

DE@CUESTA

DE@CUESTA Online

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Got Something to Share?

Send best practices, suggestions, and web links for inclusion in DE@CUESTA to aklinger@cuesta.edu

Note for Cuesta DE Instructors

from Computer Services

Cuesta's Network Upgrade December 27-30



On **December 27** (Tuesday) through **December 30** (Friday) Computer Services will be performing a major upgrade to the college's network storage. During this time some systems may be intermittently **unavailable**, including employee e-mail, network drives, Citrix, Cuesta's website, myCuesta, and Banner.

"What about e-mail?"

E-mail being sent during this period to Cuesta College employees will be temporarily stored for later delivery. Student email will not be affected.

"Will I still be able to log into my computer?"

If you are on campus that week, (*Shame on you! It's holiday! Go home!*) you will be able to login to your desktop computer and have access to the Internet.

"What about...?"

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Computer Services (x3248).

Bottom Line?

During this period, December 27-30, we recommend (if you can) refraining from logging on and simply have a wonderful vacation! :-)

In response to the numerous calls, Computer Services offers the following...



Firefox Facts

Fact One – You may already have Firefox installed on your computer even if you don't see it on your Desktop.

To check for Firefox, perform the following:

1. Click the **Start** button on the lower left of your screen.
2. Point at **Programs**.
A list of all installed programs will appear.
3. Look for "**Firefox**" or "**Mozilla**" in the listing.
If you do not see either, then Firefox is not on your system.

Fact Two – If you have Firefox installed, it's easy to put a shortcut on your Desktop.

1. To put Firefox on your Desktop:
2. Go to **Start > Programs**.
3. Right-click on "Firefox" or "Mozilla Firefox".
A shortcut menu will appear.
4. Point at **Send To**, and then, from the side menu, click on **Desktop (create shortcut)**.

from Sean Landers

Let Your Voice Be Heard!



Take two minutes to complete the [Tech. Training Survey for Spring 2012](#).

Your responses will determine what technology training classes are offered, as well as when and where they are offered.

Best Practices:

Archiving Your Online Content and Communications

Now is the time to start saving your files, communications, and records so that you will have access to them in the future, even when your access to the learning management system (LMS) you use terminates. Most importantly, download your grade book, particularly since some students take Incompletes and others contest their grades. You want to be able to go back to your records in future semesters without having to have access to Blackboard or whatever learning management system you are using. Similarly, save pertinent emails, if they are in your LMS's internal email system, as they are with Blackboard.

Backing up your entire Blackboard course shell is an excellent practice, but keep in mind that you have to have access to Blackboard to open it subsequently. Also, such a back up does not save emails, announcements, discussion posts, and chat logs. For many online instructors, the communications areas of their courses are actually the most active and content-rich. So if you want to recycle your content from those areas to use in future courses or if you want to be able to refer to communications down the line, be sure to archive your materials in addition to backing up your course.

Cuesta's license with Blackboard terminates at the end of the Spring Semester 2012. While Blackboard and Moodle will both operate during Spring 12, Blackboard access will terminate at the end of the Spring 12 semester. There will be no access Blackboard for Summer 12, since Cuesta's license with Bb will be expired.

Sonoma State University provides an excellent DIY guide to archiving, entitled "[Last Minute Tasks for WebCT](#)."

- [Archive & Download Course Files \(PDF\)](#)
- [Archive & Download Assignment Dropbox Submissions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Archive & Download Discussions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Archive & Download Your WebCT Course Grade Book \(PDF\)](#)

Keep in mind, though, that you both want to back up your course and archive your communications content and student records, giving yourself access to both even after the College's license with Blackboard expires or even when you no longer have access to the College's LMS.

Now in moodle NEWS

Moodle's Worldwide Organization Site

Moodle is a Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a Free web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites.

"[Moodle.org/educators](#) is a wonderful resource full ways you can improve your Moodle, connect with peers and discuss the intricacies of a quality online classroom."

Moodle Articles, Demos, and How-To-Links

Moodle Tutorials

2 Minute Moodles: Quick tutorials for educators on the go.

Moodle Tutorials: Faculty: A collection of tutorials, from the IT & Media Dept. of NJIT.

Moodle Support: User Guides and other Resources from the University of Minnesota.

Moodle 2.0 Quizzes: A comprehensive guide to the Moodle 2.0 Quiz tool from the University of Minnesota Technology Training Center.

Moodle 2.0 E-Learning Course Development by William Rice.

Moodle Student FAQ

Check out [MoodleTuts](#), a web resource dedicated to 5-minute Moodle tutorials- who says learning can't come in snack sized packages?

Moodle 2.0 Preview: "Each journey begins with a step, and the Moodle 2.0 Preview is the first step in changing the image of the LMS."

Check out the [Moodle Demonstration Site](#), designed in Moodle 2.0 "for you to explore features in Moodle 2.0. The database and files are erased and restored to a clean state every hour on the hour, so don't worry if you make a mess." At the course demo site, you can view a course in Moodle Basics and learn all you need to know from "Understanding Moodle."

Moodle Recipes for Educators - a community cookbook! This is a growing collection of teaching and learning 'recipes' of using Moodle in a range of educational settings. The recipes are contributed by educators for educators.

Seeking Online Teaching Training?

“The @ONE Project @ONE’s programs provide training, online resources and research for free - or at a very low cost - thanks to funding from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office Telecommunication and Technology Infrastructure Program (TTIP).”

[Introduction to Online Teaching and Learning \(WAITLIST\)](#)

Tue, 02/21/2012 - 12:00am - Fri, 03/16/2012 - 12:00am PST

[Creating Accessible Online Courses](#)

Tue, 02/21/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 03/16/2012 - 5:00am PST

[Building Online Community with Social Media \(WAITLIST\)](#)

Tue, 02/21/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 03/16/2012 - 5:00pm (PST)

[Designing Effective Online Assessments](#)

Mon, 02/27/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 03/23/2012 - 5:00pm PST

[Introduction to Teaching with Moodle](#)

Mon, 03/05/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 03/30/2012 - 5:00pm PST

[Introduction to Teaching with Blackboard 9.1](#)

Mon, 03/05/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 03/30/2012 - 5:00pm PST

[Introduction to Online Teaching and Learning](#)

Mon, 04/09/2012 - 12:00am - Fri, 05/04/2012 - 12:00am PST

[Building Online Community with Social Media](#)

Mon, 05/07/2012 - 8:00am - Fri, 06/01/2012 - 5:00pm PST

For those of you interested in the training opportunities from @ONE, remember that Cuesta has a pre-paid account. All you have to do is use the coupon code cu3st4pl4n when you register (the third character from the end is a lower-case L, not the numeral 1).

Want A Grant?

Check out this searchable list of federal funding programs and foundations that offer [grant opportunities](#) for distance learning.

Must Read

- [“Online Programs Face New Demands From Accreditors,”](#) by Eric Kelderman.
- [“7 Community Colleges Open an Online Doorway to Better Grades and Graduation Rates,”](#) by Josh Fischman.
- [“Ask My Readers: Working With an Instructional Designer,”](#) by Dean Dad.
- [“Growing Popularity of E-Learning,”](#) by Elia Powers.
- [“Are Online and Traditional Learning Substitutes or Complements?”](#) by Sandy Baum and Michael McPherson.
- [“The Strengths of Online Learning?”](#) by Frank Donoghue.
- [“Another Look at the Weaknesses of Online Learning,”](#) by Frank Donoghue.
- [“Online Learning: Final Concerns,”](#) by Frank Donoghue.
- [“Myths of Online Education,”](#) by Steve Kolowich.
- [“Online Higher Education: Offering a Global Perspective,”](#) by the Staff Writers at The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- [“Why You Should Root for College to Go Online,”](#) by Clayton Christensen and Henry Eyring.
- [“A Social Network Can Be a Learning Network,”](#) by Derek Bruff.
- [“Foreign-Language Instruction, Digitally Speaking,”](#) by Marc Parry.
- [“Digital Humanities \(Triumphant?\) at AHA and MLA 2012,”](#) by Ryan Cordell.
- [“Do ‘the Risky Thing’ in Digital Humanities,”](#) by Kathleen Fitzpatrick.
- [“Art Programs Build Models for Online Instruction,”](#) by Katherine Mangan.
- [“Getting Started with Blended Learning Course Design,”](#) by Mary Bart.
- [“The Problem That Has No Name: Or, If Computers Are A Labor Saving Device, Why Am I Working A Double Shift?”](#) by Claire Potter.
- [“A Secret Rule,”](#) by Libby A. Nelson.

Must Read cont.

- [Title 5 Regulations on Distance Education](#)
- [National Education Technology Plan 2010](#).
- [“Guidelines for Good Practice: Effective Instructor-Student Contact in Distance Learning,”](#) The Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, Adopted Spring 1999.
- [“Guide to Evaluating Distance Education & Correspondence Education,”](#) A Publication of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges, October 2010 Edition.
- [Distance Education Guidelines for Students with Disabilities](#) Task Force Issued: January 2011.
- [“Distance Education Report,”](#) California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Jack Scott, Chancellor, Prepared by the Academic Affairs Division and the Office of Communications, April 2011.
- ["2010 Distance Education Survey Results: Trends in eLearning: Tracking The Impact of eLearning at Community Colleges,"](#) Instructional Technology Council.

Must Follow

- [“Introducing the Digital Humanities,”](#) by KBJACK.
- [Online Learning: A Special Report from The Chronicle of Higher Education.](#)

Must See

- [8 Alternatives to Traditional Mathematics Education](#)
- [Seaquence:](#) an interactive experiment in which “you can create and combine musical lifeforms resulting in an organic, dynamic composition.”
- [Academic Earth](#)

Tips & Tricks

- [“Fostering Collaborative Critical Thinking through Online Group Quizzes,”](#) by Rob Kelly.
- [“Teaching Carnival 5.02,”](#) by Prof. Hacker.
- [WISC-Online Repository](#)

- [“Making Online Discussion Boards Work for Skills-Based Courses,”](#) by Rob Kelly.
- [“Games in the Classroom \(part 1\),”](#) by Anastasia Salter.
- [“Games in the Classroom \(part 2\),”](#) by Anastasia Salter.
- [“Games in the Classroom \(part 3\),”](#) by Anastasia Salter.
- [The Digital Dead Sea Scrolls](#)

Conference & Paper Calls

- [E-Learning Conferences Worldwide:](#) a one link wonder listing all upcoming E-Learning conferences everywhere.
- [Call for Proposals: Submission deadline Feb. 15, 2012. Moodle Moot US West Coast 2012, July 31– Aug. 3, 2012. Los Angeles, California.](#)
- [2012 Modern Language Association Conference, Jan. 5-8, 2012. Seattle, WA.](#)
- [THATCamp Games: Applications Now Open.](#) Co-organizers Anastasia Salter and Amanda Visconti “invite faculty, administrators, game scholars and designers, research and archival librarians, and students interested in the confluence of games and humanities.” THATCamp Games will take place Jan. 20–22, 2012. University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- [eLearning 2012 Annual Conference](#) for eLearning administrators, faculty, instructional designers, online media specialists, and web course developers. Feb. 18–21, 2012. The Westin, Long Beach, CA.
- [9th Annual Sloan-C Blended Learning Conference and Workshop, April 23-24, 2012. Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.](#)
- [28th Annual Conference on Distance Learning & Teaching, Aug. 8-10, 2012. Madison, WI. Call for Papers: Online submission only. Submission deadline 4pm \(CST\) Jan. 19, 2012.](#)
- [Academic Exchange Quarterly,](#) independent double-blind-peer-reviewed print journal, welcomes submissions that contribute to effective instruction and learning regardless of level or subject.
- [The MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching \(JOLT\)](#) is a peer-reviewed, open access, online publication addressing the scholarly use of multimedia resources in online education. JOLT is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Cuesta is Migrating to moodle

Attention students and faculty! We're happy to announce that Cuesta will be moving to Moodle.

Moodle is an Open Source Learning Management System (LMS) in use at more than 50,000 sites worldwide. Over the course of 2010-11, the Distance Education Committee worked with a subcommittee of the Technology Committee and the Director of Distance Education to evaluate LMS options, and recommended Moodle, which meets our requirements for functionality, flexibility, and sustainability.

In order to maximize effectiveness, Cuesta will join forces with Remote-Learner USA, which will provide remote hosting, support, and some training on the new system.

Implementation of Moodle will take place during the 2011-12 academic year with the goal of moving all DE classes to Moodle by Summer 2012. Blackboard will be available during this transition, but will be phased out by June 2012. There will be no change to MyCourses with this transition.

Timeline:

Fall 2011:

- Faculty training—approved for Flex and Professional Development—is scheduled for October 6, October 7, and November 23 (depending on interest.) Each of these sessions is a full day (6 hours), hands-on training on the SLO campus. Registration information coming soon.
- Develop integration between Banner and Moodle.
- Post online training materials for faculty and students.
- Remote-Learner migrates course content from backup Blackboard files to Moodle.

Spring 2012:

- Additional faculty training (dates to be determined.)
- Begin teaching some DE classes in Moodle.

Summer 2012:

- All DE classes offered on Moodle.
- Instructor support available throughout the term to ease transition.

Please contact [Mark Stengel](#) if you have questions. (805) 546-3159