



MoodleMoot UK 2010 – Marvellous Moot

MoodleMoot UK 2010 (#mootuk10) hosted by ULCC, welcomed over **250** delegates from across the world to spend two days packed with riveting keynotes and over **60** workshops at University of London’s impressive Senate House, as a delegate from the States remarked on Twitter: ‘excellent venue, decent coffee, early arrival, waiting to get started. Prof Sugata Mitra starts off with today’s keynote #mootuk10’; one of [2000 tweets](#) to be posted during the duration of the conference.

A different type of ‘whole in the wall’

Opened by Professor Geoffrey Crossick, Vice Chancellor (Elect), University of London and Warden of Goldsmiths College the conference got off to a good start with Professor Sugata Mitra and his keynote speech on ‘The Hole in the Wall’ project and its implications for teaching and learning. Making his case for facilitation of learning over ‘old fashioned’ teaching he shared examples of kids teaching themselves which one delegate found to be akin to the ‘grandmother teaching method’ - just hang around when people are learning and encourage them.

“#mootuk10 Prof Mitra - perfect keynote. Informative. Entertaining. Inspirational”
[@john_davies](#)

Learning it large

Dr Ross Mackenzie, Strategic Development Manager at The Open University (OU) took delegates on a journey of rolling out and scaling Moodle at OU and the university’s approach of giving back to the Open Source community in the process. **648,000** registered users, **168,000** active users and **35-50,000** users per **24h period** are just some of the impressive statistics Ross shared with the audience.

“OU figures... Whoa! #mootuk10” [@vaughany](#)

The key message however was that “The VLE is never finished!” there’s always more to do and requirements are going to evolve.

How to be outstanding

Day one of MoodleMoot closed with a Philip Badmann from Newham College of Further Education shared insight on Newham’s ILCT transformation project, which saw a complete migration of learning platform and associated software and the cultural challenges of engaging staff in using it. Now halfway through its comprehensive three year, 78-point development plan addressing areas like information, communication and learning Newham was awarded 16/18 ‘outstanding’ in the 2009 Ofsted report.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's a small world

Day two saw a first for MoodleMoot UK, live streaming Martin Dougiamas, founder of Moodle, to deliver his keynote via a Skype video link whilst taking a short break from the MoodleMoot New Zealand dinner.

"Live skype call from #mootnz10 to #mootuk10 - very exciting - live music in NZ!"

[@loujak78](#)

Martin updated the eager delegates on the new Moodle 2.0 features as well as mapping Moodle's uptake across the world. It is currently being used by **34m** people in **210** countries with the UK being the **3rd biggest market**, which nicely set the scene for day two.

"A fabulous start to day 2 of MoodleMoot UK 2010. The refreshment hall is buzzing with conversations from Martin's keynote #mootuk10"

[@mikallaane](#)

Let's get personal

James Ballard, Learning Technologist at ULCC spoke about 'bridging the gap between personal and professional discourses.' It explored the theme of 'Personalisation' from a learner's perspective and the challenge that education providers face is to meet the new requirements of extending what was a Virtual Learning Environment into a Personal Learning Environment with tools like Individual Learning Plans and e-Portfolios.

What students want

Geoff closed the conference with praise for Moodle as an intuitive piece of technology and a challenge to teachers to 'don't put anything in it, but let the students do it.' Which somewhat brought the conference full circle back to where we started on day one with Professor Sugata's insightful keynote on the 'Hole in the Wall' project.

Last but not least

Over **600** people expressed interest in securing a ticket to MoodleMoot, a clear sign of Moodle's ever increasing popularity and also a great point in case for the use of social media to promote conferences, as we at ULCC have done in the past. Using Twitter and Wordpress to tap into the existing Moodle community, a simple newsletter tool to capture early interest and send targeted updates played a vital role in getting this many people animated about this year's MoodleMoot.

Maybe a bit too animated, when 200+ users tried to secure a ticket at the same time via the university's new online shop and ultimately brought the system to its knees. These teething problems aside the online ticketing system helped book a total of 285 delegates onto MoodleMoot.

All that's left now is [collecting feedback](#) from this year's delegates to make sure MoodleMoot UK 2011 will be bigger and better.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Useful links:

Keynote videos: <http://moodlemootuk2010.org.uk/videos/>

Pictures: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/49445942@N02/sets/72157623896006424/>

Blog: <http://moodlemootuk2010.org.uk/blog/>

******Ends******

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