MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Project Plan Enterprise Learning Management System

The Capstone Experience

Team Auto-Owners

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Project Overview

- Moodle Learning Management System
 - Open Source, PHP 5
 - Upgrading from Microsoft Access
- Extend using plug-in-based development
 - Focus on Blocks, Activities, Grade Importing
- Migration Plan from existing EdTrac database
 - Microsoft SQL Server script

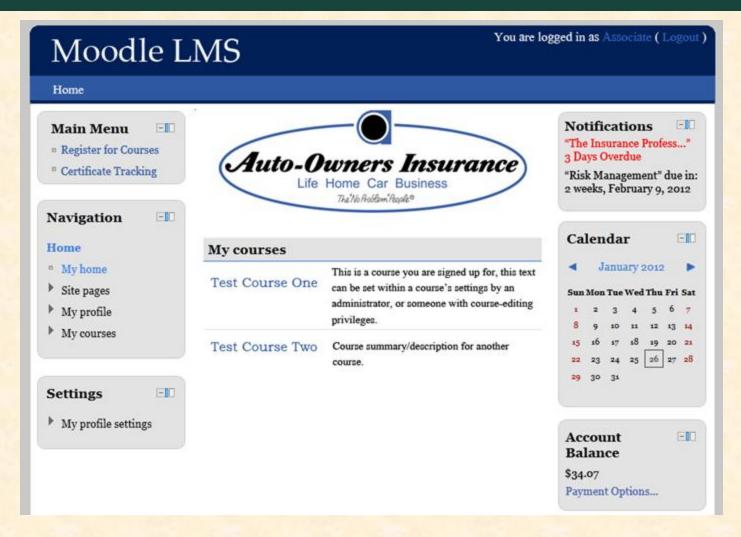
Functional Specifications

- Course Registration with Waiting List
- Course Recommendation System
- Grade Importing and Tracking
- Certification Progress Tracking/Audit
- Educational Resource Tracking System with Notifications
- Account Balance Tracking and Invoice System
- Ad-Hoc Management Reports

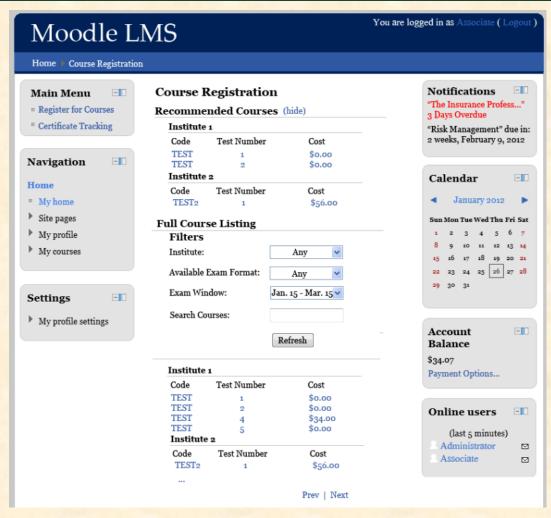
Design Specifications

- All functionality done through highest level plug-ins, closest to user
 - Blocks: Management Tools, Notifications, Balance
 - Activities: Course Listing, Certificate Audit,
 Registration, Report Generation
 - Grade import: from external vendors
- CRON-type functionality (job scheduling) in all plug-ins
- Roles/Privileges Essential Moodle is flexible

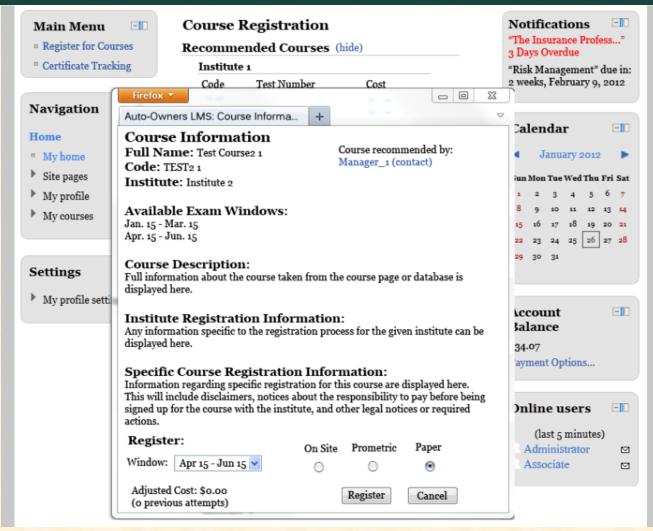
Screen Mockup: Associate Front Page



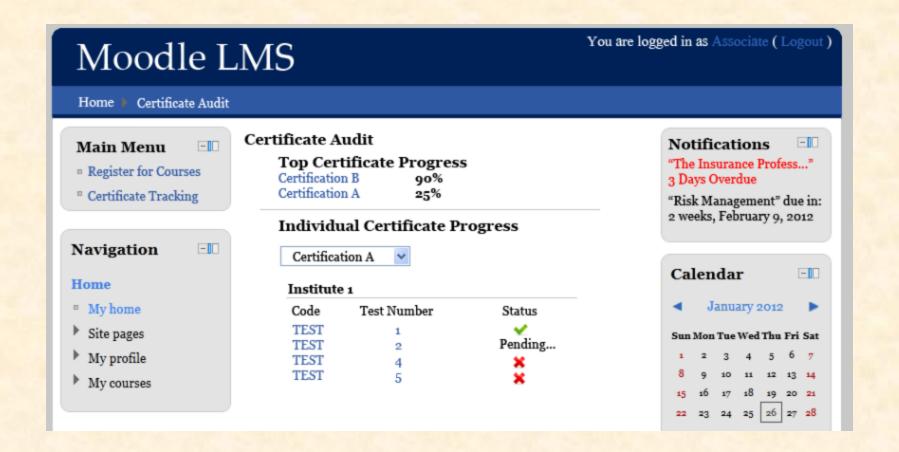
Screen Mockup: Course Registration



Screen Mockup: Course Registration



Screen Mockup: Certificate Audit



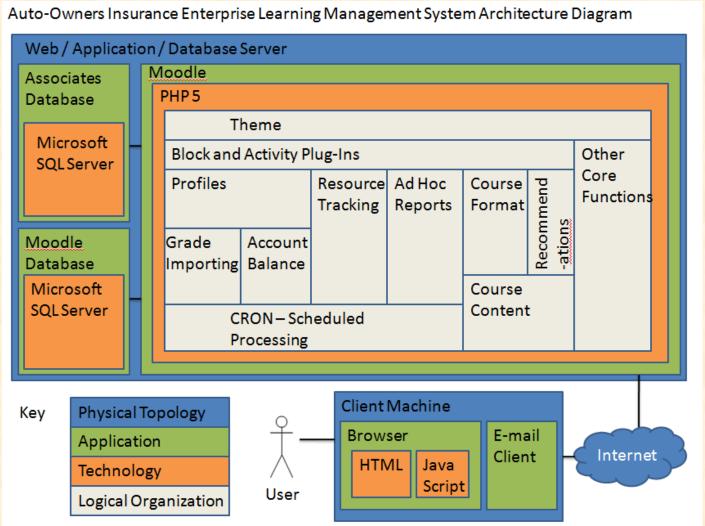
Screen Mockup: Report Generation



Technical Specifications

- Moodle: Very Loose OOP Design
 - Block & Activity Plug-ins derive custom from base, implement virtual functions.
 - Example: \$\\$htmlString customBlock::get_content() is called by Moodle renderer classes.
 - Global database variable.
- Coding Standard:
 - Moodle, YUI 2.9.0, XHTML 1.0 Strict.

System Architecture





System Components

- Hardware Platforms
 - Server/Web-Application based development
 - Host server unknown, irrelevant
- Software Platforms / Technologies
 - Windows Server 2008, IIS7, SQL Server 2008 R2
 - Moodle 2.2.1 with PHP 5.3.9
 - Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome, IE, Safari
 - JavaScript not used for essential features

Testing

- Manual testing using data from Auto-Owners
- Consistent look across common browsers
- Using local testing environments as required
- Last-Stable-Build on rack server

Risks

- Grade Importation from External Vendor
 - No web interface to retrieve grades from external vendors.
 - Limited scope, waiting for AO, possible manual form.
- Ad-Hoc Reporting Interface
 - Massive database to generate reports from, difficult to convey functionality without DB knowledge.
 - Hoping to limit scope with Auto-Owners.
- Pending Migration Strategy
 - Missing development database from AO, compounded by technical troubles
 - Hopefully resolved February 1st.