet Hill
The Brandeis University Moodle Implementation

Lori Dembowitz
Director for Academic Systems and Technology
What’s LATTE?

LATTE is…
Brandeis University’s Learning and Teaching Technology Environment

Version 1.3

Powered by Moodle
What's LATTE?

LATTE is our course management system

LATTE is used campus-wide

LATTE is an enterprise-level application

Powered by Moodle
Brandeis Overview

- Founded 1948; Located in Waltham, MA
- Liberal Arts / Research University
- 3200 Undergrads; 2100 grads
  - Grad Schools: GSAS, Heller, IBS, Rabb
- 500+ Faculty
- Library + IT = LTS
  - New, merged organization formed in 2005
Course Management

- 11 years on a CMS platform
  - WebCT since 1997
- Home grown portal: myCourses
  - Development was sporadic
- Adoption grew organically
  - 500+ courses in CMS (per semester)
- Support structure less formal
Drivers for Change: 2006/2007

- CMS adoption increasing
- Vendor challenges
  - Technical and Support
- Acquisition of WebCT
- myCourses code unsupportable
- Inclination towards open source
- Opportunity for cross-functional project with newly merged LTS organization
LATTE Project

• Cross-Functional Team
  • 40+ people involved
  • Process, Technology, Outreach Focus
• Implemented Campus-wide August 2007
  • *Rabb Distance Learning* - Summer 2008
Application Overview

LATTE version 1.3

- Sort / Filter Forum Posts Tool
- Syllabus Tool
- Photo Roster
- Instructor Contact Block

Support Staff Role / Tool

Co-Sign Authentication Integration

LATTE Feed Configurator

Data Mart

SIS Feeds

moodle

Version 1.8

Course Meeting Times Block

Midterm Course Assessments

Library and Technology Services
LATTE Year 1

Enterprise-level Application
- Process, Technical, Support

Successful implementation; wider adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th># of LATTE Courses (via Registrar feed)</th>
<th># of LATTE Syllabus posts</th>
<th># of WebCT Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2008</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Session One 2008</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
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Well regarded across the institution

Broad ownership throughout LTS
LATTE Technical and Programming Details

Jim Lambert
Enterprise Architect
Technical Aspects

• Challenges
• Staffing
• Platform
• Data
• RM
Challenges

• New platform (HA and VM)
• Tight timeline (new customer, education/process adoption)
  – What we needed vs. what they needed
  – Sandbox, dev, test, prod (and some variants)
Staffing

- **Initial Implementation**
  - Netsys group partnership -> 3 FTEs for 8 weeks
  - 3 FTEs for 8 weeks full-time, 2 months part-time
    - 1 -> Release management (platform, build, config and XWrap)
    - 2 -> Datamart of data from SIS (enrollment, courses, categories, meeting times/locations)
    - 3 -> PHP (links to webct courses, photo rosters, syllabus tool)

- **On-going**
  - 25% of one FTE for PHP
  - 25% of one FTE for Datamart and sysadmin
Activity Specific Environments
If you have questions about this infrastructure, please feel to contact John W. Turner, Director of Networks and Systems (turner@brandeis.edu)
Some of our customizations
(w/ no changes to core)

- Cosign authentication plugin (w/ logout)
- Course Tools (block)
- Syllabus (bolt-on)
- Rosters (basic and photo) (bolt-on)
- Forum sort/filter posts (bolt-on)
- Student support staff (bolt-on and blocks)
- Configurator application
  (define what terms/courses get loaded into moodle)
Release Management

• A few of the kits
  – Moodleapache
    • apachectl, certs/keys, httpd.conf
  – moodlebase
  – moodleconf
    • ldap sync
    • password management
    • env. specific config.
    • automated core upgrade.
    • manage maintenance scripts
  – moodlelang

– moodlelinks
  – Custom blocks
– supportstaff
  – blocks
– moodletheme
XWrap
6 Environments, 16 products, 25 VMs and that’s just moodle

- Products
- Environments
- Hosts
- Actions
- Locks
- Builds
- Releases

- Password Mgmt
- Commands
- Users
- Audits
Challenges around the corner

• Upgrading core
• Semesters
• Course level backups
• Statistics
• How are other’s dealing with similar issues?
• What’s next
LATTE Enterprise-level Product Management

Janet Hill
Academic Systems Project Manager
Product Management Overview

• Product Management vs. Project Management
• LATTE treated as an enterprise system
• Group created to provide technical support for all development surrounding academic systems - LMS, Course Evaluations, Syllabus Preview Tool, and more
Product Development Team

• Consults university stakeholders to develop and maintain LATTE
  – Research and Instruction Services
  – Registrar
  – Provost
  – Deans / Committee for the Support of Teaching
  – Graduate and Professional schools
LATTE Support Fall 2007 / Spring 2008

- 16 Librarians / Technologists / Managers and 20 Part-time students
- 3 LATTE Product Management Team members
- 1 PM focused on Distance Learning feature development
- .5 Programmer / developer
- 95 hours support open per week
- 2000+ email support tickets since 8/1/07
- 800+ requests for content migration
Upcoming challenges . . .

• Archiving course content
  – as record of instruction, as instructional materials
• Returning content from legacy systems
• Enhancing staff roles in support of faculty
• Formal regression testing process and procedures
• Managing upgrades and long term course access
Thank You

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http://latte.brandeis.edu
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