26 Tips to Make You a Better Moodler

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Hello, I'm Scott

- There is absolutely no time for a proper introduction.

  - 45 minutes / 26 tips means 103 seconds per tip.

  - I gotta talk fast

- I'm Scott.

  - That's all you need to know.

Why 26 Tips?

- I run **Fortnightly Tips** at <u>learn.pukunui.com</u>.

  - A free webinar every fortnight showing you a little Moodle tip or trick.

- This presentation is actually a co-presentation with Fortnightly Tips.

  - This week's fortnightly tip is **Live@iMoot**

- 26 tips is a years' worth of "Fortnightly" homework.

Tip 1: Make a backup

- Immediately after watching these tips, go make a backup

  - Specifically of your Moodle courses, but let's be honest, when was the last time you backed up everything?

  - World Backup Day - March 31. Put it in your calendar. Now. Right now.

  - Set it to repeat every 6 months at least.

- Backup your Moodle courses.

  - Teachers can do this. Take the responsibility for doing your backup. Assume your Moodle Admin won't.

  - Admins can do this. Assume your Teachers won't.

Tip 2: Register your Moodle

- https://docs.moodle.org/33/en/Site_registration

- You'll receive email when there are new versions and important security upgrades.

- It'll make your life easier when installing plugins too.

- Don't register a dev site (i.e. a sandbox site)

Tip 3: Follow the Moodle YouTube account

- https://www.youtube.com/user/moodlehq

- Great new feature videos for new versions.

- They also release videos of selected presentations from MoodleMoots run by Moodle HQ

  - Check out this awesome guy's presentation!

- There's some other great Moodle flavoured YouTube channels

  - Check out HRDNZ for some MoodleBites!

  - Pukunui has the iMoot archives on YouTube.

Tip 4: Switch your format

- I see many people stuck in a Weekly Format.

  - Don't be afraid to change your format.

  - I find Topics Format works better for the courses I build.

- There are many (many!) course format plugins.

  - My favourites include Grid and Onetopic.

- Hey, is there an iMoot presentation on this?

  - Horses (course topics) for courses by Dom!

Tip 5: Learn to use the question bank

- The question bank is so incredibly useful, I can't believe it when I find someone who doesn't know about it!

- Build a huge bank of questions.

- Build a quiz that draws n random questions from the question bank.

  - Students get random & different questions in their quiz.

- Use the categories in the Question Bank

  - You can draw n random questions from category X.

    - Great for my ASQA compliance - draw 3 random questions from a category that covers unit ICTWEB401, Element 1

  - Categories can go across the course, category, and site level

    - Standardise your questions!

Tip 6: Learn how to use the gradebook

- Can you believe I used to never use the gradebook?

- Extremely powerful.

  - Students can see feedback for how they're doing in the course.

  - You can categorise your grade items.

  - You can select the best 4 out of 5 quizzes.

- Super powerful!

Tip 7: Learn about badges

- Badges are fun ways to engage your learners.

  - Think of girl guide or boy scout badges.

  - Can be given for completing activities or courses, or manually issued.

  - Can set an expiry date

    - Student of the Week that expires after 7 days.

- Incredibly easy to set up a badge in Moodle.

  - Want a badge? You might already have one!

- makebadg.es is a great site for creating a badge for the graphicdesignically impaired.

- Take badges across sites using Mozilla Backpack.

PRESENTER

Tip 8: Turn on completion tracking

- Completion tracking is so helpful.

  - Edit Settings > Completion tracking > Enable completion tracking

- You can set conditions which indicate when an activity has been completed by the student.

- It's worth it for the Completion Report alone.

  - At a glance see if students have completed activities!

- There's a Fortnightly Tip on this topic!

Tip 9: Learn how to use Restrict Access creatively

- Restrict Access is awesome.

- Restrict a student's ability to interact with an Activity or Resource or hide it away entirely!

- Based on Date, Group, Grade, User Profile information, or Activity Completion or a combination of all of these.

  - Display a midterm break message only during midterm break.

  - Display a tab only to users with emails ending in @pukunui.com

  - Delivery Topic 2 only when the Quiz for Topic 1 is complete.

- Some <u>fantastic plugins</u> extend this even more!

- There's a Fortnightly Tip <u>on this topic</u>!

Tip 10: Learn to love those things you hate

- I hate the Database activity.

- Hard to use, time consuming. Why would anyone ever want to use this?

- BREAK OUT OF YOUR SHELL!

- Challenge yourself!

- Stop using only the Activities and Resources you love, try using one you hate this week.

Tip 11: Kill your darlings

- When film makers are editing their movies they occasionally have to kill their darlings.

  - Scenes that they love but do not fit the flow of the film.

- This can be applied to your Moodle course.

  - Is there something you love, something that is well crafted, but does not fit the flow of the course?

  - You know you have material like this.

  - You need the courage to kill it.

- You know what, this is probably true of many aspects of your life.

  - Just saying.

Tip 12: Make a template course

- Make a template category on your Moodle.

- Build the perfect course in here.

  - Add all those cool bells and whistles.

    - The Activity Completions and Conditional Topics.

    - The beautiful teacher intro sections like the one I build using Bootstrap in my other presentation.

  - Do A/B testing with your team.

  - Backup and restore from this template course when building a new one.

    - Or just import the pieces you need!

Tip 13: Did you know you can Import Groups?

I was out on a consult and the client had a need to use the same groups across multiple courses. Cohorts wouldn't suit their needs for reasons I won't go into here.

Client: *"We just made a backup that included only the groups, and then we restore this into the target courses. Are we doing it right?"*

Scott: "That's brilliant!"

Tip 14: Be cool about copyright

- I need a photo of Sydney. I'll just do a Google Images search and use whatever comes up, right?

- NOOOOOOOOOO!

- You can't just grab whatever photos you find off the Internet.

  - You could buy some stock images if you have the dough.

  - Look into <u>Creative Commons</u>.

  - Don't just take, consider putting your material back into the Creative Commons!

- Not just pictures!

  - Has anyone ever played "wait music" in their BBB/Connect session while waiting for students? Hmmm???

Tip 15: Get a dev Moodle

- Dev Moodle = Development Moodle

- You do not want to try weird things on your live "Production Moodle"

  - I always break things.

  - Destroying student data is usually a bad thing.

- Set up another server

  - AWS micro instance.

  - Local instance (available from Moodle Downloads page)

  - At the very least, build a Sandpit category that students don't have access to.

Tip 16: Try to break your dev Moodle

- Hey, if you have a Dev Moodle, go nuts!

- Install weird plugins, see if they work.

- Try a crazy theme, flick all the switches and twist all the dials.

- Use this for your A/B testing.

- Use this to try adding HTML/CSS/Bootstrap/JavaScript

  - OMG, can a teacher include JavaScript in a label?

  - Let's find out!!

- Go nuts. Break your Dev Moodle.

Tip 17: Learn a little HTML, CSS and Bootstrap

- If you really want your course to look sweet, you're going to need to get your hands dirty.

- HTML and CSS are the languages of the web.

  - Wherever there's an ATTO editor in Moodle, you can edit the HTML code.

- Bootstrap is a great way to add design elements to your course with the minimum work.

  - Many themes include Bootstrap - Boost, Essential are examples.

  - Let Bootstrap inspire you!

  - Is there an iMoot presentation on this?

Tip 18: Try some plugins

- *The M in Moodle is for Modular!*

- Trying new plugins is a great use for your Dev Moodle.

  - Themes, Course Formats, Question Types, Activity Restrictions, Assignment Submission Methods, the list goes on and on.

- There's a great iMoot presentation on this: The Top 50 Moodle Plugins by Stuart

- Why try on your Dev and not Production?

  - Well... sometimes things go wrong.

  - Bad thing to happen 2 hours before a major exam.

Tip 19: Sign up for a MOOC

- What's a MOOC?

  - Multiple Open Online Course

  - An online course **you** can join and learn something cool!

- Moodle's MOOC site: https://learn.moodle.net/

- A Free Moodle Mobile MOOC?
  http://mobile.moodlebites.com/

  - Just started-ish (May 1st)

- There are lots of awesome MOOCs out there, keep your eyes open!

Tip 20: Listen to a Moodle podcast

Are you a podcast listener?

I am a huge podcast listener. Daily I'm listening to my Canadian news podcasts, and lots of fun ones too. But did you know there's a Moodle podcast?

The Free Moodle Podcast by HRDNZ (monthly)

Tip 21: Join the MUA

- Why not join the Moodle Users Association?

- Not-for-Profit organisation which helps support Moodle.

  - Members can put forward project proposals for new additions to Moodle.

  - Members have a vote to which project to pursue that cycle.

  - A great way to get involved and support the development of Moodle.

- $110 yearly.

Tip 22: Go to a Moot or a meetup

- Hey, you're here! Congrats!

- iMoot is awesome, but why not also attend a real life Moot or Meetup?

  - The <u>Moodle Calendar</u> has upcoming Moots.

  - I've personally been to Australian, New Zealand and Japanese Moots. And I love it! So many other moodlers to meet and share with!

- Maybe there's a Moodle <u>Meetup</u> group near you

Tip 23: Socialise at a moot

- Your Moot experience will suck if you hide in the corner.

- Be brave, and go meet people.

  - Introduce yourself to a speaker you enjoyed in the hallway track.

  - Talk to the people sitting near you in the conference hall during the breaks.

  - Attend the social events.

- Get a Twitter account and tweet on the hashtag.

  - I cannot stress this enough - this is how you'll make new friends

- Hang out in **Oranges Cafe** and tweet on **#iMoot17**.

Tip 24: Go to a non-Moodle conference or meetup

- To be a better Moodle, you need to push yourself beyond Moodle.

  - Don't get trapped in a bubble. Find inspiration elsewhere.

  - There are plenty of other education conferences.

    - ASCILITE, EduTech, FLANZ, NCVER

  - There are plenty of other tech conferences.

    - WordCamp, LinuxConf, DrupalCon, BuzzConf

- Tap into deeper inspiration. Find the non-Moodle things here, and bring them back to our community.

Tip 25: Present at a moot

- Everyone has a story to share.

- Share your story.

  - Be brave, submit a proposal.

- **I expect and demand you answer the call for proposals for the next iMoot.**

Tip 26: Join me at Fortnightly Tips

Pukunui's Fortnightly Tips webinar offers you chance to learn tricks of the trade about how to use the Moodle™ LMS like a pro. Find out about time saving tricks or features you didn't know Moodle had in a short 15 minute online video conference.

learn.pukunui.com

June 2's Topic: Using Big Blue Button

Thank You!

Questions?

Continue the conversation:

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