

# Improvements to COEP Moodle

A Project Report

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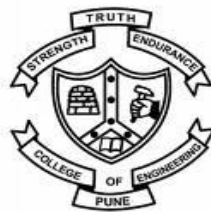
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## **Abstract**

Moodle is an open source Learning Management System(LMS). Moodle has rich set of functionalities related to site management, user management and course management. Some typical features of Moodle are Assignment submission, discussion forum, files download, grading, online quiz, online news and announcement,etc. Moodle modular system provides many types of plugins like activities, themes, question types, assignments.

**College Of Engineering Pune (COEP)** Moodle uses many facilities provided by Moodle like assignment submission, discussion forum, online quiz, etc. While using this system administrators found some special requirements and improvements in existing moodle. Specific requirements of this system are like static bulk management of courses, simple multiple choice question type plugin, grader report enhancement for user files and student gradebook for all the courses she is registered. The implementation of these requirements will help the administrators to use COEP moodle easily and according to their requirements.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Moodle

Moodle has many features typically of an e-learning platform. Moodle's basic structure is organized around courses, these are areas within moodle where teacher can post learning resources and activities to students. A user with the role of Administrator is typically in charge of a Moodle site once it has been installed, although some tasks may be given to others by assigning them a role such as Manager. The M in Moodle stands for modular. The easiest and most maintainable way to add new functionality to Moodle is by writing one of these types of plugin.

#### 1.1.1 COEP Moodle

College Of Engineering Pune (COEP) Moodle uses many facilities provided by Moodle like assignment submission, discussion forum, online quiz, etc. COEP also uses Moodle for managing courses across all the departments of institute. Moodle provides a number of ways of managing authentication, called authentication plugins, whereas COEP Moodle uses LDAP server for authentication.

By the perspective of user like administrator, student and teacher it is required to have the software be user-friendly and customizable according to her use. Therefore some of the requirements observed necessary by administrators of COEP Moodle are selected for implementation.

### 1.2 Improvements to Moodle

Moodle seems perfect in its design and implementations, but there are some features that needs to be added or some of them are needed to be changed in design to achieve maximum



throughput in less work. Some of those corrections were chose and implemented.

### **1.2.1 Simple Multiple Choice Subplugin**

The current scenario of adding Multiple Choice questions[9] to a quiz are pretty vast. So, making it easy, i.e. putting a question and adding required options with one answer correct should add a question and the type will be Simple Multiple Choice questions type.

The thing that makes the current scenario of adding multiple choice questions vast is the feedback. A lot of feedback fields are created, i.e feedback for question, for each answer, and to the overall question. More about the task is discussed in further chapter 3.2 .

### **1.2.2 Static Management of Courses**

Management of courses is the job of Manager or Administrator of Moodle. In the recent versions of course management pages, the single button action is utilized which refreshes the page on each action, which makes the job slow. So a job of designing a plugin was required so that the all of these actions to be done would be recorded and on clicking submit button all the actions should take place.

The current architecture of management of plugins in moodle had to be changed. Now on completion of task, the actions are recorded and can be acted upon in one click.

### **1.2.3 Grader Report Enhancement for user files**

The main task of Teachers in Moodle, is to grant grades to students based on their work. The same is done in moodle in a form that takes input from teachers and on submitting the grades would be assigned. In current Moodle page, Teacher has to look at the students code by going to his submission page then download his work and then give grades on this page. Bulk grading is not possible with this approach as teacher will have to navigate a lot throughout.

So a link was needed in the same input form. A link which would directly download the work submitted by the students.

### **1.2.4 Student Gradebook**

Moodle does not support to get the grade report of each student. i.e. the student's marks of the semester for all the subjects.

So task was to design a page, which will help students to see their current status of each courses as well as could export the semester report.

## Chapter 2

# Overview Of Moodle API

### 2.1 Moodle

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (Moodle)[1] as the full-form specifies the Moodle code is Modular and Object Oriented. The modularity is gained by the use of API's in Moodle[2]. There are API's in moodle for nearly everything, and these API's are grouped as core API's and complementary API's. Core API's[2] are the ones which were developed on the base code of Moodle, while complementary API's are developed while writing a plugin for Moodle. These plugins serve the purpose of customization because they can be installed manually and to the need, i.e. installing all the plugins is not mandatory, but depends on need of the user. For example, plagiarism plugin. These complementary API's are also known as Activity module API.

Moodle is very much flexible and customizable in the working environment. The varied weekly activities such as assignments, quiz, adding some study material, adding link etc. makes moodle flexible to use. It is on the verge of becoming the complete platform as the most varied dynamic learning systems. The customizability comes from the installation of required plugins.

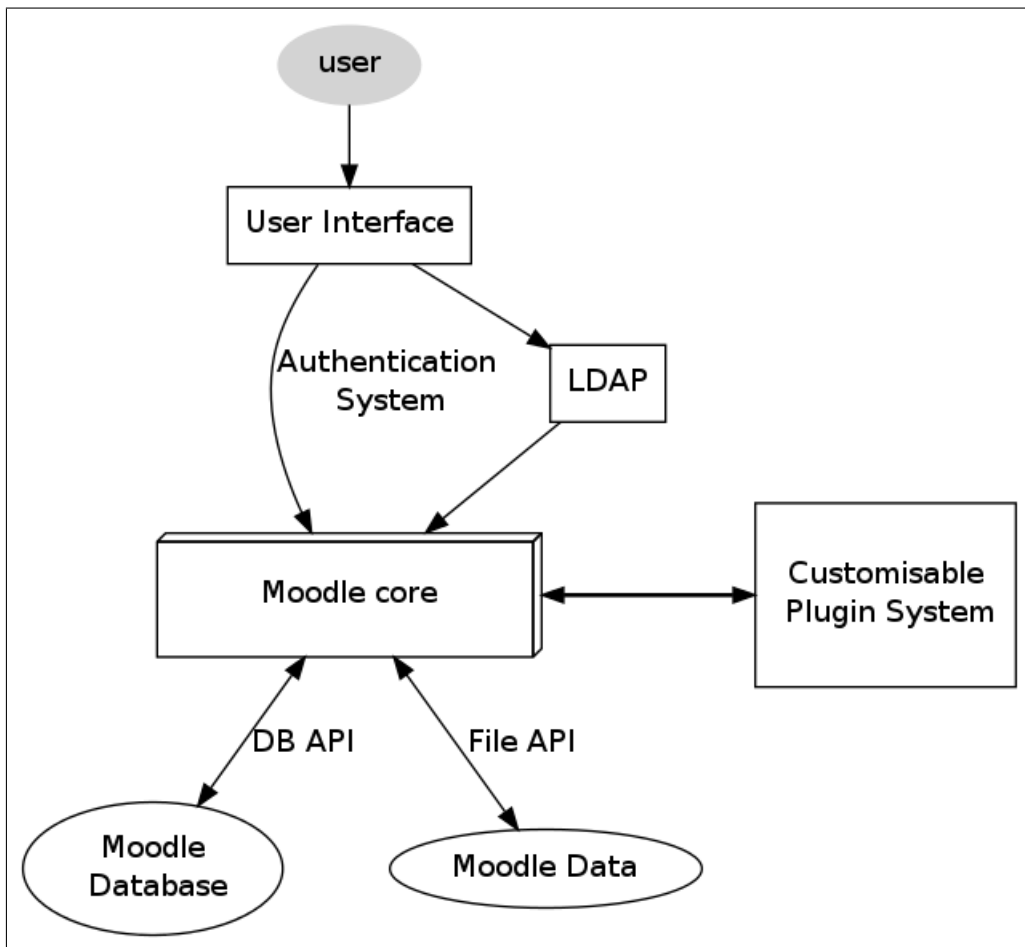


Figure 2.1: Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (Moodle) Basic Architecture Diagram

## 2.2 Moodle API

### Introduction

The **A**pplication **P**rogramming **I**nterface (API) are developed in the sense to add modularity, and all of these API's are written Object Oriented. These API provides different tools in moodle scripting and which are then used in moodle plugins to add new feature to enhance the user customizability. The Core API are used everywhere in the moodle code, and thus are used in basic code design. For example, the Access API deals with the current user log-ins, and her capabilities at the particular page.

We found following APIs useful for our work, Access API, String API, Form API, File API, Page API, Output API, Data manipulation API, Gradebook API and more[2].

### 2.2.1 Access API

Access API[3] deals with granting the access of Moodle features to the logged in user by checking her context and capabilities that are defined while defining the roles. Thus access API works as the means of checking if the user has capability to even view this feature, if yes then allow the access to that feature. Thus though some users can access a particular file that also consists of some administrator features, she'll not be even able to see/sense those features, that's the level of Moodle security which serves the purpose of restricting access. This type of security makes it hard to crack by Mal-users.

The defining of new capabilities is done while writing the code of the particular plugin in its db/ directory in the file named *access.php*, while granting of these capabilities is done at the installation of the plugin. Access API has the sequence of features predefined, i.e. to define the capabilities to fetch the contexts with the help of some functions. Defining of capabilities of done in db/access.php. The various macros that are required to define in this file are defined in moodle/lib/accesslib.php file, which is the library file. Therefore the file would contain all the required functions necessary for this API are in accesslib.php, thus we can say that Access API is written in accesslib.php.

Listing 2.1: code snippet from moodle/mod/assign/db/access.php[4]

```
$capabilities = array(
    'mod/assign:view' => array(
        'captype' => 'read',
        'contextlevel' => CONTEXT_MODULE,
        'archetypes' => array(
```

```

    'guest' => CAP_ALLOW,
    'student' => CAP_ALLOW,
    'teacher' => CAP_ALLOW,
    'editingteacher' => CAP_ALLOW,
    'manager' => CAP_ALLOW
)
)
);

```

The capabilities array as defined in `db/access.php`. The name of the capability is of type *pluginname/pluginname:capabilityname*. The file is run at the installation phase of the plugin, so once the capabilities are defined, those are stored in database table *capabilities*.

The important functions are then defined in `accesslib.php` library file. Once the context is stored in database, it can be fetched from the use of Moodle functions in various ways. An exception is thrown if context can not be created. The main class written to get context is *class context* defined in `lib/accesslib.php`. The various inherited classes from this class like *class context\_system* from system context, *class context\_course* to get course context. All of these classes have a *function instance* which returns the context if already present, else returns a *dml exception*, which means the record is not found in database. The default context is also granted if `SYSCONTEXTID` is defined and is allowed to be cached.

Defining the context and then fetching the context does not solve the problem of access control. So the various functions are defined which returns Boolean as of the result if the user has that capability or not. For example, *function has\_capability()* and *function require\_capability()* are the two functions which does the job. *function require\_capability()* calls *function has\_capability()*, with adjusted arguments.

In this way serving of access control is done by Access API, which is the most used and most important Core API in Moodle design.

### 2.2.2 String API

On the topic of localization of web, moodle ensures every possibility to add the local language plugin as **L**anguage **P**ackage (`langpack`), to improve localization. Currently moodle consists of over 90 langpacks and the count is not constant. Thus every locality is ensured to take benefit from Moodle.

This localization is possible because of the string API[5], defined in moodle. The API deals with how you want to display the text strings in User Interface.

There are two types to define the strings, one is to define the strings in main moodle/lang/ directory, and the other one is to create the lang/ directory in the plugin directory. The lang/ directory consists of the lang packs with the acronym-ed names of directories as the language content. The function of the files from these directories is that to store the strings with an identifier as the key of associative array.

Listing 2.2: Language strings from moodle/lang/en/moodle.php[6]

```
$string['coursesshown'] = 'Course successfully shown';
```

\$string is an associative array with the key as *'coursesshown'* and value as *'Course successfully shown'*.

The function that retrieves this value from and plays most important role is *function get\_string()*. It is defined in file moodlelib.php, in an *interface string\_manager*, which returns the localized string.

For example, *get\_string('someidentifier')*; will first check if there is any local directory, else will try to search the key identifier in moodle/lang/ directory. The argument can also be given as the language name, to let *get\_string()* look for that identifier string in that specified language directory. The default language directory is 'en' (English) language as the default locale.

### 2.2.3 Page API

The **H**yper**T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage (HTML) content before rendering need to set up correctly. The PAGE API[7] is very important for theme developers, as the page setups are different for different themes. Thus settings of the information about the HTML page is done by PAGE API, and the information is stored in the Global Variable, \$PAGE, which is always checked while setting the page. All this set information is then rendered to the OUTPUT API[8], which then shows the HTML content on the web page.

Listing 2.3: moodle/course/action.php[17]

```
$PAGE->set_url(new moodle_url('/course/action.php'));
$PAGE->set_context(context_system::instance());
require_login();
```

The most important thing to set in the PAGE API, is to set url of the page, which is must. Then setting of page context is done, that will define the context for this page. The importance of setting the page context is that, now every page will have some default required

capabilities to view the page. This crosschecking is done by *require\_login()* function defined on the next line. The *require\_login* also set the basic page settings in \$PAGE variable. The page layout can also be set using page API, default layout is 'base', which is normal page without blocks. 'Standard' layout is the one with navigation bars on both the sides of the page, it is recommended for most of the pages with general information.[7]

These settings should be done before starting the output, i.e. before defining the OUTPUT API.

## 2.2.4 OUTPUT API

OUTPUT API[8] is pure HTML based functions containing API. Whatever the content that we see on any page of moodle, is all rendered by this OUTPUT API. The various classes on this API implements the representation of HTML texts in the web page. The classes contains the rich metadata which is used by rendered by output renderers to generate the output.

The functions which has *html\_* as the prefix, are part of this OUTPUT API. Consider the following code snippet, from file moodle/course/smanage.php, which creates a form,

Listing 2.4: moodle/course/smanage.php[16]

```
echo $OUTPUT->paging_bar($totalcount ,
    $page , $perpage , $pagingurl);
echo html_writer::
    start_tag('form',
        array('id' => 'movecourses',
            'action' => $actionurl,
            'method' => 'post'));
echo html_writer::
    start_tag('div');
echo html_writer::
    empty_tag('input',
        array('type' => 'hidden',
            'name' => 'sesskey',
            'value' => sesskey()));
foreach ($searchcriteria as $key => $value) {
    echo html_writer::empty_tag('input',
        array('type' => 'hidden',
            'name' => $key,
            'value' => $value));
}
```

```

}
echo html_writer::table($table);
echo html_writer::end_tag('div');
echo html_writer::end_tag('form');
echo html_writer::empty_tag('br');

```

The `$actionurl` and `$pagingurl` are set to *new moodle\_url('smanage.php')* and *new moodle\_url('/course/smanage.php', array('categoryid' => \$id, 'perpage' => \$perpage) + \$searchcriteria)*. `$table` variable is initialized with some more HTML content required to set fields of table. This simple form is created for moving the courses in a particular category, The `actionurl` given is the same filename thus there is initial check begin done in the same file about the variables passed, i.e. if they are received or not using *optional\_param()* function. And then the required action is taken in that function. The session key is passed and is then checked while receiving the variables arguments, this is to avoid any other redirects to the same action, like by using **Cross Site Scripting (XSS)** attacks. These attacks are then saved by *optional\_param()*, by giving the last argument as the expected type of the passed value, as defined in `moodlelib.php` library file. Thus the scripts will not be run if given in url context, unless `PARAM_SCRIPT` is expecting. But there is no such macro defined in `moodlelib.php`, so XSS attacks[27] are saved.

The rendering of HTML output is done with the help of a global variable `$OUTPUT`, which is the global object, and for rendering the HTML content. For example, consider the output API content from `actioncat.php`,

Listing 2.5: output api content from `actioncat.php`[18]

```

echo $OUTPUT->header();
echo $OUTPUT->notification(
    get_string('categorymoved'), 'notifysuccess');
echo $OUTPUT->continue_button("smanage.php");
echo $OUTPUT->footer();

```

`$OUTPUT->header()` outputs the header in HTML content, set by `$PAGE`. `$OUTPUT->notification()` function is used as notify event. the second argument, 'notifysuccess' will print the notification string in green font color, and 'notifyproblem' will print it in red font color. Adding a continue button is as easy as adding this line `$OUTPUT->continue_button()`. And finally footer is printed.



### 2.2.5 Moodlelib API

It is the central library file of miscellaneous general-purpose Moodle functions. It contains the functions like *required\_param*, *optional\_param* which are responsible for parameter passing while navigating from one page to other.

***require\_login*** this function checks that the current user is logged in and has the required privileges, which is defined in this library file.

***get\_string*** this function returns localised string specified by \$identifier.

In this way, functions defined in this file are used for user preferences, time, login, plugins and strings.

### 2.2.6 Gradebook API

This API allows to read and write from gradebook with interface for detailed grading information. The library of this API contains the *grade\_grade* class which is mapped to grade\_grade table in database and contains detailed information for different grade\_items for users. *grade\_item* is the class which maps grade item for the user. *grade\_tree* is the class representing a complete tree of categories, grade\_items and final grades, it generates and stores the hierarchical array of all grade\_category and grade\_item from course id that is for a course.

### 2.2.7 File API

This API is for managing all the files stored by Moodle. Storage of files is conceptually in file areas, where file area is described by context id, full component name, itemid. Serving files to user is handled by file serving script, which is pluginfile.php. *moodle\_url::make\_pluginfile\_url()* function is used to generate url for file serving, which takes the arguments of contextid, component, file\_area, itemid and filepath with filename. File API is also responsible for managing file upload by user through the use of filepicker, filemanager and editor form elements.

### 2.2.8 Form API

For submitting data in Moodle, it requires to have web forms, which is managed by this

API. It supports all HTML elements with improved accessibility. `formlib.php` - library of classes for creating forms in Moodle, which contains abstract class `moodleform`, which is the base class for all the forms. This library contains the functions like `set_data()`, `get_data()` which are manage the submitted data for further processing. Generally new form is created by extending `moodleform` class and override the definition to include form elements which are required. Basic form elements are `button`, `checkbox`, `radio`, `text`, `HTML`, etc. Also it has custom form elements like `date_time_selector`, `filepicker`, `filemanager`, etc.. All these form elements are defined in 'lib/form/', where for each element different php file is written.

## 2.3 Moodle Database

Moodle database consists of many tables of which some are core tables and the tables belonging to each plugin. The Moodle database structure is defined in `install.xml` files inside `db` folder in each plugin. `lib/db/install.xml` defines the tables used in Moodle core. Further the database abstraction layer is introduced in Moodle that leads to,

- Data Definition API
- Data Manipulation API

### 2.3.1 Data Definition API

The objective of this API is to have well defined set of functions to handle all the DB structure by executing the correct SQL statements required by underlying **R**etational **D**atabase **M**anagement **S**ystems (RDBMS) used, that are supported by Moodle. Database manager instance is responsible for all database structure modification in the process of installation and upgrade. It consists of functions like `install_from_xmldb_file`, `create_table`, `drop_table`, etc., which are generating SQL statements to execute in database used.

### 2.3.2 Data Manipulation API

The library of this API contains all data manipulation functions to interact with database, `moodle_database` is the main abstract class for the functions like `get_record`, `get_record_sql`, etc. All these functions are accessed using global `$DB` object. Functions of the form `***_sql` take SQL query as parameter and provide the appropriate data, while to have cross-db

compatibility helper functions are used to build the SQL fragments which are of the type *sql\_\*\*\**, other functions use table names and conditions to formulate SQL query and then operate it on database. Thus for retrieving and updating data from database these data manipulation functions are used accordingly.

## Chapter 3

# Design And Implementation

### 3.1 Simple Multiple Choice Questions SubPlugin

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

The flexibility in Moodle is achieved by adding all types of Teacher-Student co-ordinated tasks in the weekly format like adding a quiz, notes, url link, assignment, etc. Further flexibility is achieved by giving more types of subplugins in each of these tasks. For example, quiz plugin contains the subplugins as yes-no type questions, multiple choice questions[14], essay[12], matching[13], etc. Now Moodle has become so advanced and vast over the time that there are a lot of options while creating such daily activities. Over the time, adding a multiple choice question has become so detailed that it became the cumbersome task to add questions.

So A new subplugin was required to add in the code, so as to accomplish the task of adding multichoice questions as easy as adding a question and putting some options with one answer correct, which serves the same purpose. Thus A simple multiple Choice Plugin was developed in this sense, and in order to make the things easier and sophisticated with less options while putting the questions.

#### 3.1.2 Implementation

This is question type plugin in Moodle, basic structure of this plugin type was same as multichoice question type [11], [14] plugin already present in the question/type/ folder. Basically currently available multichoice question type form contains feedback fields for almost all the form elements like question text, each choice option and extra filed of combined feedback. In new plugin type of question, these feedback fields are removed and single choice correct option is kept, whereas multiple answer choices can be correct is available in existing

```
mysql> desc question_simple_multichoice;
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Field          | Type          | Null | Key | Default | Extra          |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id             | bigint(10)    | NO   | PRI | NULL    | auto_increment |
| question      | bigint(10)    | NO   | MUL | 0       |                |
| layout        | smallint(4)   | NO   |     | 0       |                |
| answers       | varchar(255)  | NO   |     |         |                |
| single        | smallint(4)   | NO   |     | 0       |                |
| shuffleanswers| smallint(4)   | NO   |     | 1       |                |
| answernumbering| varchar(10)   | NO   |     | abc     |                |
| shownumcorrect| tinyint(2)    | NO   |     | 0       |                |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
8 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Figure 3.1: Simple Multichoice Database Table

multichoice question type.

**Brief Description of Implementation :**

- simple\_multichoice folder is added in question/type folder.
- In this folder, edit\_simple\_multichoice\_form.php is the file form defining the form for adding question.
- question.php file contains question definition classes and questiontype.php contains the extended class of question\_type class defined in questionbasetype.php .
- *Database (db)* folder contains install.xml for table defined for simple multichoice question and lang folder [15] contains the strings defined for this question type.

**Database (db) folder** This folder contains the *install.xml* file, which has the question\_simple\_multichoice table defined in it. Fields included in it are

- id** : primary key of table,
- question** : foreign key referencing to question.id,
- answers** : comma separated list of question answers ids,
- shuffleanswers** : for whether the choices to be randomly shuffled or not.
- answernumbering** : type of answer numbering.

**lang folder** : Strings for component 'qytpc\_simple\_multichoice' and language 'en' .

**pix folder** : icon file to be used in popup window of question type selection.

**edit\_simple\_multichoice\_form.php** : It contains the class qtype\_multichoice\_ -edit\_form which is extended from question\_edit\_form class defined in edit\_question\_form.php, the

function `definition_inner()` is responsible for the form definition of question edit form, it contains the element to be included in question edit form for this particular question type.

Listing 3.1: Code snippet from `edit_simple_multichoice_form.php`[10]

```
protected function
get_per_answer_fields($mform,
    $label,
    $gradeoptions,
    &$repeatedoptions,
    &$answersoption) {
    $repeated = array();
    $repeated[] =
        $mform->
            createElement('editor',
                'answer',
                $label,
                array('rows' => 1),
                $this->editoroptions);
    $repeated[] =
        $mform->
            createElement('select',
                'fraction',
                get_string('grade'),
                $gradeoptions);
    $repeatedoptions['answer']
        ['type'] = PARAM_RAW;
    $answersoption = 'answers';
    return $repeated;
}
```

The function given above defines the per answer fields, which are answer editor, select element for answer, is true or false in terms of score that is 100% or 0%, while the feedback element is not available.

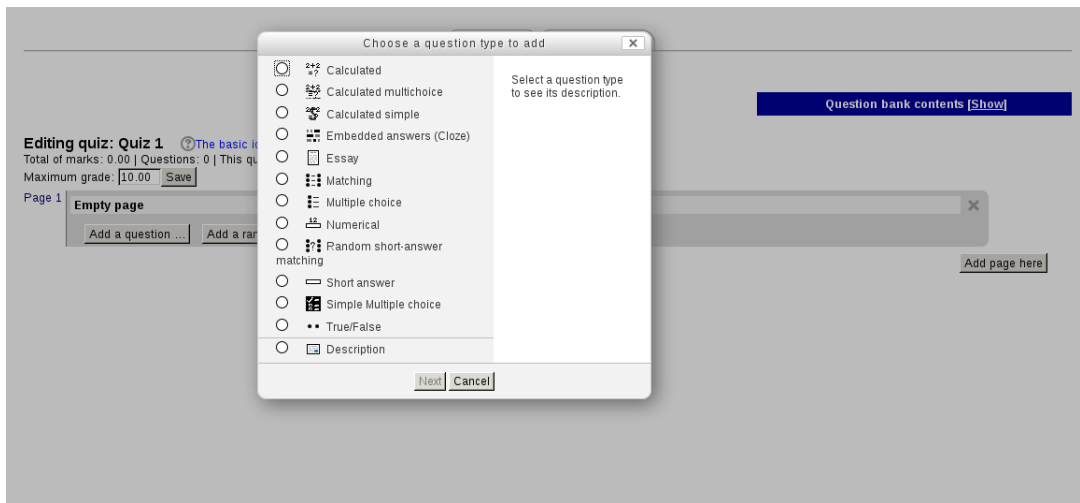


Figure 3.2: Popup window of question type selection after clicking on add question button

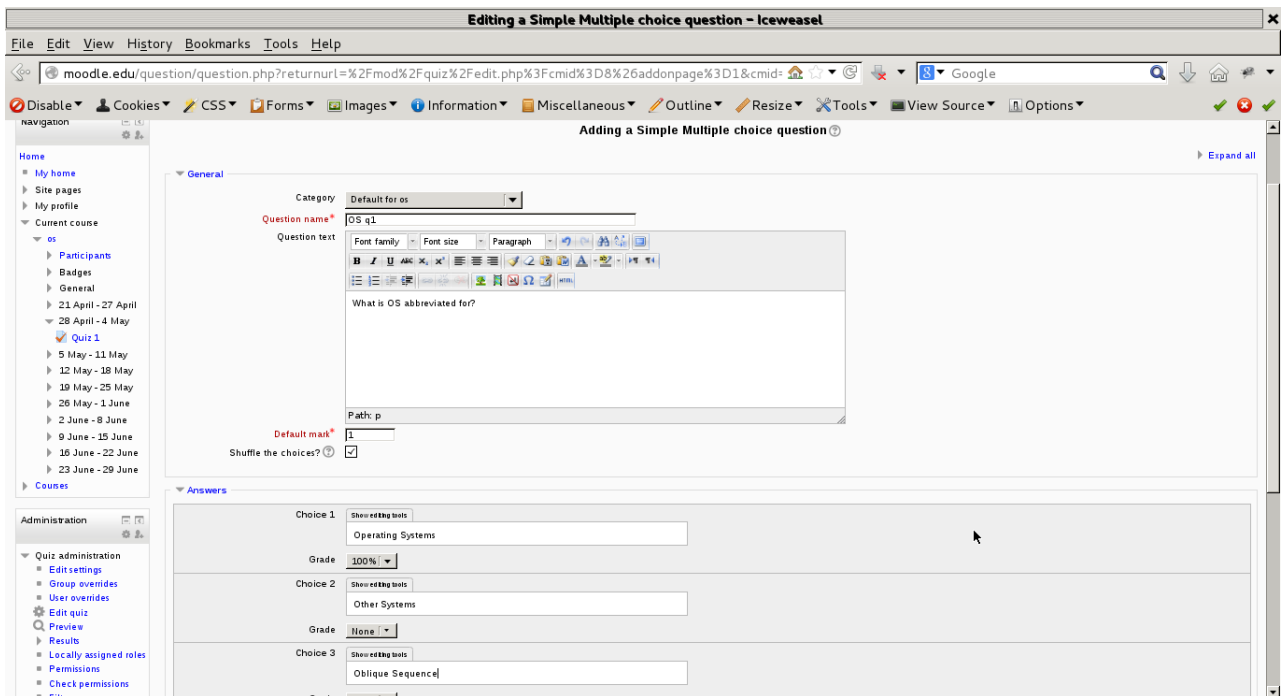


Figure 3.3: Adding Simple Multichoice Question page

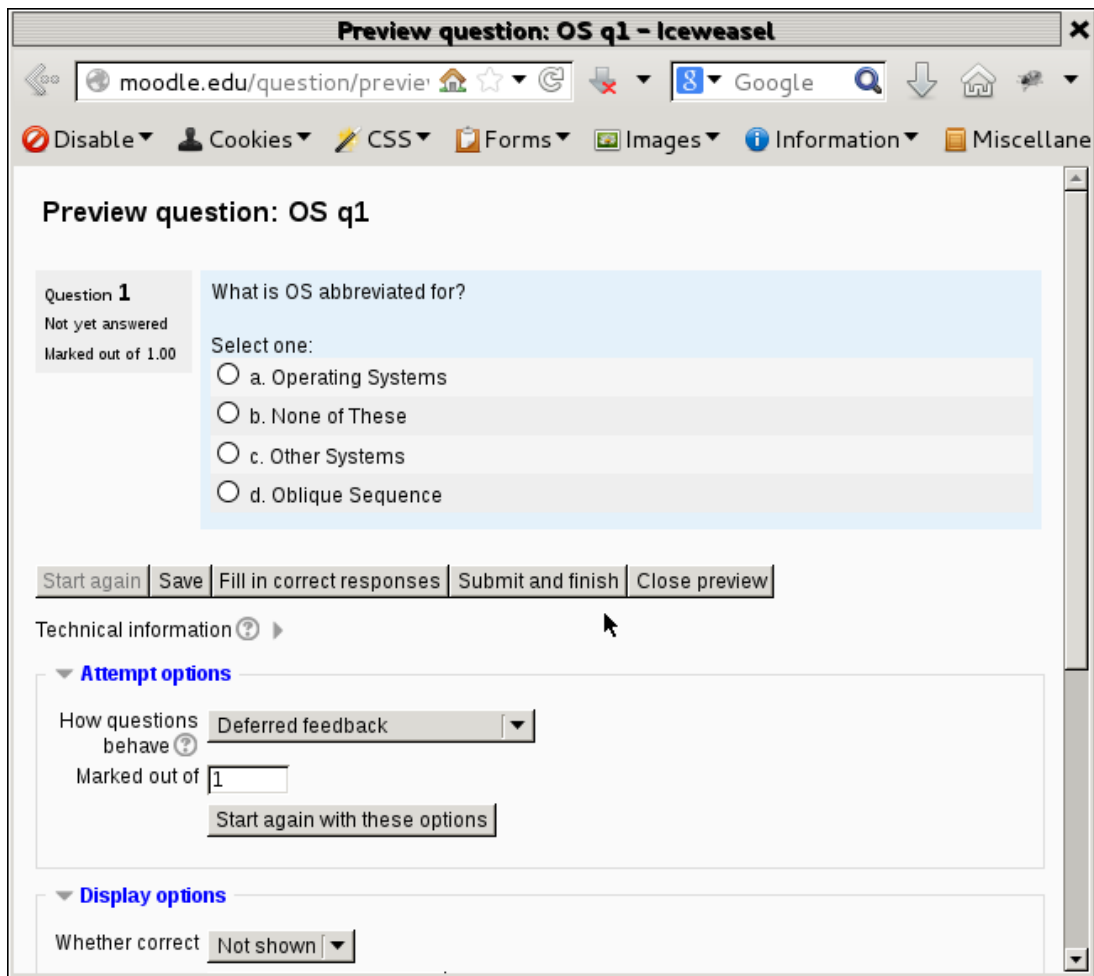


Figure 3.4: Preview of question after completely adding



## 3.2 Bulk Manage Courses

### 3.2.1 Introduction

The current scenario of managing the courses somewhat lacks the optimal methods to do the managing tasks easier. In the current context, the use of action buttons, i.e. refreshing the page on each click seems infeasible on slow connections for managers.

Rather than taking immediate action and reloading page, it is more preferred to store the actions and then in one click do all the selected operations. Though this looks easy, but in the current coding styles, as the `single.button` actions are implemented, it becomes hard to write our code and then merge with the current implementation of Moodle. But the current implementation looks so complete, to make that merge happen. So we created our own files added our action there and then did a small change in current code to complete this task.

### 3.2.2 Implementation

The current file that supports management of courses is *manage.php* located at *moodle/course/manage.php*. The single file is written to manage course categories as well as courses in those categories. So, first the *manage.php* page will show the list of categories in a html table with the attributes as *course\_categories*, *No. of courses*, *Edit actions*, and a dropbox menu of *move to courses*. The edit options here are *settings*, *delete*, *hide or show*, *cohorts*, *moveup or movedown*. Technically each of these edit options are the action button, whose on-click action to directly take an action and reload the page with acted action. The *move category to* dropdown menu is also spontaneously responding menu, i.e. as soon as the category is selected from the drop down menu, the action of moving the current category to new selected category takes place. And this table is not a form, i.e. it is just a table shown in the HTML page. Now here is the scope of improvement in moodle, we can always store the desired actions and with just one *submit* button it should take action on all the stored choices.

To achieve this goal, *smanage.php* is created, which now contains a form, including above table and a submit button. This submit button takes an action by redirecting to *actioncat.php*, the file in which the actions to be taken on coming input are written. The form in *smanage.php* has now three more fields of checkbuttons to input from user. The three actions now can be done in groups because of using these checkboxes. The three fields are *Move*, *Delete*, and *Hide/Show*. Now just check the actions among the three for a category and get the action done. Now the course is recorded from dropdown menu of 'move category

to' and a checkbox 'Move' need to be selected to ensure the action of moving the courses. Delete and Hide checkboxes are regular checkboxes and takes the actions on selecting. Hide is a toggle button with show. Thus a course initially shown will be hidden and vice versa.

Listing 3.2: Code snippet for hiding a category[18]

```
$strhidcatparam = 'chid'.$category->id;
$hidecatparam =
    optional_param($strhidcatparam, 0,
                  PARAM_INT);
if ($hidecatparam !== 0) {
    if ($category->visible == 1) {
        $hidecat = $category->id;
        $showcat = 0;
    }
    else {
        $showcat = $category->id;
        $hidecat = 0;
    }
    echo $OUTPUT->heading($category->name);
    if ($hidecat and confirm_sesskey()) {
        $cattohide = coursecat::
            get($hidecat);
        require_capability(
            'moodle/category:manage',
            get_category_or_system_context(
                $cattohide->parent));
        $cattohide->hide();
    }
    echo $OUTPUT->
        notification(get_string('hidecat',
                                '',
                                $category->name),
                    'notifysuccess');
} else if ($showcat and confirm_sesskey()) {
    $cattoshow = coursecat::get($showcat);
    require_capability('moodle/category:manage',
                      get_category_or_system_context(
                          $cattoshow->parent));
    $cattoshow->show();
    echo $OUTPUT->notification(
        get_string('showcat',
```

```

    }, $category->name),
    'notifysuccess');
}
}

```

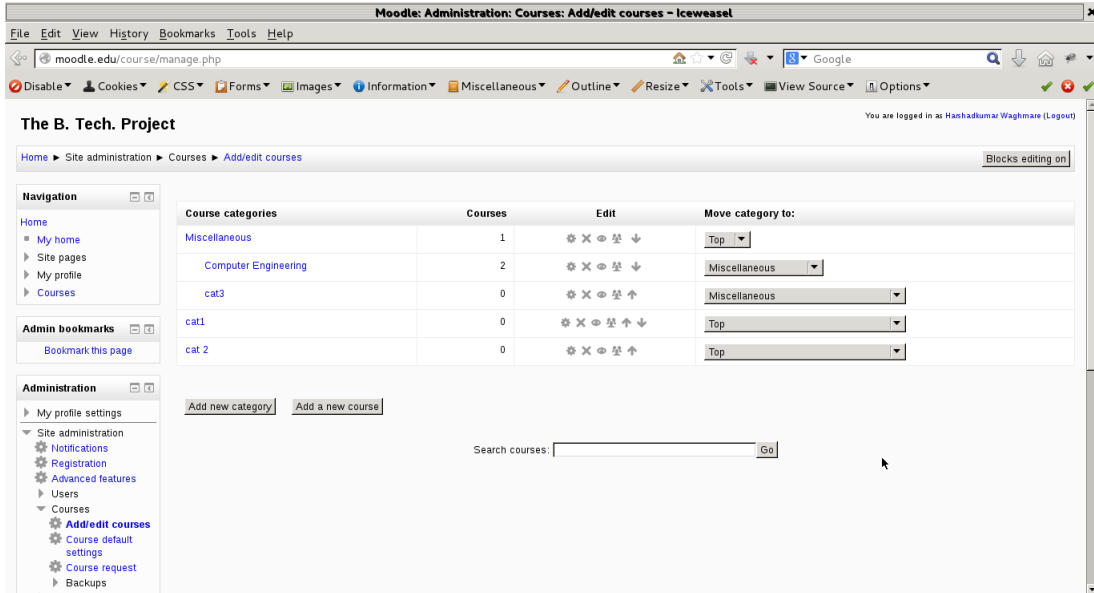


Figure 3.5: The current page for managing the courses, moodle/course/manage.php

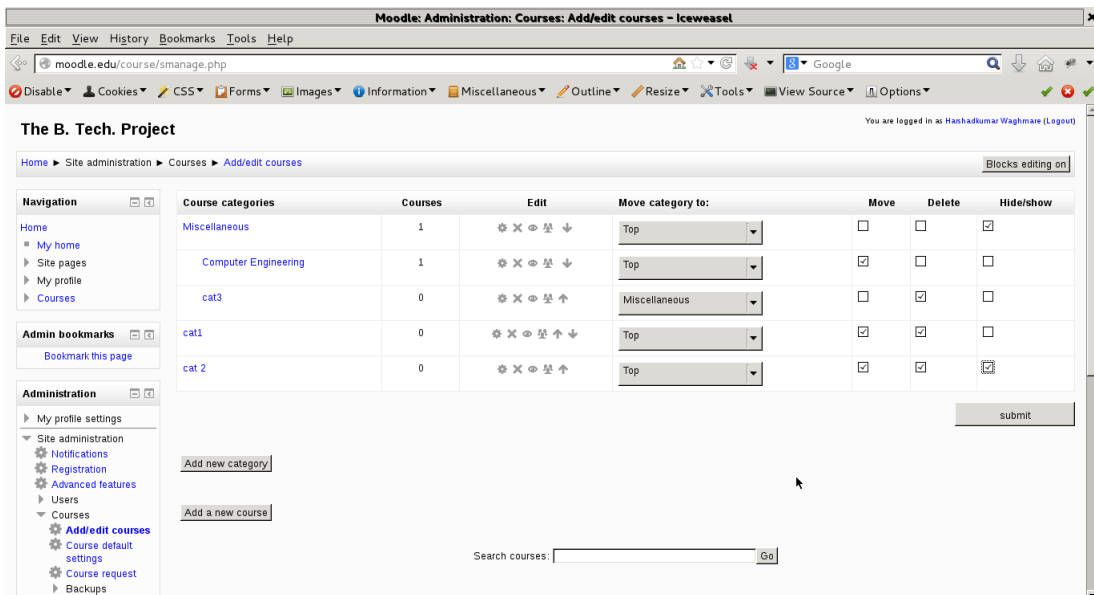


Figure 3.6: New file for doing bulk operations for categories, moodle/course/smanage.php

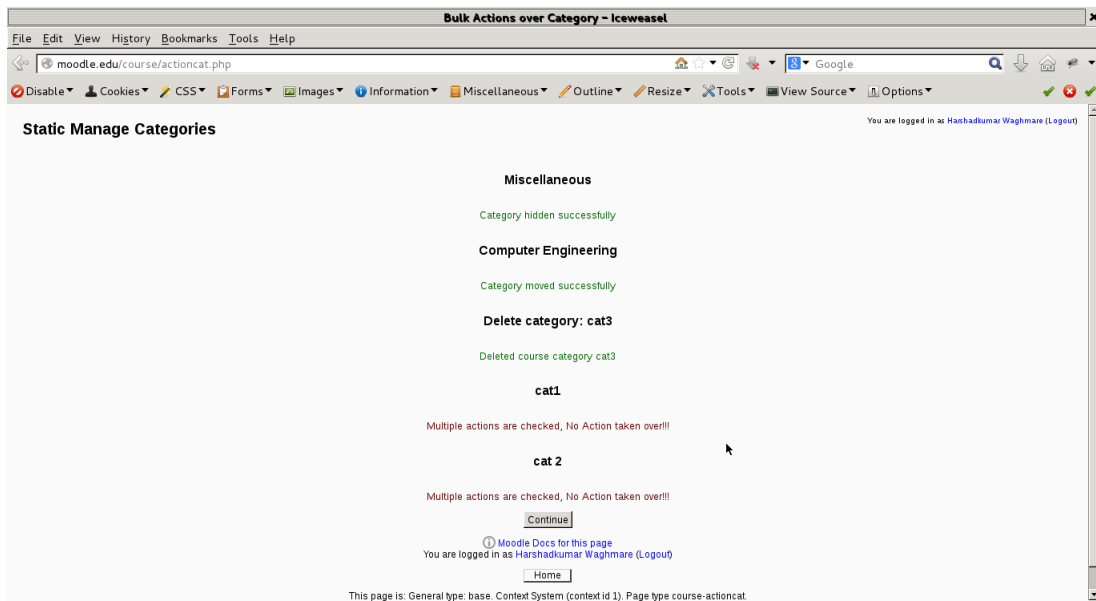


Figure 3.7: Summary of actions taken place in bulk for the categories, actioncat.php

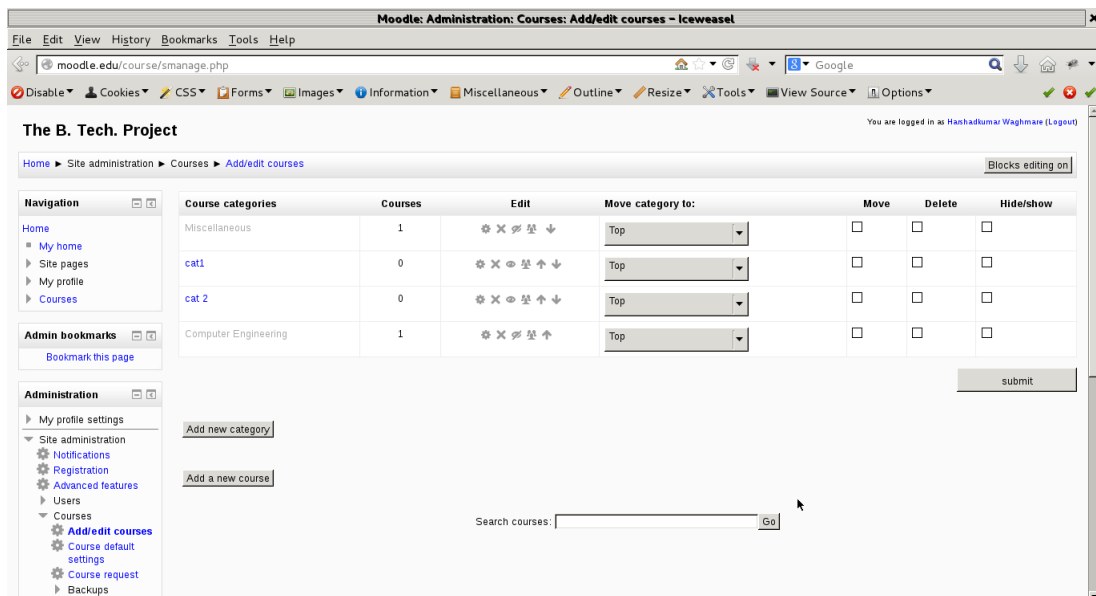


Figure 3.8: Categories after the action, by actioncat.php, on page smange.php

If more than one checkboxes are checked, then no action will takes place and the result page *actioncat.php* will show the summary as *'No action is being taken, selected more than one input'*. A continue button is added before the footer in *actioncat.php*, which redirects to the our category management form. The *actioncat.php* page also gives the summary of the actions taken place. These are the only actions needed to be taken over for categories.

In *manage.php*, if a category is selected, it'll be redirected to the same page but with varied arguments, and thus will now show the list of courses in that category in the table with three columns as *coursename*, edit using various *single-action* buttons, then there is a select menu, selection of courses to move to other category. The Edit actions are settings, Enrolled users in that course, delete, hide, backup, restore. The most common actions that are required to change are delete and hide the courses. Now on this page, the table is enclosed in the form. Thus this form has an action to redirect to the same page and passing the checked arguments to the same page with a *moveto* category from dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is actually a *autosubmit* button, which takes action as well as it is clicked. Thus we can conclude that only one action can be takes place at a time.

Now as there is already a form with the specified option, it is not feasible to give it more than one actions for the current instance. So a new form on the new page was created, with some static options to store the actions from users about the courses. The *staticoperations* page was created, which includes the form with three fields of course name, delete menu, hide menu. Hide menu is a toggle button between hide and show courses. Now the actions are stored in the form variable, and are then passed to take actions. The submit button is added to submit the values of form and transfer these values to a new *actionurl*, *action.php*, which stores the various actions to be acted upon. This page also shows the summary of action that took place after the actions.

Listing 3.3: Code snippet for deleting a course[17]

```
if ($dcourseid !== 0) {
    if (!can_delete_course($course->id)) {
        echo 'course'. $course->fullname.
            ' was not deleted due to restricted
            permissions';
        continue;
    }
    if (!confirm_sesskey()) {
        print_error('confirmsesskeybad', 'error');
    }
}
```

```

add_to_log(SITEID,
          "course", "delete",
          "view.php?id=$course->id",
          "$course->fullname
          (ID $course->id)");
echo $OUTPUT->heading($course->fullname);
delete_course($course);
fix_course_sortorder();
}

```

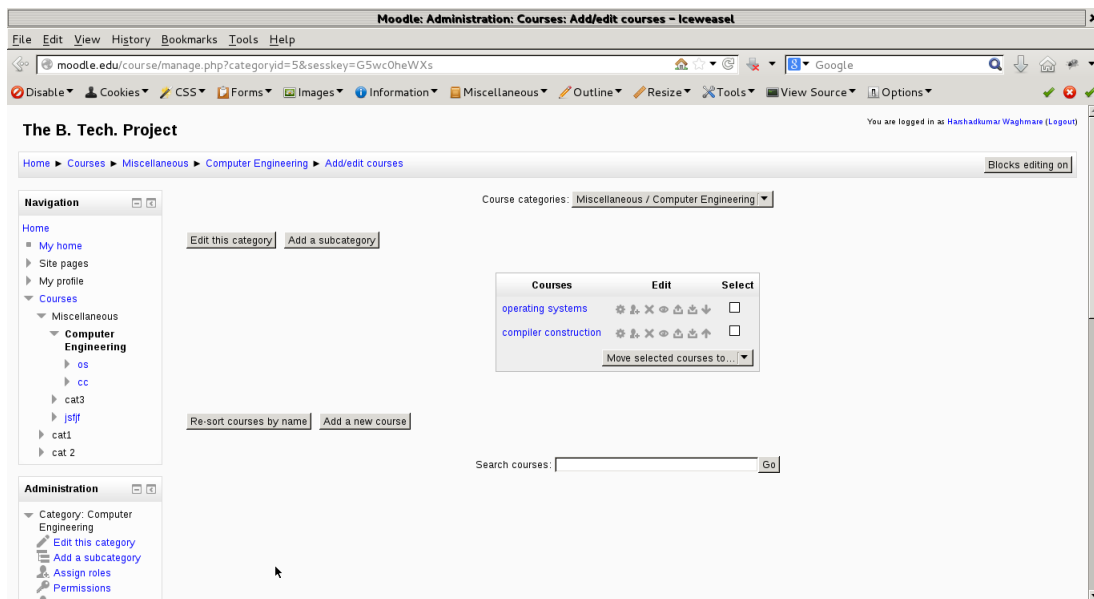


Figure 3.9: The current manage.php file, for managing courses

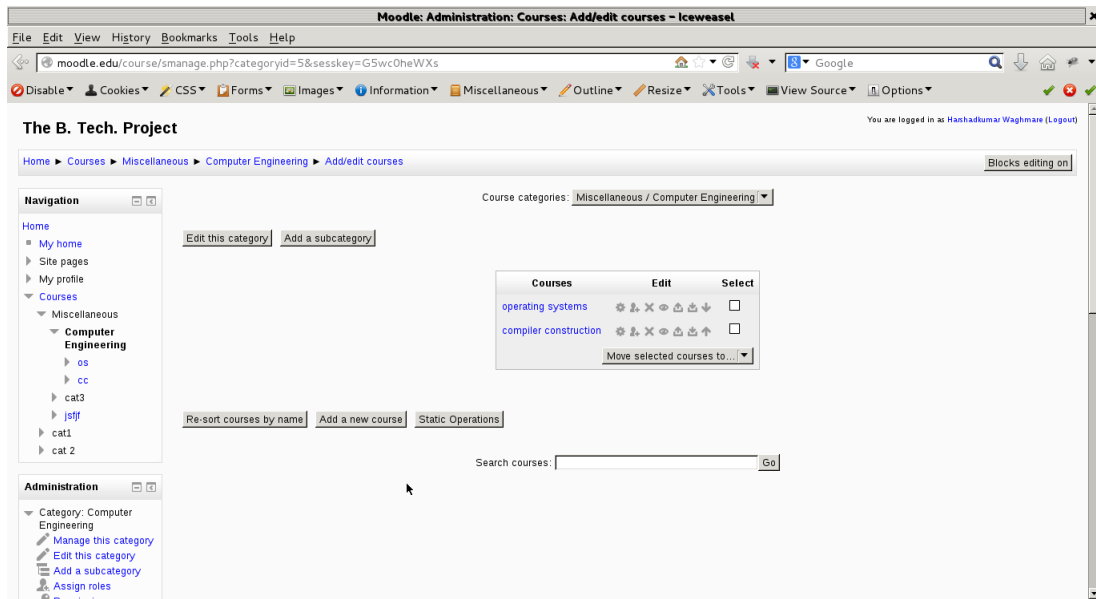


Figure 3.10: smange.php, for courses in a selected category

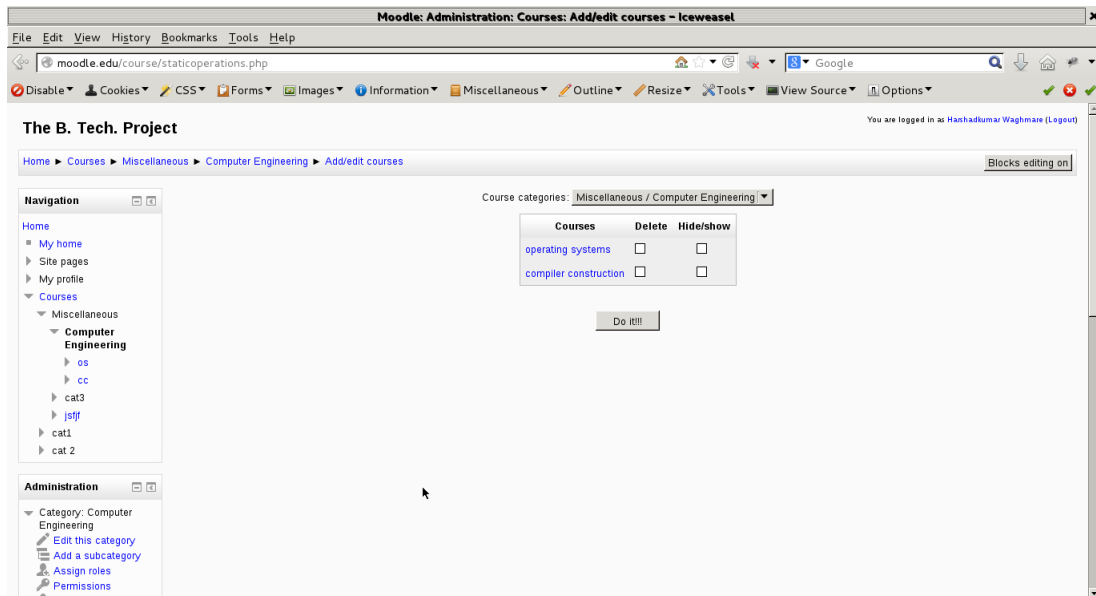


Figure 3.11: staticoperation.php, the page dedicated to make bulk actions over courses in selected category

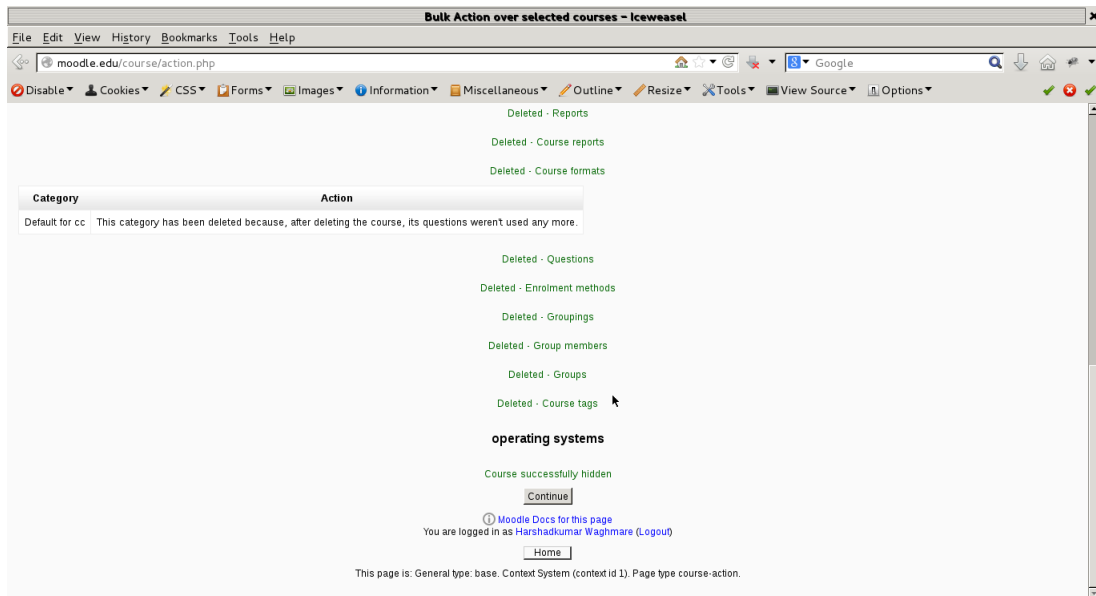
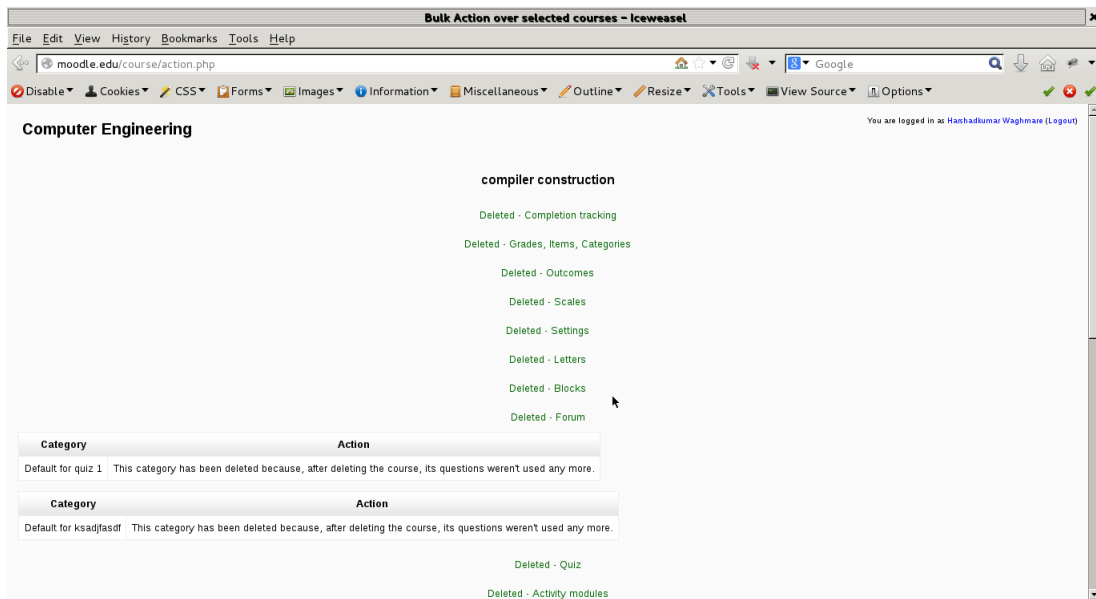


Figure 3.12: action.php, the summary page of actions applied to the courses



## 3.3 Grader Report Enhancement for user files

### 3.3.1 Introduction

Moodle supports different grade reports like User Report, Overview Report and Grader Report[23]. Grader Report is used in moodle for user activity grading interface through which a teacher can view and manipulate grades of gradable course activities such assignments, quizzes etc. It provides features to view and edit grades for different gradable activities of a course.

Instead of having all these features grader report lacks behind in some operations. Teachers or course administrators are required to navigate to various pages in order to grade a student submission and to check files submitted by students that require grading. To view the student's submission teacher have to redirect to download submission page, which slows down their grading process. Bulk grading is not possible with this approach as teacher will have to navigate a lot throughout.

Grader Report Enhancement is designed to resolve this issue and provides an efficient grading interface for teacher/admin which handles all gradable activities and its submissions. It provides an in-line link for students submissions for particular activity in grader report so that teachers need not navigate different pages and can view submitted files.

### 3.3.2 Description

- Problem:
  1. To give grade to a specific assignment teacher has to navigate through different web pages. First go to that assignment page, then click on View/Grade all submissions, click on Grade Edit Icon from grading table and then it navigates to a different page which views Submission Status page of a particular user, on this page teacher can view submitted files and can grant grade for that assignment.  
  
In this way, teacher has to grade all the assignments of users individually. This slows down the process of grading and makes it very lengthy.
  2. There is another option to grade assignments through Grader Report, here teacher can grade to assignment submissions of all users of a course but to view/get submitted files of particular assignment teacher has to navigate through different pages or teacher has to follow same procedure as stated above.
- Suggested Solution: To resolve this issue in the grader report an In-line Download link of files of respective assignment submissions should be added in Grader Report Grading

Table.[29]

### 3.3.3 Implementation

To implement this task we have modified `get_right_rows()` function from file `moodle/grade/report/grader/lib.php`.

**moodle/grade/report/grader/lib.php** : Function `get_right_rows()` Builds and returns the rows that will make up the right part of the grader report.

We need course module object, context of module to create object of class `assign` (`Assignment`) which is defined in `moodle/mod/assign/lib.php` through which we can access different parameters of `assign` class. We get object of course module by using function `get_coursemodule_from_instance()` and context from `context_module::instance()`[19]. After getting object of assignment we get user submissions by calling function `get_user_submissions()` (defined in `moodle/mod/assign/lib.php`).

**File download** : Moodle saves its all submitted files in a different directory other than web directory for security purposes. So to get location of stored file we can call function `get_file_storage()` (defined in `moodle/lib.php`). Now to get all submitted files we call function `get_area_files()`. [20]

Now to create in-line download link of submitted file we used function `moodle_url::make_pluginfile_url` (in `moodle/lib.php`), the required parameter for this function are file component, file area, submission id, context id, file path, file name and forcedownload. Display created filelink in the item-cell text. When we click on the links on file name displayed in grading table cell a popup window pops on screen having options of download and view file.

Listing 3.4: Getting files and making url for each obtained file[21]

```
$files = $fs->get_area_files(
    $context->id,
    'assignsubmission_file',
    'submission_files',
    $submission->id);
foreach($files as $file) {
    $filelink = moodle_url::
        make_pluginfile_url($context->id,
            $file->get_component(),
```

```

$file->get_filearea(),
$submission->id,
$file->get_filepath(),
$file->get_filename(),
true);

```

Web Development: View: Grader report You are logged in as Admin User (Logout)

Home > My courses > Miscellaneous > Web Development > Grade administration > Grader report Turn editing on

Navigation Grader report

Administration

- Grade administration
  - Grader report
  - Outcomes report
  - Overview report
  - Semester report
  - User report
  - Import
  - Export
  - Course grade settings
  - My report preferences
  - Letters
  - Scales
  - Categories and items
- Course administration
- Switch role to...
- My profile settings
- Site administration

Grader report

Separate groups All participants

			Web Development			
Surname	First name	Email address	Upload a file demo	Q1	Multiple files upload...	Test
Pankaj	Bagul	bagul.p.a@gmail.com	10.00	10.00	10.00	75.00
maske	ganesh	maskeganesh3@gmail.com	40.00	-	0.00	25.00
Sachin	Jadhav	jadhavsachin174@gmail.com	90.00	-	25.00	35.00
Indrajit R.	Shinde	indrajitshinde@gmail.com	68.00	-	0.00	0.00
Admin	User	rvw03580@gmail.com	60.00	-	10.00	80.00
Harshad	Waghmare	harshadw038@gmail.com	-	-	80.00	10.00
Rahul	Waghmare	rvw358@gmail.com	80.00	10.00	60.00	52.00
Overall average			CC	AA	-	DD

Figure 3.13: Before Grader Report Enhancement

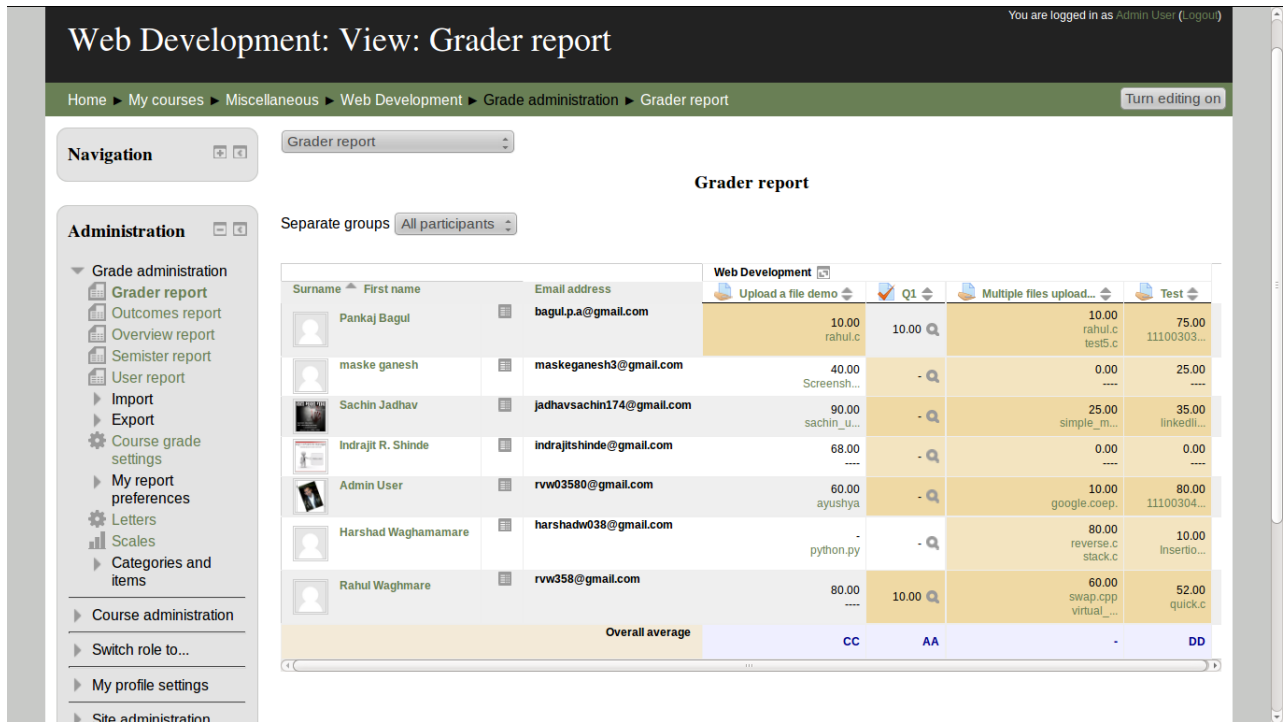


Figure 3.14: After Grader Report Enhancement

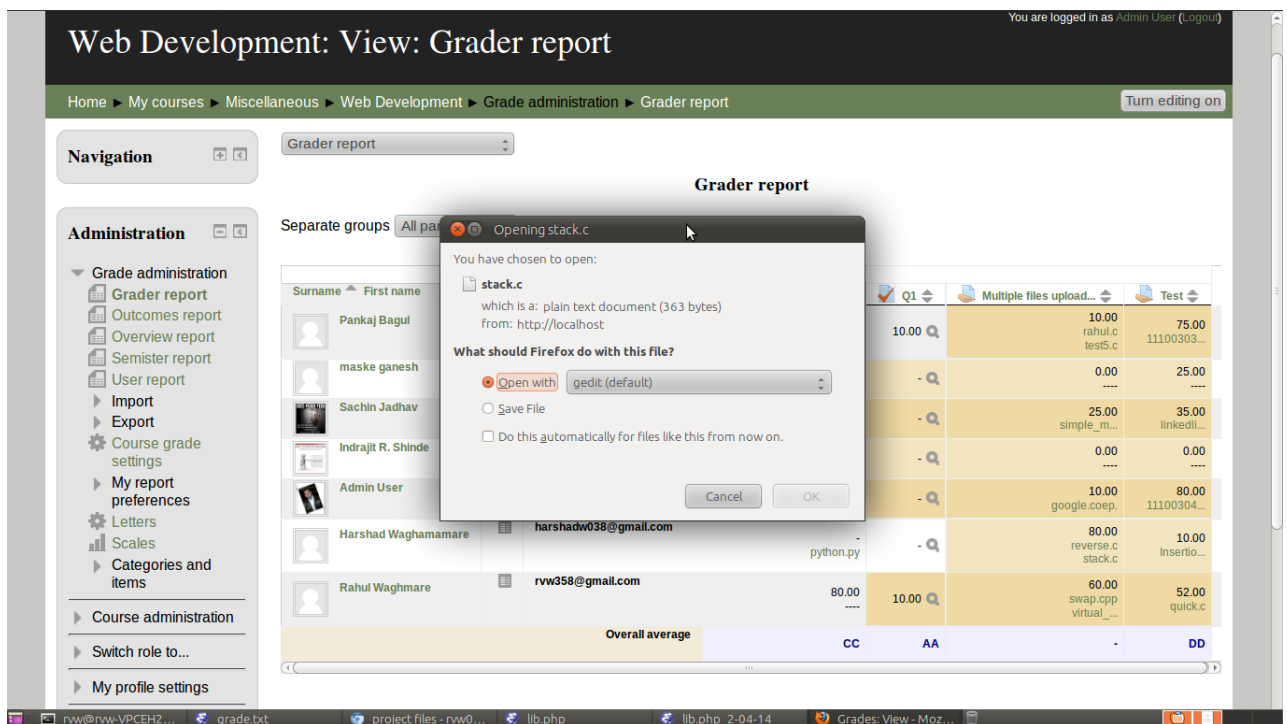


Figure 3.15: Pop window for Download

## 3.4 Grade Report for Student

### 3.4.1 Introduction

A user, who is student can see her current grades of a particular course in present Moodle environment, but is unable to see the grades of all registered courses on one page. To facilitate this we have added a grade report page for user, which has courses and final grades that user has got in those courses.

To implement this enhancement, we looked into `gradelib.php`, which is the library for gradebook API[22], where the `grade_grade` class is defined which contains the detailed information for different `grade_items` for users. By using Moodle PDF library[28] option of exporting this report is made available for the user in PDF format.

### 3.4.2 Implementation

#### Brief Description of Implementation :

- Created a new file for fetching courses and their grades at `/user/profile/` named `grade_report.php`
- Created `export.php` file in same folder, to export this report.
- A link is added on profile page of user to `grade_report` file.

**grade\_report.php** By using HTML output class, a simple form is written to get the semester type and semester start date as well as semester end date, by using function `select_time()`. By using `enrol_get_all_users_courses()` function, list of courses the user is enrolled is obtained.

Listing 3.5: Function `enrol_get_all_users_courses()`[24]

```
$usercourses = enrol_get_all_users_courses(  
    $user->id, true, NULL,  
    'visible DESC',  
    sortorder ASC');
```

For each of the courses obtained the `grade_item`, which in turn gives the stored grade object for the user from `grade_grade` class, where the final grade for that user for that course is calculated.

Listing 3.6: Getting final grade for that course[24]

```

// Get usercourse grade_item
$usercourse_item = grade_item::
    fetch_course_item($usercourse->id);
// Get the stored grade
$usercourse_grade = new grade_grade(array(
    'itemid'=>$usercourse_item->id,
    'userid'=>$user->id));
$finalgrade = $usercourse_grade->finalgrade;

```

To show this content obtained, table element of HTML output class[26] is used.

**export.php** This file gets the HTML content of grade report and using Moodle PDF library this content is exported to PDF file as shown below :

Listing 3.7: Generate PDF file and download in browser[25]

```

//pdf file generation
$doc = new pdf;
$doc->setPrintHeader(false);
$doc->setPrintFooter(false);
$doc->AddPage();
$doc->writeHTML($exporthtml,
    true, false,
    false, false);
$downloadfilename = clean_filename(
    "user_grade_report.pdf");
$doc->Output($downloadfilename, 'I');

```

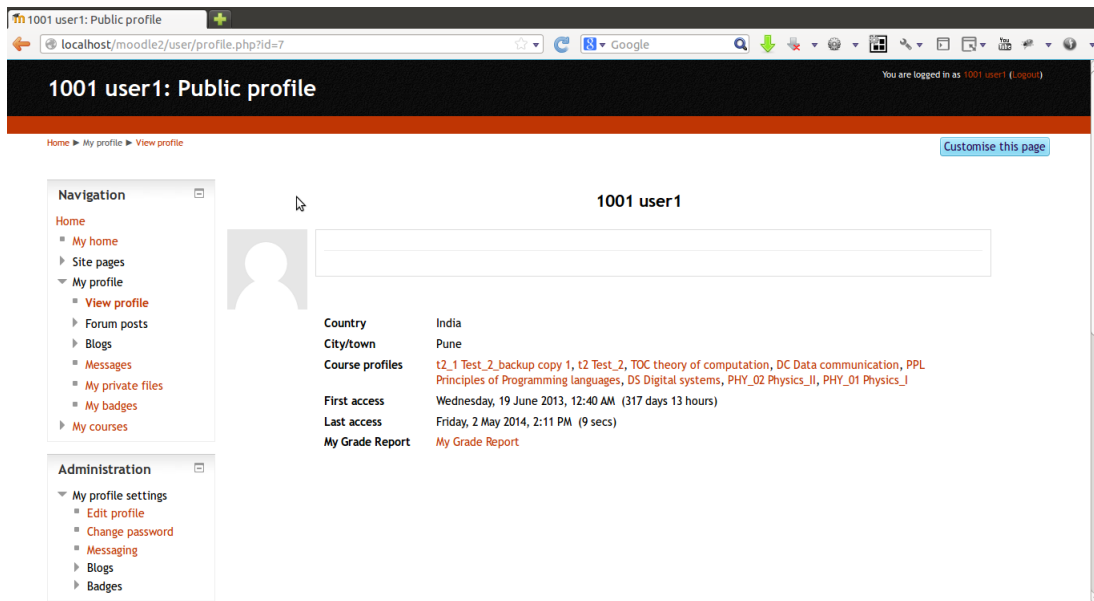


Figure 3.16: Link for grade report on profile page:

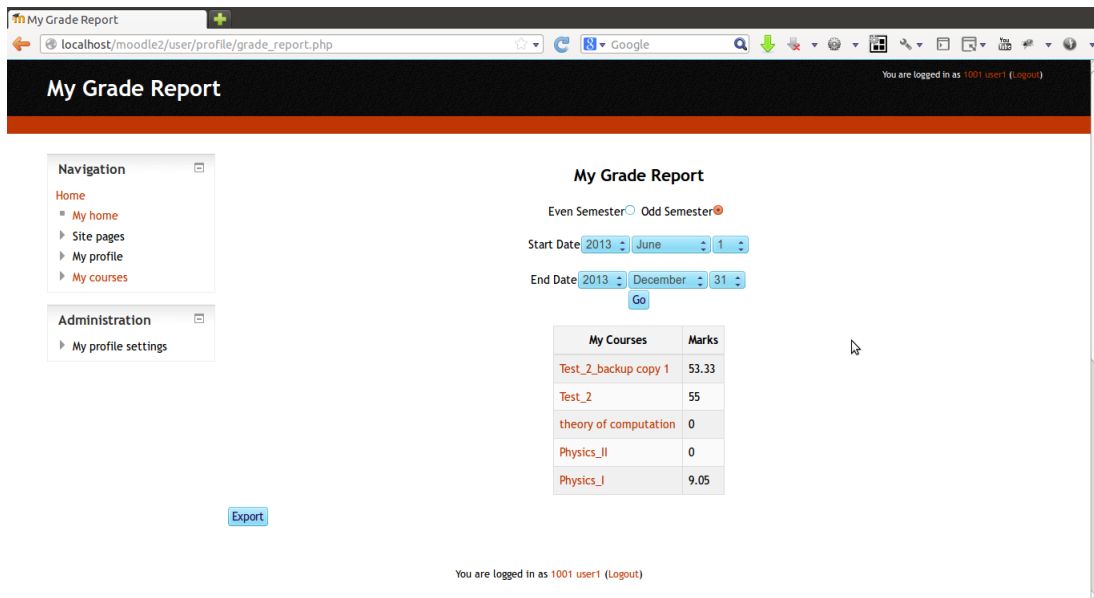


Figure 3.17: Grade report page :

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `localhost/moodle2/user/profile/export.php`. The page content includes the following text:

Student Name : u1001  
Semester : Odd Semester

Start Date : 13-06-01  
End Date : 13-12-31

Course Names	Marks
Test_2_backup copy 1	53.33
Test_2	55
theory of computation	0
Physics_II	0
Physics_I	9.05

Figure 3.18: Pdf export of grade report :



## Chapter 4

# Conclusion and Future Scope

### 4.1 Conclusion

COEP is one of the institutes which uses Moodle. COEP is using Moodle for almost 5 years. Being that experienced, the Administrators had encountered a need for modification or new features, which will make COEP Moodle, more easy to use. The tasks which are completed, are the points of improvement that are suggested by Administrators of COEP Moodle. The need to make these implementations is because of the current implementation of these tasks does not meet the satisfaction of Administrators at COEP, who manage COEP Moodle. Making these improvements had saved a lot of their work and made COEP Moodle easy to use.

### 4.2 Future Scope

Apart from making improvements to Moodle by choosing tasks, there is a need to write an administration module. The Administration Module will consists of automation of all the academic administrative transactions like credit registration, grade allocation, etc. The Module will also be able to store student grades for all semesters, her individual information like name, address, Date of Birth etc. And the most important task of this module will be to manage all this information at the given instance. As Moodle is now course based system, to write this administrative module, semester based system has to develop, which seems a rather tedious job. This is the Future Scope of the Project.

# Appendix A

## Acronyms

**Moodle** Modular **O**bject **O**riented **D**ynamic **L**earning **E**nvironment

**COEP** College **O**f **E**ngineering **P**une

**IRC** Internet **R**elay **C**hat

**API** Application **P**rogramming **I**nterface

**db** Database

**langpack** Language **P**ackage

**HTML** Hyper**T**ext **M**arkup **L**anguage

**XSS** Cross **S**ite **S**cripting

**RDBMS** Retational **D**atabase **M**anagement **S**ystems

**LDAP** Light**W**eight **D**irectory **A**ccess **P**rotocol

**LAMP** Linux **A**pache **M**ysql **P**HP

## Appendix B

# Installation of Moodle

The installation of moodle on Linux machine can be done in following steps, but before the setup, environment is to be fixed for moodle. Installation of **Linux Apache MySQL PHP** (LAMP) is necessary. As setup is done in Linux environment, installation of Apache2, mysql5, and php5 can be done using either apt manager, or could be install manually using dpkg or manual compilation is also possible.

Listing B.1: The apt commands to install all the required packages

```
//shell
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install apache2 mysql-server php5
//some complementary packages required are
$ sudo apt-get install libapache2-mod-php5 \\  
    libapache2-mod-auth-mysql php5-mysql
```

Now at this point the setup of environment is done.

- Download moodle code from <http://download.moodle.org/>. Latest stable version is recommended.
- Move the contents to your www-root directory, here `/var/www/`. Open MySQL, and create a database for storing moodle tables.
- Open a browser and open the `moodle/index.php` file, which should redirect you to `install.php` script, and your installation should start.
- Follow the guidelines given to complete the setup.

Once the setup is complete, you are allowed to do experimentation with the newly set website at your host.

While publishing this website on your localhost, configure your apache server tentatively to avoid directory access.

The setup is complete.

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