CoSECTOR | UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Our Development Team have a wealth of experience creating high quality, bespoke solutions for our customers

Examples of our development work

Where an existing solution is not available, our team of developers can implement API and web service developments to support bespoke integration between Moodle and a range of third-party and proprietary software packages. We can also develop Moodle plugins such as Coursework to extend Moodle assignment to supporting multiple markers and blind and double marking.

Extended function of current Moodle web services

CoSector have been adding web service functionality to Moodle since before web service functionality was provided by Moodle's core code. Now Moodle has web services as part of its core we still extend the functionality provided.

Obtain student daily usage information:

The problem: Our client had a data processing team that was well versed in providing their institution with statistics in their chosen environment. The institution wanted to gather information on the usage of the VLE by their students. This information needed to be as comprehensive and current as possible. The institution's data processing team did not have the knowlegde of Moodle's data architecture or the expertise in Moodle development needed to create such a plugin.

How we helped: CoSector developed a custom web service solution that both collates and transforms Moodle data into the meaningful information that the institution needed. The solution used overnight scheduled processing to carry out the data collation at times of low usage and provided our client with a web service function that allowed them to pull the data at a time that was convenient to them.

Automation

Automated creation of assessment activity instances within Moodle:

The problem: Our client needed to create a large number of assessment activities within Moodle in a large number of courses manually. The manual process involved using module assessment information to create assessment activities in Moodle. This process occurred in bulk twice a year and often took administration staff two weeks to complete. The creation process would often lead to errors due to various different configurations needed. When they occurred these errors were often not identified until students had started using the assessments which lead to additional problems.

How we helped: CoSector created a solution that allows assessment instances to be created in bulk using data provided by either web service or uploaded in a CSV. The solution provided allowed all of the various assessment configurations to be created, also providing an admin dashboard allowing for the centralised control of all instances that had been created.

Single Sign On

The problem: Our client wanted to provide their users with a seamless user experience using single sign on however due to the nature of the sector that the client is in they were unable to provide Moodle with access to their LDAP servers. They required a method of carrying out single sign on that was both secure and enabled all of their users to login without needing to create new accounts for users before first use. They already had an authentication service that could be leveraged however they did not have the expertise to integrate it with Moodle.

How we helped: CoSector created a single sign on authentication solution for Moodle that authenticated users using the clients' current authentication server without having to access the client's LDAP information directly. The solution allowed user accounts to be created on the fly for existing users and allowed all authentication to be carried out at clients normal single sign on login point that was familiar to their users.