

TOPIC: TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY

QUESTION: What are the pros and cons of using this technology?

“Using a content management system allows your content experts to publish that content easily on the internet. It doesn’t require that they really understand a lot about HTML. If they can click a mouse and they can type, then they can basically put their ideas and their content up onto the Internet. And, traditionally, teacher’s are gonna do a lot of this stuff at home. With this system, you can just go home, fire up your computer whatever kind you have and, fire up your web browser, go in, login to the site, and have access and can change it. You can bold, italicize, underline, left, center, or right align text. You can do insertion of pictures, for example, without FTP but, there are some issues still with the pictures. It’s easy to get them up. It’s still easier than doing them via FTP, but uh, you run into a problem. In the new system... all the images get uploaded into one big repository in the slash files directory. So, basically, one teacher is gonna see everybody else’s images when they go to insert an image.

The Moodle learning management system allows you to create your own folders, and you can put content, you can put PDF’s, Word documents, whatever you want, images that you want to appear on, inside of your content, all of that is put inside it’s own place. So, they are working on some of those restrictions. But, probably the biggest disadvantage is that if someone wants out of the ordinary then it requires a lot of extra knowledge and quite a lot of extra time.

Another disadvantage is you can assign group permissions or individual permissions but, it’s on a module by module basis. And, there’s no really easy way to change all of the permissions on a module by module basis.”

JOHN MANSEL-PLYDELL
Education Technologist
Northwest Ohio Computer Association