LATEST NEWS

PowerPoint in MyLO

PowerPoint is a versatile and powerful teaching tool - in addition to text, you can add colour images, graphs and more to your slides, as well as spoken commentary.

Providing a copy of your PowerPoint presentation through MyLO is generally much appreciated by students. However, you will need to address a number of issues for trouble-free access:

- PowerPoint (.ppt) files can be substantial in size – eg because of added images, special effects or narration. Large file sizes can cause considerable download delays for students with limited home Internet facilities (and can impact on monthly download limits);
- Students will need either the PowerPoint software installed on their computer, or the PowerPoint Viewer plug-in to view the .ppt presentation; and
- You may also be concerned about intellectual property rights and not wish students to be able to download and modify your work directly.

The Staff Guide: Powerpoint presentations online shows ways to address these issues and concerns and shows how to prepare your presentation through to online distribution.

User Progress tool: important update

Through the User Progress tool students have had access to the numeric grade for an assessment task.

We are actively working with the vendor to establish a resolution and in the interim, student access to the User Progress tool has now been temporarily disabled until a solution to the issue is found.

Teaching staff can still access the User Progress tool to track their students' overall progress and prepare progress reports.

For assistance with any enquires regarding the User Progress tool, please contact
- TILT Educational Developers;
- MyLO Service Desk MyLO.Support@utas.edu.au or X 1818

Mastering MyLO

Tip 16: Independent learning objectives

Independent learning objectives can be created to demonstrate to students the link between a unit’s intended learning outcomes and the respective assessment tasks.

For detailed information see the Desktop Guide – Creating an independent learning objective.

Are you a MyLO maestro?

Have you made MyLO sing? Are you achieving great things that your students are enjoying? Have you discovered new and exciting ways to deliver material?

If you have an experience you’d like to share, please contact: MyLO.Support@utas.edu.au

Stay in touch

If you have experienced any problems, or you have the need for a specific resource or an accessible version, please contact: MyLO.Support@utas.edu.au.

Bookable support at TILT

Bookable MyLO support is available via TILT in Launceston and Hobart, in dedicated spaces for support sessions with an Educational Developer. To book a personal or small group session, contact:

Hobart: www.utasmyloworkshops.clickbook.net
Launceston: Jo Osborne (x5006)

For all your support needs, please contact:
service.desk@utas.edu.au or call 6226 1818
www.utas.edu.au/learning-teaching-online
CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B
Are you teaching in Semester 4?

6 weeks to go!

If you’re starting to develop your Semester 4 unit, it might be useful to learn ways to improve the structure of a unit, which can be found in the Getting Started section of the MyLO website.

You can then go on to the Unit Builder which will help you outline the unit, add modules and insert placeholders for the resources you wish to add later.

For personal help with creating a unit, contact an Educational Developer at TILT, or visit the MyLO website.

Avoiding Dropbox errors

Drop boxes are a great way to collect assignments and materials but it is important to carefully consider the Folder Type setting (Individual or Group) for Dropbox itself, which will affect the access permissions of the contents.

A common mistake is to create a Dropbox, identify the folder as Folder Type>Group, then to either select a unit cohort group or a distance/on-campus group. This creates one submission area per group and ALL students within that group can view ALL submissions in that collection. To rebuild the Dropbox so that each submission is private in these circumstances requires assistance from MyLO Support in recreating the folder and involves students re-submitting their work.

Instead, to create a Dropbox only available to a specific group with private individual submissions, the release condition Classlist>Group enrolment needs to be added on the restrictions tab.

Remember that one grade is given for all members of the group – individual grades cannot be given.

For more information on setting release conditions, see the Desktop Guide – Setting Release Conditions.

For the calendar

Following the success of the inaugural D2L event in 2012, IGNITE Asia Pacific 2013, the second regional users conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia this year.

IGNITE Asia Pacific is a gathering of all organisations across the Asia-Pacific region using or interested in using Desire2Learn products and services.

One of the key speakers will be Dr. Siemens, a founding member of the Society for Learning Analytics Research. He is on the editorial board of numerous journals and has pioneered massive open online courses (MOOCs) that have included almost 20,000 participants.

Dates: 8-10 September Location: Melbourne, Australia Venue: The Langham Melbourne.

Visit the website to find out more.
Profile: Visual arts online

Maureen Innes, Unit Coordinator in Visual Arts & Design has a vision for her Masters course – a completely online visual arts course.

Maureen has a very successful track record in face-to-face teaching, but says the move to online learning meant that if she wanted the same result, she was going to have to transform her pedagogy entirely.

“It was extremely important to me, and the students, that their work could be presented in the online environment visually and that they could be creative in their digital journal. There needed to be a visible thinking tool that could be used as students moved through their assessment task, in a way that I could observe and provide comments,” she explains.

“I read up on digital journals and then worked closely with TILT to explore how to achieve what I wanted.”

Educational Developer Nell Rundle has helped Maureen establish an ePortfolio in which each student logged a weekly reflection item – whether it be audio, pictures, a narrative or a document – then compiled these into an individual assessment collection for each student.

Once students provided access to Maureen via the share function in ePortfolio, she was then able to provide valuable feedback to each student as they progressed through their unit. She could also make personalised and individual recommendations to students based on the direction of their own pursuits against the learning objectives.

Nell says that while the initial set up was a great solution, it is being tweaked over time to a more efficient system to help Maureen cope with an influx of reflection items.

“Each student, each week, providing a reflection was cumbersome,” Nell explains, “so we are working on creating a collection for each student, and the reflections are logged into the collection, which Maureen can check at any time.”

Maureen reports that students are thoroughly enjoying the experience and many are changing their preconceptions about learning online.

“Students are providing me with an enormous amount of feedback. Some who were very sceptical are now very enthusiastic.”

“The key to its success has been that it has created a community of learning – this is central to good online learning. I know that there are more things I can explore and I will keep going until I find ways to achieve the results I’m expecting.”