



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Cumbernauld College

EasyVoter : See it. Like it. Try it!

In December 2009, the RSC Scotland South & West hosted a meeting for the Scottish Moodle User Group (SMUG) forum. Richard Goddard from Learning Objectivity UK was on hand to give a presentation of “MrCute”. This Moodle repository project was partly funded by JISC and was undertaken in partnership with Worcester College of Technology. Richard also very kindly gave the group a brief demonstration of easyPortfolio and mentioned several other Moodle modules and add-ons that might be of interest to the group. One of these free modules was easyVoter.

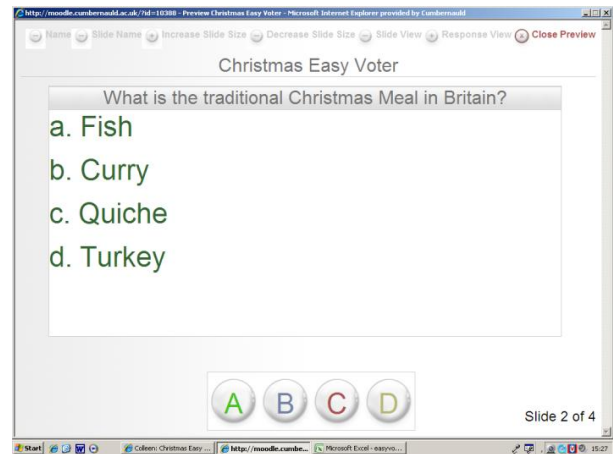
EasyVoter is a free Moodle add-on module which has been developed by Steve Ball at Solihull College. This student response system allows lecturers to quickly and easily create interactive quizzes without the requirement of any handheld devices or third party software. It has not been designed to replace or compete with any current commercial product, but can be used as an alternative where resources are in short supply or as an aid to evaluate more accurately how voting/polling systems may be used in a given institution.

Colleen Hurren is the Learning and Teaching Technologist at Cumbernauld College and has been in the SMUG forum since it started in December 2005. Cumbernauld College had never invested in a commercial voting system and Colleen was keen to give this free Moodle module a try. Not one to wait around, Colleen requested the free download from Steve Ball via Richard Goddard and was sent the link straight away. Colleen said it was very easy to install on to their Moodle as a Plug in and the college had it up and running in no time. Colleen had trained 6 staff in the use of easyVoter, had created a handbook for lecturers and easyVoter was in use with students within days of the SMUG meeting, which was just before the Christmas break!

The easyVoter activity is designed to be lead by the instructor who controls the pace of the delivery, just as a voting system would be used in a training environment but without the need for handheld devices. Students use a PC or a laptop and go on to Moodle via a browser to access the quiz, using a mouse or keyboard to click on their chosen answer. Moodle skills are completely transferable to easyVoter, and best of all, there is no need to register students or have as student list as the system uses the enrolled users list within Moodle.

As for creating the quizzes, Colleen demonstrated how quick and easy it was to create a quiz while we chatted about easyVoter at a recent visit to the College. EasyVoter is in the dropdown list in activities once you have downloaded the software. A quiz can be created very quickly, choosing from a list of 5 question type options:

- Fill in the content
- Multiple Choices
- True or False
- Numeric
- Text



Colleen Hurren, Learning Technologist at Cumbernauld College with an example of an easyVoter multiple choice quiz

Minimal training is needed to create the quiz because it uses the familiar Moodle interface for slide creation. The lecturer has a different screen view to the student and the lecturer controls when the next question goes up on the students screen. The User Interface looks just like a PowerPoint slide and is clear and easy to read. Colleen recommends using a very large font when creating the quizzes because when it is up on the screen it can tend to look small.

Quiz results show up on as a graph and can be downloaded as a CSV file. EasyVoter is probably best used for formative assessment and quiz results do not go into the grade book, but you could manually uploaded into gradebook if this is required.

“I used Easy Voter to create a series of image based multiple choice questions within my ECDL class. The class found this method of answering exam based question more fun and enjoyable as each question appeared on their monitor and I could display their responses instantly onto the big screen via the tutor PC. I think the instant visual feedback students receive using Easy Voter encourages and promotes competitiveness and teamwork within their group and makes each learning experience more fun.”

Bill McConnell ECDL tutor, Cumbernauld College

Benefits of Using easyVoter

- Very quick - you can “pop quiz” students during class to test their uptake of information.
- Ease of use and clear interface – it’s like using PowerPoint slides.
- Minimal training required by staff to start using easyVoter.
- Quizzes can be re-used and shared.
- Images can be added to the questions.
- Students only need to be able to use a mouse or keyboard to work the system.
- Numbers of students concurrently responding is only limited to the number of PCs or laptops in the room.
- No need for staff to book out a shared voting system and test batteries.
- Free user handbook from Cumbernauld College! Colleen is happy for the handbook she created to be made available for download and adapting by educators.

Free download easyVoter

EasyVoter is available for download from Solihull College, along with the download guide and technical details and some really useful FAQs:

Download easyVoter from Solihull College - <http://moodle.solihull.ac.uk/easyvoterdownload/>

Remember to always test any new module on a development server before deciding to make it live. The module is offered freely to the Moodle community but Solihull College will not accept any responsibility for any damage or loss of data caused by the usage of this system.

Other Useful links:

Moodle - <http://docs.moodle.org/>

Learning Objectivity - www.learningobjectivity.com/