

Elearn/FrontPage/Moodlerooms LMS Replacement Options:
A Comparison Matrix

The Elearn and VClass servers, which have housed Microsoft FrontPage faculty websites for some time, will no longer be available beyond this calendar year. The OLSC and IT departments are offering three main options for faculty to manage their course information on the Web. Faculty may choose to use any or all of the following options:

* **Course Studio and Luminis Portal** offer many tools to augment traditional courses and may be used to some extent for online courses.

* **OmniUpdate (OU)** is a web content management system, which may be used to develop rudimentary webpages.

* **Moodlerooms (MR) Learning Management System (LMS)** provides web-based course management tools for traditional (on-campus) as well as distance learning courses.

The following matrix highlights the three Elearn/FrontPage replacement options for various common purposes.

		Luminis Portal Course Studio		Omni Update		Current LMS Moodlerooms	
		No	Description	Yes	Description	Limited	Description
Public Access	Public access availability	No	Faculty and students must login with Banner credentials	Yes	All content is viewable by the public	Limited	Faculty and students must login with Banner credentials. Faculty can grant public access to some content.
Faculty Access	Available to Faculty	Yes	After hire date and first assignment to a class, Course Studio is available to faculty. Accessed through http://myportal.mtsac.edu	Yes	After account request, approval and completing arranged two-hour training. How to start - See the instructions on the OLSC web page under Faculty Resources.	Yes	After hire date and first assignment to a class, MR approval can be obtained by attending Moodlerooms Basics Training 1 and 2. See the POD calendar for workshop offerings: pod.mtsac.edu
Federal Requirements	Meets Federal Student Authentication requirements for DL classes	Yes	Students use Mt. SAC portal login	No	Not available	Yes	Students use Mt. SAC portal login

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Communication Tools	Course Home Page	Yes	Entry page for Course Studio contains the studio tools on the left, announcements & message board in the center and featured links on the right.	Yes	OU Campus offers a comprehensive feature set to manage websites, all users across the college, and many web applications. From in-context WYSIWYG editing and template-based publishing, to Multi-Browser Preview and customizable workflows, OU Campus has many of the features needed to keep a website updated.	Yes	Within Professor's MR Account. Each course has a separate link. Professor's profile/contact information consistent throughout all MR courses. Course Home Page is built into the Front page of the MR course.
	Announcements	Yes	Announcements can be sent to all Students in the course. The announcements show in the Course Studio and the Students Personal Announcement box	Yes	Announcements can be posted on a webpage. Can also provide RSS feed.	Yes	Announcements can be made for and appear on the entry page of each course shell. Email copies of the announcement can be emailed to all Students in the course.
	Email	Yes	The Professor can email all or selected Students without having to use a dedicated email client. The Mt. SAC email addresses will be pulled from Banner.	Yes	Students can contact the Professors through an email link posted on their pages. There is no group email feature.	Yes	The Professor can email all or selected Students without having to use a dedicated email client. The Mt. SAC email addresses will be pulled from Banner.
	Calendar	Yes	The Professor can add course events to the Calendar. They will show up on the Students portal calendar integrated with other course, club & personal events.	Yes	The Professor can add course events to the Calendar to be viewed on any pages. RSS feeds can be posted. Users calendars can be separated or merged. Add-in Calendar at additional cost (other details require further investigation)	Yes	The Professor can add course events to the Calendar. They will show up within the course in the Calendar view.
	Message Board/Discussion Forum	Yes	The message board is a standard discussion board for asynchronous communication: Student <-> Faculty and Student <-> Student	No	Not available	Yes	The Discussion Board allows for asynchronous communication: Student <-> Faculty, and Student <-> Student

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Communication Tools	Group Collaboration Functionality within course	No	Not available	No	Not available	Yes	Group communication and file exchange tools, e.g. Discussion Board, Chat, and email.
	Chat	Yes	Standard Chat client for synchronous online communications for Faculty, individual and/or multiple	No	Not available	Yes	Chat synchronous communication tools are available for class and group activities.
	Profile Page	Yes	The profile page displays the Faculty name and can include a link to the Faculty's designated home page.	Yes	The profile page displays the Professor's name and can include a link to the Faculty's designated home page. A standardized faculty template can be created for all faculty	Yes	The Professor information page is used for the Professor to include contact and other information about themselves. A photo can be included here.
	Student Homepages	No	Not available	No	Not available	Yes	Students can upload a photo, give an introduction, personal information and share favorite website links with the Professor and classmates.
	File upload and sharing: Documents (doc, docx, PDF, rtf, txt) -- Multimedia File types (ppt, photos, audio, videos, flash, etc.)	Yes in Part	Documents and Photos can be uploaded by Professor as well as students. By default, the Faculty leader must approve photos posted by Students.	Yes	By default, the Professor is the only person who can upload these files on their own webpages.	Yes	All file types can be uploaded by Professor or the Students. The Professor can additionally add files to content areas. Students and Professor can upload MM file types through the Assignment tools and Discussion Forums.
	Dropbox	Yes	Mt. SAC Portal Dropbox offers a temporary file depository.	No	Not available	Yes	The Bb Dropbox enables students to upload documents. (Not available in future versions of Bb. Assignment tool and Group Pages File Exchange features can be substituted.)

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Content Sharing	File Repository	No	Not available	Yes	Open to public only - access not restricted through authentication.	Yes	Through use of the Bb Content System
	Links	Yes	Links can be submitted by Students or the Faculty Leader. By default, the Professor must approve links posted by Students.	Yes	Faculty can create links throughout OU pages on their website.	Yes	Links can be submitted by students in the discussion forums and student homepages. Faculty can create links throughout Bb pages, discussion forum and course menu.
	RSS Feeds	No	Not available	Yes	RSS Feeds can be embedded into Bb or any other RSS feed reader.	Yes	RSS Feeds can be embedded into Bb. A third party webpage can be used to create javascript code to be added to the html editor in a Blackboard Item.
	News	Yes	News stories and similar information can be posted and can contain rich text and html.	Yes	News stories and similar information can be posted on a webpage and linked to an RSS feed that can be posted elsewhere in both text and html.	Yes	Links to news websites or see RSS Feeds
	Members/Roster	Yes	Members supplies a list of all members in the class. Faculty can add guest members as long as the guest has a portal account	Yes	Open to public only - access not restricted through authentication.	Yes	The Roster supplies a list of all members in the class. Faculty and and Students can access Student Homepages through the Roster.
Course Mgmt.	Content authoring on multiple platforms	Yes	Web-based	Yes	Web-based	Yes	Web-based
	Course Merge	Yes	Faculty can merge course section to eliminate multiple postings, email all sections, etc	No	Not available	No	Will be available in a future version.
	Grade Book	No	Not available	No	Not available	Yes	The Grade Center is a comprehensive, interactive tool for recording data, monitoring Student progress, and communicating information to Students.

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Assmnt. Tools	Tests/Quizzes	No	Not available	No	Not available	Yes	Tests and question pools can be created, managed, deployed imported and exported to/from Bb courses.
	Surveys	No	Not available	No	Not available	Yes	Surveys can be created, managed, imported and exported to/from Bb courses.
Tracking	Student Tracking	Yes	Will show Students' last visit to Course Studio	No	Not available	Yes	Access to aggregate data about users, activities, and courses in the joule site, as well as engagement trends and distributions.