CHOOSING AN LMS

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WHAT IS AN LMS?

A learning management system—or LMS—is a platform used by institutions (often education institutions) and learners to carry out teaching and learning. LMSs are typically online, and enable training, hosting educational content, and even holding virtual lessons.

LMSs have been popular for many years, and have become increasingly essential over the last few years as virtual learning and blended learning have become more common. A suitable and effective learning management system is often the foundation of a successful institution.

Choosing an LMS can be challenging for institutions and administrators, yet spending time doing research into the options available is highly recommended. The right LMS can make a significant difference to learning, teaching, and training outcomes.

While there are hundreds of learning management systems, most institutions use one of four —Canvas, Moodle, Blackboard, LMS365, Mahara, Google classroom, Brightspace, and Miro. Deciding which to use requires an understanding of the different features of each, and how they can benefit your institution. This is why we've created this comparison guide to help make choosing an LMS simple and easy.

UNDERSTANDING VARIOUS LMS SOFTWARES

Each LMS have their own specialities and suitability for different purposes. All are fairly complex platforms, where ease of use depends generally on the specific features used. That said, learning the basics of each isn't too difficult for most, and additional support or training is available for understanding the more complicated features.

BLACKBOARD

Blackboard has, for a long time, been the most popular of the Moodle alternatives. The platform was created by Blackboard Inc., although the term "Blackboard" is typically used to refer to the company's web-based LMS Blackboard Learn, and will be used in this guide to refer to this LMS.

The most recent version of Blackboard Learn is called Ultra and is a cloud-based system hosted by Amazon Web Services. The original, pre-Ultra, Blackboard Learn platform is still available, but must be hosted on an organisation's servers or by a third party. Although various organisations use Blackboard, the platform is mostly targeted at education institutions.

Unlike Moodle, Blackboard is not open-source, and is licensed from Blackboard Inc. The pricing model is not publicly available and varies based on different factors. Blackboard is available on desktop (Windows, Mac OS, and Linux-based operating systems) as well as mobile devices (Android and iOS apps are available, in student and instructor versions).

MOODLE

Moodle is a free, fully open-source (free of licensing) LMS based on the PHP scripting language and a modular design. It is used by countless education institutions from secondary schools to MIT, as well as businesses such as McDonalds and even the Bank of America.

A large reason for Moodle's popularity is its versatility. Administrators are free to customise it however they choose, whether by adding third-party modules or modifying the source code itself. This enables institutions to tweak Moodle to suit their specific requirements and remove anything superfluous.
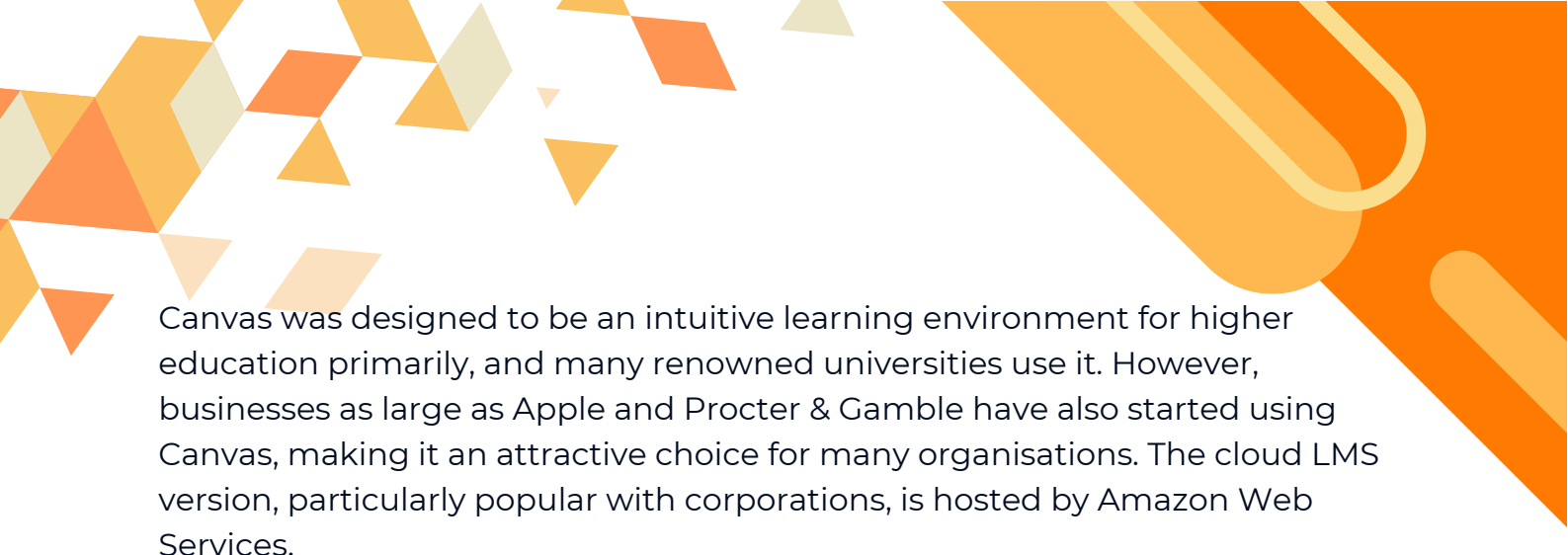
Moodle usually releases new versions every six months, and the active community also regularly releases custom plugins and alternative versions. Moodle can be hosted either on an organisation's own servers or on those of a third party (companies like Overt Software Solutions offer a variety of hosting solutions for Moodle).

CANVAS

For a while, the LMS space was defined by the "Moodle vs Blackboard" rivalry—until the arrival of a new competitor. Educational technology firm Instructure Inc appeared on the scene in 2008 with its Canvas LMS product, which has since become popular enough to rival Blackboard and Moodle.

Canvas, like Moodle, is technically an open-source platform. However, modifying its source code legally is dependent on compliance with a licensing agreement. Although the basic version of Canvas is free of charge, a paid version with a greater number of features is also available.

Canvas was designed to be an intuitive learning environment for higher education primarily, and many renowned universities use it. However, businesses as large as Apple and Procter & Gamble have also started using Canvas, making it an attractive choice for many organisations. The cloud LMS version, particularly popular with corporations, is hosted by Amazon Web Services.

Canvas is comprised of three main components; the Dashboard overview, the Global Navigation menu, and the Sidebar that displays updates. The platform's built-in development tools also enable the creation of eLearning modules, and the EduApps Center is an extensive library of applications for virtual and blended learning.
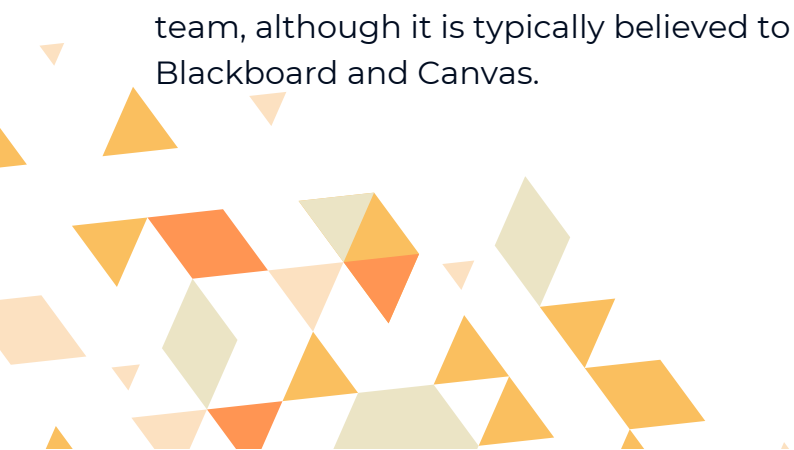
LMS365

LMS365's parent company, ELEARNINGFORCE International, was founded in 2003 in Denmark, although LMS365 was not released until 2014. The platform was designed to run using the Microsoft 365 product suite, making for unparalleled compatibility with services like SharePoint and Office 365.

Over four million people use LMS365—a popularity that has been attributed to the LMS being tailored to Microsoft services. Organisations such as education institutions, local governments, and commercial businesses use LMS365.

LMS365 is available in both Cloud and On-Premise versions. The Cloud version runs on SharePoint Online, while the On-Premise version is modelled on Microsoft's SharePoint Server platform.

Finding out the pricing of LMS365 requires getting in touch with their sales team, although it is typically believed to be less expensive than LMSs such as Blackboard and Canvas.

MAHARA

mahara

Mahara is a free and open-source software tool created by the University of Auckland in New Zealand that you can use to develop and maintain an electronic portfolio of your work. An electronic portfolio is a collection of documents, images, audio and video files, and web links that can be used to demonstrate a person's skills, knowledge and achievements.

Like Moodle, Mahara is also an open-source tool for many learning purposes. It is mainly used for training and education settings to support learning, assessment, and other purposes, such as professional or personal growth. The only difference between both LMS is that Mahara focuses more on ePortfolios, where students demonstrate their learning by creating an online portfolio of their work throughout the course.

The portfolio can be assessed as part of the course and shared with people outside the university to demonstrate students' best work. This benefit is helpful for students with little or no experience in the workplace.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a tool developed by Google for teachers and learners who want to incorporate digital learning into their classrooms. Google Classroom provides a platform for communicating with students and allows you to organise, structure/ manage your digital classroom, and communicate with students and parents. It encourages collaboration between students and teachers, as well as with parents.

Google Classroom makes setting, collecting, and even grading assignments quick. Teachers can give timely feedback with this digital tool, which is easily accessible online on both computers and devices.

D2L - BRIGHTSPACE

Brightspace LMS, developed by D2L, a Canada-based software company, is a cloud-based learning management system that helps schools, colleges, and corporations run blended, hybrid, and remote digital learning. It comprises three integrated platforms--a learning environment, a repository and an ePortfolio.

Brightspace's LMS facilitates performance tracking using its analytics tools. Brightspace LMS allows instructors to design interactive training courses, evaluate assignments and enable instructors to use digital content (such as images, videos, audio, etc.) in their studies.

MIRO

Miro (formerly called RealtimeBoard) is a free-to-use digital whiteboard and collaboration tool that makes communicating and working with others easy. The software allows users to create notes and designs and communicate through embedded video calls or online chats. With Miro's pre-built templates, it is easy to start projects immediately.

Miro was founded by Andrey Khusid, where the software company is Co-headquartered in Amsterdam, San Francisco, and has hubs worldwide. Despite it sounding similar to Mahara ePortfolio and MS Whiteboard, unlike both of the mentioned software, Miro allows collaboration with external users before, during, and after a digital meeting.

LMS SOFTWARE COMPARISON

FEATURES	BLACKBOARD	MOODLE	CANVAS	LMS365	MAHARA	GOOGLE CLASSROOM	BRIGHTSPACE	MIRO
Installation method	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version. Installation can be difficult and requires a Linux server.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version. Installation can be difficult.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.	Cloud version needs no installation but an installer is required for a local onsite version.
Administrative features	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking.	Admin tools enable unparalleled granularity, but are less intuitive than other platforms.	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking.	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking. Integrated room booking features can be useful.	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking.	Admin tools are easy to use, granularity is available using Goole's plug-in.	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking.	Admin tools are easy to use but granularity is lacking.
Course development features	Course creation tools are intuitive. Uploading files to repositories is easy, although sharing files across courses requires a paid upgrade.	Course creation tools are intuitive. Repository systems can be hard to navigate, although uploading files and SCORM packages is possible.	Course creation is easiest on Canvas. Uploading files to repositories is easy, and the Course Import Tool enables cross-platform uploads.	Course creation tools are intuitive. Uploading files to repositories is easy and uses SharePoint.	The Mahara allows users to upload files to repositories, embedding evidence of activities and embedding publicly accessible content. Course creation is only possible when linking Mahara with a third- party app.	Course creation tools are intuitive. Uploading files to repositories is easy and uses Googleapp..	Course creation tools are intuitive. Repository systems can be hard to navigate, although uploading files and SCORM packages is possible.	Miro is a freeform whiteboard that enables you to create content anywhere you want on the board. Miro allows you to integrate with nearly all LMS providers
Enter your Assessment method	The test feature is intuitive, although the Grade Center can be unwieldy.	Assessment tools are extensive and highly accurate, but the Gradebook can be hard to learn	Assessment tools are easy to learn, and a good level of customisation is possible.	Tracking progress via Power BI enables extensive insights, Gradebook also available	Assessment can be done by sharing portfolios from one person or a group. Access to these portfolios can be restricted, for example to a certain time period or to just one assessment task.	Assignments can be graded using rubrics you've created in Google Forms or Polls.	Brightspace offers a variety of ways to assess your students' progress. Interactive activities such as Graphic Multi-Select Interactive, Image Hotspot, Inline Quiz and Sequencing Interactive	Miro does not have any assessment method but allows you to integrate with nearly all LMS providers
Communication	Enter your Various communication tools (e.g., live chat, discussion forums, etc.) and notifications are available	Various communication tools (e.g., live chat, discussion forums, etc.) and notifications are available	Various communication tools (e.g., live chat, discussion forums, etc.) and notifications are available	Close integration with Microsoft Teams brings all of Teams' communication features.	Open discussion and forum communication only. Notifications are available.	Google Classroom allows you to email your students in a variety of ways, from sending a message to the entire class to addressing a specific student. To do so, go to the "People" tab and you will have several communication options.	Communication in Brightspace is via Announcement tool and Activity feed. Students can even customise their notifications to suit their individual needs.	Many collaborations may use a blog, Instant messaging, text chat and social media channels. Miro integrates with third-party communication tools such as Microsoft teams and Slack.

FEATURES	BLACKBOARD	MOODLE	CANVAS	LMS365	MAHARA	GOOGLE CLASSROOM	BRIGHTSPACE	MIRO
Devices and Operating System compatibility	Available on all major operating systems, Android and Apple mobile apps available	Available on all major operating systems, Android and Apple mobile apps available	Available on all major operating systems, Android and Apple mobile apps available	Available on Windows and MacOS (but not Linux), as well as Android and Apple mobile apps	Available on all major operating systems, Android and Apple mobile apps available	Available for Windows and MacOS. To be able to install Linux, third-party software is needed. The Google classroom is available for Android and Apple mobile devices, but the app is currently unavailable for Windows mobile devices.	Brightspace is available for Windows and Mac OS. For mobile, Brightspace Pulse is a mobile app compatible for Android and IOS	Miro is available for Windows and Mac OS. The program works on Apple or Android products, Mac or Windows, and Safari, Edge, Chrome, or Firefox.
Integration capability	Integrates with SIS, Microsoft 365, and Dropbox. However, Google apps integration requires additional apps.	Integrates with SIS and Microsoft 365 by default. However, Dropbox and Google integration requires configuration.	Integrates with SIS, Microsoft 365, Google, and Dropbox.	Integrates with SIS, HR, and ERP programs, unparalleled Microsoft 365 integration. However, Google integration is absent, and Dropbox integration only possible through Teams.	Integrates with SIS, Microsoft 365 (via OpenID connect), Google and Dropbox.	Integrates with mostly google apps. You can check the list here for a complete list of plugins supported for google classroom.	Integrates with SIS, Microsoft 365, Google, and Dropbox.	Integrates with SIS, Microsoft 365, Google, and Dropbox.
External services compatibility	BigBlueButton, Planet eStream, and Zoom compatible by default, Mahara compatible in settings. However, connection to WebEx requires an additional app.	Includes add-ins for BigBlueButton, WebEx, and Zoom. However, connection to Mahara requires configuration, and connection to Teams requires additional apps.	WebEx and BigBlueButton are compatible by default. However, there is no Zoom plugin, connection to Mahara requires configuration, and connection to Planet eStream requires additional plugin.	No compatibility with WebEx, BigBlueButton, Zoom, or Mahara. Connection to Planet eStream possible through Teams.	BigBlueButton, Blackboard/Mahara connect, and LDAP sync. However, there is no Zoom plugin and integration to Planet eStream is not possible.	Google Classroom allows instructors to integrate G Suite's collaboration capabilities into learning workflows by using Google apps, Google docs, and Google drive to create and collect assignments	WebEx and BigBlueButton are compatible by default. However, there is no Zoom plugin, connection to Mahara requires configuration, and connection to Planet eStream requires additional plugin.	BigBlueButton, Planet eStream, and Zoom compatible by default, Mahara compatible in settings. However, connection to WebEx requires additional ap..
Customisation	Settings are easily adjustable, although more extensive customisation requires paid upgrades. Source code customisation is impossible.	Huge number of plugins available, open-source community, huge potential for source code customisation. However, customisation can be difficult to learn.	Front-end customisation tools are extensive and intuitive, however source code customisation depends on license agreement.	Customisation easy but limited to front-end and learning portal. Source code customisation is impossible.	Settings are easily adjustable, more extensive customisation and source code customisation requires a technical expert.	Google Classroom provides a gallery of colourful image options and choices for themes. Users can locate a visual that matches your curriculum theme or search for images that connect to your curriculum, content, and theme.	The default homepage is widget-based. Widgets are content blocks that is customisable to provide links to tools, courses, and personal settings.	You can create as many new boards as you wish. You can also create a board using one of the templates provided by Miro's default theme or import content from another source such as Google Drive or Dropbox. All changes that you make on a board are saved in real-time.
Price	Free trial available, but paid version expensive.	Open-source version free (although hosting and support incur costs), and free trial for MoodleCloud available.	Open-source version free (although hosting and support incur costs), and free trial available.	Free trial available, subscription versions' pricing not publicly available but reputed to be lower than Canvas and Blackboard.	Open-source version free (although hosting and support incur costs), and free trial available.	Google Classroom is free features are limited due to the product subscription	Brightspace by D2L is available for free during your trial period. After your trial period ends, Brightspace provides custom pricing for their software.	Miro's Education Plan offers educators and students unlimited usage for free.But, to unlock unlimited features, more cost plans are available.

FEATURE COMPARISON

INSTALLATION METHOD

- Blackboard:

Blackboard Ultra is a SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) product so requires no installation. For the non-SaaS version, installation is straightforward using an installer. You can choose between a full installation or an App Server Only installation. To download the installer, instructions, and a license file, you must contact your Blackboard Client Representative and request a Behind the Blackboard account. To carry out the installation, you must be a super-user (Windows domain user, or "bbuser" on Linux operating systems). Whether a full installation or an App Server-only installation, the process takes around 40 minutes. Full instructions on how to install Blackboard can be found here.

- Moodle:

Installing Moodle on one machine is very simple, with only a one-click installer needed. However, setting up a Moodle server for an organisation with many users is more complicated. While the basic Moodle code is only 200MB, at least a few GB of disk space is recommended to host content. A 2GHz dual core CPU is recommended, with 1GB of RAM (for servers with high speeds and many users, 8GB or more is often recommended). The good thing about installing Moodle's server software is the variety of options, although the level of technical knowledge required to install Moodle the best way possible is higher than that of other LMSs. Full instructions on how to install Moodle can be found here. The MoodleCloud version requires no installation.

- Canvas:

Hosting your own Canvas LMS requires a Linux server to install the platform on, an Apache HTTP server, the Ruby on Rails framework, a PostgreSQL database engine, outgoing SMTP email server service, and an SSL certificate. As with Moodle, there are different installation options, and the process encompasses a number of steps. Installing Canvas requires some technical knowledge, although usually not much as Moodle. Full instructions on how to install Canvas can be found here. As with Blackboard and Moodle's cloud versions, Canvas Cloud requires no setup.

- **LMS365:**

With LMS365's On-Premise version, installation requires many steps and some technical knowledge. SharePoint itself* requires Windows Server 2012 64-bit, Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 1 (SP1) 64-bit, Microsoft SQL Server 2016 RTM, and Microsoft .NET Framework version 4.6. Connecting the SharePoint farm to an Office Online Server or Office Web Apps farm is highly recommended. Full instructions on how to install LMS365 can be found here.

However, as with the other LMSs, LMS365 has a Cloud version which is significantly more straightforward to install.
*SharePoint 2016, as mentioned in the LMS365 On-Premises 4.8.4 Installation and Configuration Guide.

- **Mahara:**

Installing Mahara is relatively simple, but setting up a server for an organisation with many users requires some technical knowledge. The installation size is 300MB, and a few GB of disk space is recommended to host content. The minimum requirement to install Mahara is a 2GHz dual-core CPU with 1GB of RAM (for servers with high speeds and many users, 8GB or more is often recommended). The good thing about installing Mahara ePortfolio LMS is the variety of options, although the level of technical knowledge when installing on a different operating system will be necessary. Full instructions on how to install Mahara can be found here

- **Google Classroom:**

Installing Google Classroom is a straightforward process. You need to download the Google Classroom app to use Google Classroom on your mobile device. You can download the app from the App Store (for iOS devices) or Google Play (for Android devices). The system requirements for Google Classroom, you need 16 GB of available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB available hard disk space (64-bit). It is recommended to have 16 GB of additional space for course applications and files, enough wireless nodes/hubs/switches to allow classroom computers to communicate and access the internet. Full instructions on how to install google classroom can be found here

- **D2L - Brightspace:**

Installing Brightspace is relatively simple, The minimum requirement to install Brightspace is Intel Core i7 or Apple M1 CPU or equivalent performance CPU, 16GB+ of RAM, SSD or an equivalent high-performance HDD, Consistent 50Mbps+ direct Internet Connectivity, and Compatible Webcam and Microphone. Full instructions on how to install Brightspace can be found here

- **Miro:**

To install Miro, please make sure your device meets the minimum or recommended system requirements. The minimum requirement to install Miro is 3 GHz (2 cores/4 threads) CPU with 8GB of RAM. However, keep in mind that these parameters are not definitive as Miro performance is influenced by multiple other factors: the number of tabs open in your browser, how often you switch between them, Wi-Fi stability and strength, background tasks running on your computer, and monitor resolution. Full instructions on how to install Miro can be found here

ADMINISTRATIVE FEATURES

- **Blackboard:**

Blackboard enables instructors to track learners' progress via reports. There is also an optional extra module called Blackboard Analytics, which offers greater comparison. Additional modules, such as Blackboard Collaborate, Blackboard Intelligence, and Blackboard Connect allow other features such as further analytics to track enrolment, engagement, and retention. Blackboard can be integrated with your institution's Student Information System (or SIS). Blackboard Ultra offers similar functionality, but some administrative features are reduced.

- **Moodle:**

With Moodle, a variety of admin roles can be applied, such as course creator, site administrator, and more. Editing privileges can also be assigned to each administrator, enabling a greater level of granularity than other platforms. Moodle's reports and logs enable the tracking of progress at course level and can be integrated with an SIS. The ease or difficulty of using Moodle's administrative features will depend on the level of bespoke customisation applied by administrators.

- **Canvas:**

Canvas' Dashboard certainly makes general use simple. In addition to this, the wide range of admin tools enable progress tracking, provision of feedback, merging of channels, and more. Accounts and sub-accounts, and their permissions, can be created and managed by administrators for different programs and departments. Using these tools is less likely to require training than with Moodle, although the level of customisation possible is also lower.

- **LMS365:**

LMS365 features an intuitive personalised Dashboard interface especially for managers and administrators (end users see a different Dashboard, which includes personalised progress reports and gamification features like leader boards). The administrator Dashboard enables various forms of training, including integrated room booking features for classroom training. Online training and teaching features include webinars, videos, and quizzes.

- **Mahara**

Mahara pages come with default text that you can change entirely. You can use the visual editor to style your main page. The Mahara Dashboard enables an administrator to provide feedback, merge channels, track down the progress of each portfolio uploaded and more. Accounts and sub-accounts (groups), and their permissions (roles), can be created and managed by administrators for different programs or departments within groups. Using these tools is less likely to require training, although the level of customisation possible is also lower.

- Google Classroom:

The Google Classroom dashboard is a great tool for teachers, as it allows you to save time and enhance instruction. Go to classroom.google.com, once logged-in, you'll be taken to a dashboard. You can use the dashboard to monitor student progress, collaborate with other teachers, create assignments, customise your class settings, and add resources for your students. Teachers can also collect responses from their students and grade these responses using pre-built rubrics. The teacher can see which students are progressing well or need additional help. Using these tools is less likely to require training, although the level of customisation possible is also lower.

- D2L-Brightspace:

The Brightspace Dashboard provides a central location for learners to view their course calendars, readings, assignments, evaluations, grades and announcements. Learners can use the dashboard to make better decisions about how to handle workload, when to submit assignments and when to prepare for tests. Real-time alerts can let learners know when classes are cancelled or moved, rooms are changed or new grades are available. The schedule view and weekly visualisation lets them quickly at a glance view what is due today and this week across all their courses.

- Miro

The dashboard is the central and main Miro page where you can navigate between your teams, projects, and boards. If you are a member of a team or have been invited to some boards in a team, you will see the team icon on the left sidebar on the dashboard. Switch between teams by clicking on the square icons on the left side panel. On the dashboard you can quickly access your profile and team settings, projects shared with you in the chosen team, ★ starred boards in your whole profile, as well as create a new board and search through existing ones.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT FEATURES

- **Blackboard:**

With Blackboard, users can upload files to course repositories from various external repositories. Courses can be sorted via subject areas and disciplines, and terms, durations, and enrolment requirements can be chosen for each course. Visual features such as fonts and button styles can also be edited for each course. The Course Creation Wizard takes administrators through course creation and editing step-by-step. By default, content is stored in a single course and cannot be shared across courses, although the optional Content Collection upgrade enables this.

- **Moodle:**

Creating courses via Moodle Cloud is as simple as in any other LMS, with step-by-step tutorials. However, on-premise Moodle servers enable unparalleled course customisation. Moodle's repositories also allow users to upload content to courses from external file repositories. The choice to enable or disable external repositories can be selected. Administrators can also upload SCORM packages to courses to populate them with content. Files in Moodle's repositories can be searched, although the repository system can be harder to navigate than that of other platforms.

- **Canvas:**

Developing courses is perhaps easier on Canvas than on either of the other platforms. Course templates and a powerful content editor tool are available. The Assignments, Discussions, Pages, and Quizzes tools enable simple creation and sharing of course content. The Collaborations, Conferences, and Groups tools enable further collaboration between users. The level of access that students have to different areas can be chosen by administrators. If you are transitioning to Canvas from another LMS, the Course Import Tool enables the simple bulk-uploading of existing course materials.

- **LMS365:**

LMS365 includes course creation tools and wizards to enable administrators to create modules and quizzes easily. With LMS365, these tools are available on both the Cloud and On-Premise versions. Simple, automatic integration with Office 365 apps offers a particular advantage when it comes to developing course content. Training plans can also be created and assigned to specific Teams or Office 365 groups. While the ease of course creation is impressive, the possibilities of custom course development are notably lower than that of options like an on-premise Moodle.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara is a ePortfolio software that allows students to record their learning journey--such as essays, artwork, or other such things they produce that can be stored digitally. Such things are known as artefacts in Mahara. Thus to set up courses for users, an open-channel group has to be made with the list of users where they can interact and discuss the course. Mahara is also easily integratable with Moodle, another LMS software that is popular among educators worldwide.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google classroom allows instructors to create classes by simply adding users/students by dragging and dropping students from your roster into a class folder; then add assignments or questions for each student within that folder. You can even send messages directly to individual students within their folders as well as add attachments like Google Drive files or links to websites (like YouTube videos).

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace offers two ways to create a course offering. You can select from its default list of templates or create a new template from scratch. All course offerings must be associated with a template; once you've created your new offering, you can begin adding components to it using the various tools in Brightspace or by copying components from another offering or template.

- Miro:

Miro is a freeform whiteboard that enables you to create content anywhere you want on the board. It features live cursor tracking, mimicking the effect of working together despite being apart. Similar to Mahara, Miro serves as an ePortfolio and for Course uploads, Miro allows you to integrate with nearly all LMS providers (such as Canvas and Blackboard).

ASSESSMENT METHOD

- Blackboard:

Blackboard Ultra's test feature is generally considered intuitive, especially when compared with Moodle's Gradebook feature. The automated feedback tool is particularly handy, and there are a variety of rubrics with which to assess learners' work. Blackboard Ultra's Grade Center, however, has been criticised for its unwieldy interface. Although typically easier to use than Moodle's assessment features, training is likely needed to get the most out of these features.

- Moodle:

Compared to Blackboard, Moodle's assessment features are difficult to use for most—especially the notoriously complex Gradebook. However, despite the time and expertise required to learn how to use them, Moodle's assessment features (including quizzes, peer assessments, and video assessments) are considered some of the best. The advanced rubrics, marking guides, and workflows offered by Moodle make its assessment capabilities more thorough and granular than any other LMS. Many institutions opt for training in how to use these features to reap their benefits.

- Canvas:

Like Moodle, Canvas has a Gradebook that integrates with an institution's SIS, and enables importing and exporting of learners' grades as CSV files. Compared to Moodle's feature, the Canvas Gradebook is intuitive to learn and use, displaying grades at a glance and offering various filters. Canvas also includes Quiz and Outcome features, which offer simple customisation of settings (e.g., adding of learning outcomes to rubrics). A particular benefit of Canvas is the SpeedGrader tool, which enables easy reviewing and grading of learners' work before these grades are added to the Gradebook.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara allows you to make as many pages as you like. You can give access to your page to individual students or members of a group. To assess student work, you must create a page which includes assessments and your reflective learning journal. Assessment reports are downloadable into CSV. Compared to Moodle and Blackboard, Mahara is the social, reflective side of an LMS. An ePortfolio complements an LMS in an online learning environment.

- **LMS365:**

In LMS365, detailed analytics and reporting tools enable administrators to track the progress of users, teams, or even entire organisations. Assessment data is available within the core LMS365 product itself, although Microsoft 365 integration also allows administrators to create dashboards through the Power BI data analysis application. Data and reports can be exported to Excel, either through LMS365 itself, or via Power BI. Like other platforms, LMS365 also features a Gradebook, which is relatively straightforward to use.

- **Google Classroom:**

Assignments can be graded using rubrics you've created in Google Forms or Polls. When grading time comes around, simply click "grade" under each assignment; this will open up the grading interface where you'll have access not only grades but also comments made by both yourself and other teachers who have reviewed these assignments as well as any feedback left by students themselves via comments section at bottom right corner of each question/assignment page

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace offers a variety of ways to assess your students' progress. Interactive activities such as Graphic Multi-Select Interactive, Image Hotspot, Inline Quiz and Sequencing Interactive allow students to demonstrate their knowledge by selecting answers from multiple choices or by placing images in order. Matching and Categorization activities ask students to match terms with definitions or place objects into categories according to specific criteria. Self assessments can also be created as part of your course's instructional sequence by creating quicklink topics to self assessments in Content. Quick-Links can be created from other places in the course such as Events/Announcements.

- Miro:

Miro makes it easy to encourage live engagement, discussion, and group work. The Miro is simple to use but can also be incorporated into the classroom with other devices. Unfortunately, Miro does not have any assessment method but allows you to integrate with nearly all LMS providers(such as Canvas, Blackboard, Google, Brightspace, Moodle, etc).

COMMUNICATION

- Blackboard:

Blackboard offers a number of tools for communication between students, as well as between instructors and students. These tools include Announcements, Discussion Boards, Messaging, Email, and Calendars. Blackboard even includes a Wikis feature, where students can contribute to and edit selected course content (with an administrator's permission, of course), for example when carrying out group projects. Notifications of due dates are delivered to students via the Blackboard activity stream.

- **Moodle:**

Like Blackboard, Moodle offers student-to-student and instructor-to-student communication tools, including Chat, Messaging, Email, Discussion Forums, Announcements, and more. Instant messaging and commenting permissions can be set by administrators for specific users, or by default across an entire organisation. Users can also set their own privacy settings—e.g., whether non-contacts can message them. Notifications of any changes to courses are delivered automatically to students via email.

- **Canvas:**

Canvas has three main tools that enable communication between instructors and students. Announcements are submitted by instructors and delivered to students via notifications on the channels chosen by students themselves in their Notification Preferences. Canvas' internal messaging system is called Conversations and can send notifications via email or text, depending on chosen preferences. Discussions can also be created by instructors, where comments can be added publicly by any students on the relevant course.

- **LMS365:**

Comparing LMS365's communication tools to those of other platforms is a little tricky. Although LMS365 does not have its own bespoke communication tools, the fact that it runs on Microsoft 365 means that Microsoft 365 applications are accessible within the LMS itself. Videoconferencing, instant messaging, group chats, and more are available via Teams, and email via Outlook. This integration means that this LMS includes as many (if not more) ways to communicate as any other.

- **Mahara**

Mahara offers a number of tools for communication between students and instructors, including Announcements, Discussion Boards, Messaging and Email. The Open Discussion feature allows students to contribute to and edit content with an administrator's permission. Instant messaging and commenting permissions can be set by administrators for specific users or by default across an entire group member. Users can also set their own privacy settings--e.g., whether non-contacts can message them.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google Classroom allows you to email your students in a variety of ways, from sending a message to the entire class to addressing a specific student. To do so, go to the "People" tab and you will have several communication options.

Here are some of the options:
- Via emailing single/multiple students: To email all of the students in a class, find the student's name, check off the names of students you'd like to email, then click Actions and select Email.

- Via announcement: You can share announcements with your class by posting them to the Stream. Students will see these posts when they sign in to Google Classroom. To post an announcement, go to the "Stream" tab and click the field at the top of the stream that reads "Share something with your class..."

- Via class summaries: You can also choose to have email summaries sent to your students' parents and guardians. These emails include details about missing work, upcoming work, and recent class activity. These emails are generated automatically and cannot be customised with personal messages or additional content. Parents can choose whether they want to receive these emails daily or weekly, and they have the option to unsubscribe as well.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace, like a physical classroom bulletin board, provides you with one centralised location that students will know to consult. Communication in Brightspace is via Announcement tool and Activity feed. Students can even customise their notifications to suit their individual needs.
- The Announcements tool within Brightspace allows you to rapidly reach out to your students without having to leave the course homepage. Keep everyone in the loop about upcoming deadlines and quickly share resources.
- The Activity Feed allows both you and your students to comment on each others' messages

- **Miro:**

Miro allows you to choose your communication channels. Your channels might change depending on the size of your company, the resources you have, and the audience you hope to reach. Many collaborations may use a blog, Instant messaging, text chat and social media channels. Miro integrates with third-party communication tools such as Microsoft teams and Slack.

DEVICES AND OPERATING SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY

- **Blackboard:**

Blackboard is available on Windows, MacOS, and Linux-based operating systems. Blackboard offers separate student and instructor mobile apps, each available on Android and Apple mobile devices.

- **Moodle:**

Moodle is available on Windows, MacOS, and Linux-based operating systems, where the web interface can be customised to individual specifications. The Moodle Mobile app is available on Android and Apple mobile devices.

- **Canvas:**

Canvas is available on Windows, MacOS, and Linux-based operating systems. Canvas offers a choice of three separate mobile apps—Canvas Student, Canvas Teacher, and Canvas Parent—all of which are available on Android and Apple mobile devices.

- **LMS365:**

LMS365 is available on Windows and MacOS operating systems, although Linux-based operating systems are not currently supported. When it comes to mobile devices, Android and iOS apps are available, and also offer offline access with results synchronised after connection is resumed.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara is available for Linux, Windows and MacOS. The web interface can be customised to meet your needs. The Mahara Mobile app is available for Android and Apple mobile devices. You can use Mahara from a smartphone or tablet that has internet browser capabilities. Some functions may not be available to you depending on the device you're using, but you can always upload files directly from your device using an application such as DropBox or Google Drive.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google classroom is available for Windows and MacOS. To be able to install Linux, third-party software is needed. The Google classroom is available for Android and Apple mobile devices, but the app is currently unavailable for Windows mobile devices. If you are using Chrome OS devices (such as a Google Chromebook), you don't need to install the app. Due to some support for Chrome apps being removed, some functions may not be available.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace is available for Windows and Mac OS. For mobile, Brightspace Pulse is a mobile app compatible for Android and IOS, that helps you stay connected and on track with your courses in the Brightspace Learning Environment by providing one easy view of course calendars, readings, assignments, evaluations, grades and announcements. The app is generally released at the beginning of each month and then sometimes mid-month if issues are found. Depending on how your device is configured, the app may update automatically or you may have to manually check for new versions.

- **Miro:**

Miro is available for Windows and Mac OS. Miro is a browser application that runs on most modern devices, including PCs and laptops, tablets and smartphones. A stylus or a digital pen works best with Miro on touchscreen devices. The program works on Apple or Android products, Mac or Windows, and Safari, Edge, Chrome, or Firefox.

INTEGRATION CAPABILITY

- **Blackboard:**

As well as integrating with an institution's SIS, Blackboard integrates with OneDrive (and other Microsoft 365 apps) and Dropbox. To integrate with Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Workspace for Education, you can use an add-on application called Google Assignments—this tool even prevents Google Docs files from being edited after they are submitted, to combat academic fraud. A full list of Blackboard integrations can be found here.

- **Moodle:**

Like Blackboard, Moodle integrates with Student Information Systems. As well as this, it is compatible with Microsoft 365 apps out of the box. Integration with Dropbox is possible with simple admin configuration, while integration with Google apps requires a little more configuration (for example, choosing an authentication method, downloading plugins, and creating a project in the Google Developers Console) but is possible. Aside from Moodle's Certified Integrations, its open-source nature, customisation potential, and community forums make many more integrations possible.

- **Canvas:**

Canvas is compatible with Microsoft 365 apps, Google apps, Dropbox, and Student Information Systems. Integration is carried out via LTI tools and is dependent on the provision of a consumer key and shared secret. One of Canvas' main strengths is its ease of integration with both Google and Microsoft apps, as well as various other third-party programs. More information on Canvas' integrations can be found here.

- **LMS365:**

Although integration with Google services is not possible with LMS365, if you are looking for seamless integration with Microsoft 365 applications, LMS365 has a clear advantage. Teams, Outlook, SharePoint, and more are all immediately accessible from the main LMS365 interface—in fact, these apps can even be said to be components of the LMS365 interface itself. Although LMS365 does not integrate directly with Dropbox, both Microsoft 365 and Dropbox have extensions enabling integration with the other. LMS365's API enables integration with SIS, HR, and ERP systems.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara is compatible with Microsoft 365 apps, Google apps, Dropbox, and Student Information Systems. Integration is carried out via Mahara extensions or LTI tools and is dependent on the provision of a consumer key and shared secret. From the "Plugin administration" page you can see which plugins are installed on your Mahara instance and get access to their settings where available.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google classroom allows instructors to integrate G Suite's collaboration capabilities into learning workflows. It is compatible with Google apps, Google docs, and google drive to create and collect assignments, give feedback to students, and share course materials within the learning management system (LMS) you're already using. Integration is carried out via the google classroom dashboard, and click the 3-dot icon on the right. Go to Google Workspace Marketplace, and at the top, select the "Works with" filter and get access to their plugin list and settings where available. You can check the list here for a complete list of plugins supported for google classroom.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace is compatible with Microsoft 365 apps, Google apps and Dropbox. The company has partnered with third-party service providers to create integrations with the Brightspace platform that address client needs. The list of third-party integrations can be found here.

- **Miro:**

Miro can be used with a variety of third-party apps, including Dropbox, Office365, Canvas, Blackboard, and Moodle. Miro easily connects to your favourite collaboration tools. Miro offers apps to help you work on the board and connect Miro to other tools. To work effectively with Miro digital whiteboard, it offers apps to find shortcuts and ways to work more efficiently. Third-party apps that are hosted on Miro's infrastructure and don't require any data exchange with third-party services. The list of third-party integrations can be found here.

EXTERNAL SERVICES COMPATIBILITY

- **Blackboard:**

There is a host of course content available through major publishers. Popular learning tools and services like BigBlueButton, Planet eStream, and Zoom are also compatible by default, while WebEx can connect to Blackboard using CirQLive (although this does require an additional license). Connection to the popular e-portfolio Mahara can also be enabled by an administrator via Blackboard's built-in LTI Tools.

- **Moodle:**

Moodle includes add-ins for popular learning tools like BigBlueButton, WebEx, Zoom, and even Blackboard! The open-source nature of Moodle also means that there are plenty of third-party apps and shared configuration processes that enable compatibility with a variety of other services. For example, a popular configuration often referred to as "Mahoodle" enables true single sign-on integration between Moodle and Mahara. Connection to Microsoft Teams is also possible via the mConnect app by third party Skooler. An extensive list of possible Moodle integrations can be found here.

- **Canvas:**

Canvas is compatible by default with WebEx, but not with Zoom. Unlike Blackboard and Moodle, you cannot create Zoom meetings within Canvas itself using plugins. However, connection to Zoom is possible the traditional way—pasting a meeting URL into course content. BigBlueButton is compatible with Canvas by default using the Conferencing tab. Integration with Planet eStream is possible and straightforward with Planet eStream's Canvas Plugin. Like Moodle and Blackboard, Canvas requires some configuration to connect to Mahara, using LTI.

- **LMS365:**

LMS365 is not, by default, compatible with WebEx, BigBlueButton, or Zoom (at least, no more than copying and pasting a Zoom meeting link). However, LMS365's API can enable LTI connection to other services with configuration. As Planet eStream has a Teams app, connection to Planet eStream is possible via Teams. Integration with Mahara is not currently possible.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara is compatible with add-ins for popular learning tools like BigBlueButton, WebEx, and Moodle. It can also be easily integrated with third-party apps, LTI, and shared configuration processes that enable compatibility with a variety of other services. Similar to Moodle's external service compability, a popular configuration often referred to as "Mahoodle" enables true single sign-on integration between Moodle and Mahara.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google classroom is compatible with add-ins for popular learning tools that are listed from here. Google Classroom allows instructors to integrate G Suite's collaboration capabilities into learning workflows by using Google apps, Google docs, and Google drive to create and collect assignments, give feedback to students, and share course materials within.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace is compatible with a wide range of third-party apps, including BigBlueButton, WebEx and Moodle. You can also integrate it with LTI and shared configuration processes that enable compatibility with other services. Similar to Moodle's external service compatibility, Brightspace's plug-and-play concept makes it possible to seamlessly integrate multiple applications within your organisation's digital learning ecosystem.

- **Miro:**

Miro is compatible with BigBlueButton, WebEx and Moodle. It's easy to set up Miro with your favourite collaboration tools. Miro offers apps to help you integrate third-party app with LTI and shared configuration processes that enable compatibility with other services. Third-party apps that are hosted on Miro's infrastructure and don't require any data exchange with third-party services.

CUSTOMISATION

- **Blackboard:**

Blackboard has a wide variety of settings that are easily adjustable via its intuitive front-end interface, from simple colour and font settings (which can be customised on an individual basis by users themselves) to institution logos and course development tools at administrator level. However, the exact level of customisation possible is dependent on the pricing plan selected. Integration with Google apps also requires third-party tools.

- **Moodle:**

What Moodle lacks in easy, front-end customisation tools, it more than makes up for in other ways. Although Moodle is usually more difficult to customise than the other platforms due to its comparative lack of built-in tools, the possibilities are far greater than any other LMS if you have the technical knowledge! There are over 1500 plugins available, a dedicated community to share tips and give advice, and many LTI integrations possible. As the platform's code is open-source, an on-premise (or third-party-hosted) Moodle can theoretically be customised to a near-infinite degree.

- **Canvas:**

Like Blackboard, Canvas includes a range of built-in administration tools that enable fairly straightforward front-end customisation without the need for a high level of technical knowledge.

However, also like Blackboard, the potential for extensive customisation is notably lower than that of Moodle. Modification to the source code (at least, with the open-source version of Canvas) is dependent on compliance with the terms of your licensing agreement.

- **LMS365:**

Due to LMS365's extensive use of Microsoft 365 apps, with which many of its features are carried out, the ability to customise the visuals or structure of the platform is significantly less than with other LMS platforms. However, the learning portal itself can be customised (e.g., colour, text, and logo changes) with ease, and course development tools are intuitive. Like Blackboard, LMS36 does not offer an open-source version, so customisation of the source code is not possible.

- **Mahara:**

Mahara comes with a default font but, Mahra has a wide variety of customizable settings, including themes, colours and font options. At an administration level, the main dashboard can be customised on an individual basis by users themselves, to include institution logos and course development tools. Integration with VLE apps such as Moodle or Blackboard also requires third-party tools.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google Classroom provides a gallery of colourful image options and choices for themes. Users can locate a visual that matches your curriculum theme or search for images that connect to your curriculum, content, and theme. This helps to grab attention and provides a visual frame of reference. Users can also upload a photo from their computer or save an image they locate on the internet.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

The homepage is the first page you see when you view the organisation's My Home page or enter a course. The default homepage is widget-based. Widgets are content blocks that is customisable to provide links to tools, courses, and personal settings. Organisation and course homepages can point to Brightspace tools, such as Announcements or Content, or an external URL.

- **Miro:**

When you join Miro, your first board is automatically created and saved either in your own free team or the team you've been invited to. You can find it under your dashboard, titled "My First Board". From there, you can create as many new boards as you wish. You can also create a board using one of the templates provided by Miro's default theme or import content from another source such as Google Drive or Dropbox. All changes that you make on a board are saved in real-time.

PRICE

- **Blackboard:**

Although Blackboard's pricing is tailored to each specific institution, and the pricing model is not available publicly, it has the reputation of being expensive compared to other LMSs ($9,500 USD per year has been reputed). Getting a pricing quote for your institution requires contacting a Blackboard Inc. representative. However, Blackboard does offer a free trial period.

- **Moodle:**

As Moodle is an open-source program, it is free to download and modify as you choose. When it comes to hosting Moodle on a server, you can either use your own server, pay for Moodle's own cloud-hosted option MoodleCloud (for which a free trial is available), or use a third-party hosting option. The exact costs of any of these options can vary widely depending on the number of concurrent users and space needed, although prices currently range from £80 GBP (or $120 USD) to £1,060 GBP (or $1,430 USD) annually. The most popular option is the £270 GBP (or $360 USD) "Small" server.

- **Canvas:**

Like Blackboard, the paid version of Canvas has a custom pricing model, and also offers a free trial period. Although Canvas is typically cheaper than Blackboard, it is still usually fairly pricey. The Starter version (for 50 users, with 250 MB of storage) costs $120 USD per year, the Mini version (for 100 users, with 500 MB of storage) $220 USD per year, the Small version (for 200 users, with 1 GB of storage) $390 USD per year, and the Medium version (for 500 users, with 2.5 GB of storage) $870 USD per year. Canvas' open-source version is free, although lacks the support and other additional features of the paid version.

- **LMS365:**

There are three subscription options for LMS365—LMS365 Corporate (for 50 to 299 users), LMS365 Enterprise (for 300 or more users), and LMS365 Enterprise Xtra (which offers additional offline mobile synchronisation and a Competency Manager feature). The prices for these are not publicly available, but are reputed to be lower than Canvas and Blackboard. A free trial of LMS365 is available.

- **Mahara**

Similar to Moodle, Mahara is an open-source program that you can download for free and modify as you see fit. Many people choose to run Mahara on their own server, but you can also use a third-party hosting service. The exact costs of any of these options will vary depending on the number of concurrent users and space needed.

- **Google Classroom:**

Google Classroom is free and allows teachers to create and distribute assignments, as well as communicate with students. The platform is connected to many other Google applications, such as Gmail, Drive and Docs. There are three types of subscriptions available for schools interested in enhanced capabilities for their Google Classroom: the Education Standard package, the Teaching and Learning Upgrade or Education Plus. Full list of the subscription and pricings can be found here.

- **D2L-Brightspace:**

Brightspace by D2L is available for free during your trial period. You get to explore preloaded courses, and create a test sandbox space to try out building your own course. After your trial period ends, Brightspace provides custom pricing for their software. More information on the Brightspace product or quotation, can be found here.

- **Miro:**

Miro's Education Plan offers educators and students unlimited usage for free. It also provides a two-year subscription for up to 100 students (with 10 members on each team) and allows you to keep boards private. The plan includes a high-quality facilitation and export kit. To unlock unlimited boards with essential features, more cost plans are available. Full list of Miro pricings can be found here.

HOW DO I DETERMINE THE RIGHT VLE FOR MY ORGANISATION /COMPANY?

Choosing an LMS requires the consideration of a variety of factors before you can make a decision.

- Purpose

Perhaps the best place to start is by asking: what is the desired purpose of your potential LMS? While learning management systems are typically used by education institutions, they are also commonly used by private and public sector organisations in other fields. Even Moodle, which was designed specifically for education, is used by McDonald's, Cisco, and the Bank of America!

- Number of users

The number of users is important to consider, as there must be enough space on a server to deal with all concurrent users (users logged in at the same time) without loss of performance or even outage. Lower-priced hosting options may seem like a good deal, but often provide the minimum of space.

- Compatibility

Consider your existing virtual learning set-up—do you use any programs or services that are incompatible with Canvas, Moodle, Blackboard, LMS365, Mahara, Google classroom, Brightspace, or Miro? Is there the possibility of compatibility issues with future programs? It may be useful to audit all programs and systems used by your organisation for virtual learning.

- Authentication method

How do you want your users to authenticate into your chosen LMS? Many organisations use the open-source software Shibboleth (which we support at Overt Software), compatible with Moodle, Canvas, Blackboard, LMS365 (via Microsoft's Azure AD), Mahara, Google classroom, Brightspace, and Miro. However, not all authentication methods are compatible with these platforms, and single sign-on (SSO) may not be possible with every method.

- Customer service

A fully functioning LMS is vital to the operation of many institutions, and internal IT teams are rarely fully equipped (sorry, techies!) to deal with every potential issue that an LMS could encounter. Customer support is valuable for helping avoid or fix issues like outages. Thankfully, each of these LMSs offers customer support with their paid versions, and there are also third-party support options for open-source versions.

CONCLUSION

Each LMS has positives and negatives.

- Blackboard's intuitive interface, range of customisable settings, and education-centric design make it popular with education institutions. However, its high price point is likely to be a significant drawback.

- Canvas is similar, with a useful Dashboard and many administrative and configuration tools that simplify course development. However, integration with services like Zoom is notable by its absence, and the possible customisation level is limited.

- Moodle's biggest drawbacks are its difficulty to learn, and its comparatively unintuitive interface. However, if you can overcome these, Moodle has more potential than any other LMS to suit your institution's specific needs due to the sheer level of customisation possible.

- LMS365's integration with Microsoft 365 (to the point where its interface is largely Microsoft apps themselves) is both its biggest advantage and disadvantage. For institutions based primarily on Microsoft services it can be ideal, but less so if many external applications are needed.

- Mahara's popular open-source e-portfolio platform, customisable theme settings, configurable dashboard and many administrative tools make it popular with education institutions. Especially those who have implemented a hybrid learning environment. However, Mahara's biggest drawback is its unintuitive interface which could be problematic for remote learners.

- Google Classroom is an easy-to-use product that integrates seamlessly with other Google Suite products. Integration with third-party extensions can enhance your experience, especially if certain features are limited due to the product subscription. Unfortunately, Google Classroom does not have the ability to automatically turning in uploaded work and block submissions when they're made past the deadline. Students might miss their submission deadlines because they weren't able to click "turn in" after uploading their work.

- The best part of D2L-Brightspace is that it is very robust--all the things you could imagine accomplishing are possible. The conditional releases and many different feedback options make it possible to create complex and engaging interactions. The worst part about D2L-Brightspace is that simple operations often take too many clicks. For example, setting up a grade item requires three separate clicks: in the gradebook, assignments section, and the content space.

- Miro offers many features and capabilities, it has robust live whiteboarding capabilities, a variety of pre-configured templates for different use cases, and app integrations with Azure DevOps. Miro is easy to learn but difficult to master since it has so many capabilities. While the functionality is fantastic, the administrative portion of Miro's interface could use some work. Managing/administering various Teams and Boards in the Enterprise model isn't intuitive.

Overall, if you want an LMS that is easy to learn and hosted and supported by another company, Blackboard and Canvas' paid versions, or LMS365, are all likely to fulfil your needs. It may be worth mentioning that all of cloud services that are offsite (i.e., Blackboard, Canvas, LMS365, Mahara, Google classroom, Brightspace, and Miro) would not allow you to have the kind of back-end access you could potentially get with an Open-source project like Moodle or Mahara.

So, if you're an institution that wants direct absolute control over the software, that is not possible with those unless you have subscribe to its paid plans or some sort of deal/quotation is made. If you want to benefit from complete control and potential for customisation, Moodle is likely your best bet.

Many third-party companies offer tech support and training in using LMSs, especially Moodle. Training and support for Moodle can help organisations make the most of this platform and empower administrators to understand it to the fullest. The lack of charge for downloading Moodle means these services can be a manageable and worthwhile investment.

However, it is important to research these companies and check whether they can help with any bespoke customisation and integration you want. Some companies, for example, are reluctant to install and support certain plugins.

Overt Software offers a range of [hosting, training, and highly qualified tech support](#) for Moodle, allowing organisations to benefit from this advanced learning platform while avoiding any headaches.

LMS ADMIN

Manage your LMS and VLE with ease with Overt's VLE Administration.
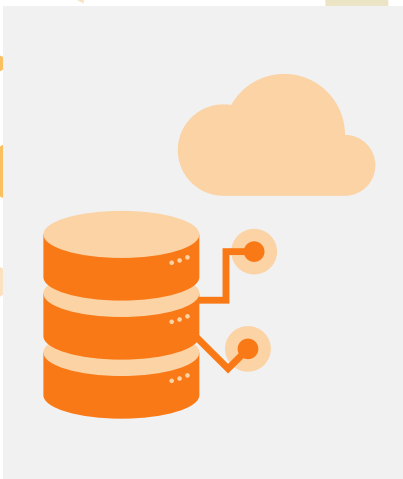
LMS SUPPORT

Need help with your LMS? Let our highly skilled team of experts provide you with the best support for your LMS.
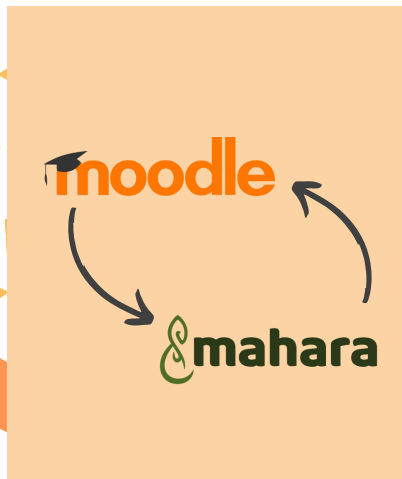
24/7 LMS SUPPORT

Overt's 24/7 support makes it easy to keep your software running smoothly! Our team of experts is always available to answer any questions or troubleshooting issues.

LMS HOSTING

No matter what your institution's size, we have a solution that will meet your needs.

MAHOODLE

Want to integrate your Moodle with Mahara? The Mahoodle makes it easy and secure!

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Do you need LMS technical help?

Overt's team of experts is here to help you tackle all your support needs!

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