



# The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle™

*A solution brief*

July 2010

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## What is the Elluminate Bridge for Moodle?

The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle makes the connection between synchronous and asynchronous components of a complete eLearning solution. It brings instructionally sound Elluminate *Live!* real-time collaborations directly into the framework of the Moodle course management system and methodology. The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle enables:

- **Course designers and instructors** to add scheduled classes or “virtual office hours”-style real-time sessions as an activity in a Moodle course
- **Students** to enter live or archived real-time sessions from within the familiar Moodle course environment
- **Administrators and IT professionals** to use powerful Elluminate *Live!* ASP or self-hosted enterprise deployment options to bridge to their campus Moodle and other directories or LMS systems at the same time, to the same instance of Elluminate *Live!*
- **CIOs and other educational executives** to be confident that their existing expenditures in learning management systems, directories, training, and content development are extended and not thrown away when adding real-time collaboration to the mix
- **Staff** to have secure access to real-time collaboration for meetings from the same Elluminate system even if they don't have access to the Moodle like instructors do

## Powerful and Easy to Implement for Course Designers and Instructors

As a teacher or course designer, there are a number of exciting things this Bridge brings to your Moodle courses.

***Elluminate session as a Moodle activity:*** From within the standard Moodle interface, an instructor or course designer can add a real-time Elluminate session as an activity.

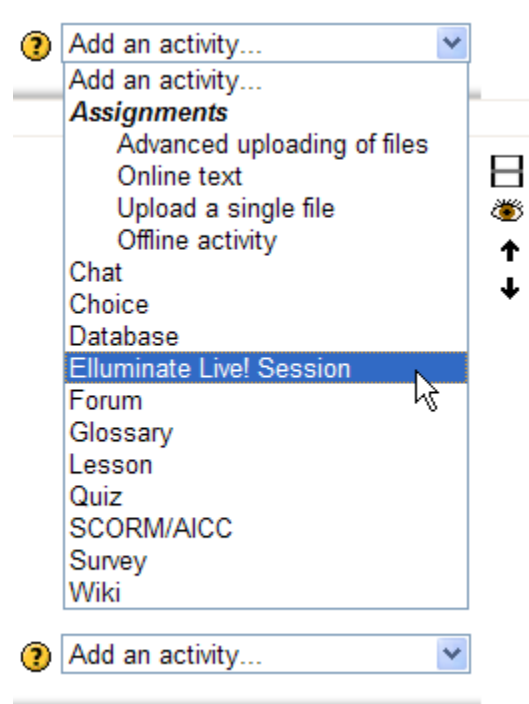


Figure 1. The instructor's point of view: adding an Elluminate Activity

**Flexible session characteristics:** A number of characteristics about this live session can be configured, including the scheduled time and whether the session recording will start automatically or manually.

The screenshot shows the 'Editing Elluminate Live! Session' page in Moodle. The page title is 'Quantum Mechanics' and the user is logged in as 'Admin User'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Int. Moodle > QM101 > Elluminate Live! Sessions > Editing Elluminate Live! Session'. The 'General' section contains the following fields:

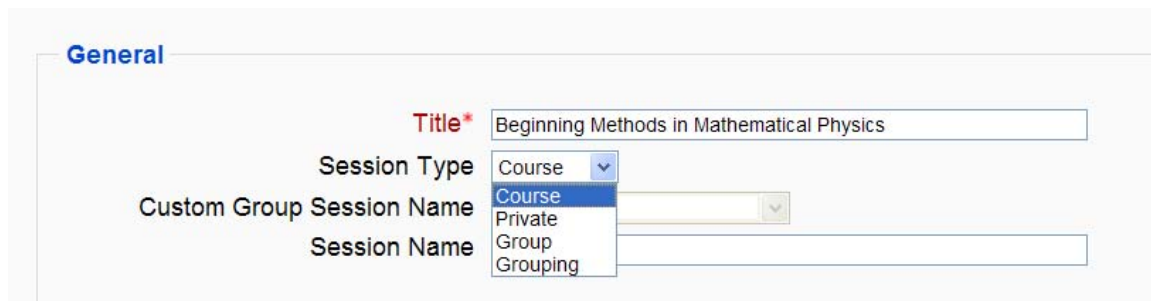
- Title\***: Beginning Methods in Mathematical Physics
- Session Type**: Course
- Custom Group Session Name**: None
- Session Name**: (empty)
- Description**: This session introduces vectors, vector spaces and operators.
- Prefix description with group name**:
- Session begins**: 22 July 2010 14:00
- Session ends**: 22 July 2010 15:00
- Session recording**: Manual
- Boundary time**: 15
- Display boundary time**:
- Grade attendance**: No grade

At the bottom of the form are three buttons: 'Save and return to course', 'Save and display', and 'Cancel'.

**Figure 2. Defining the Elluminate session settings**

**Session Types:** When creating a session, you can select one of four session types:

- **Course** – session is available to all of the participants in a course
- **Private** – used to only make the session available to a subset of students. For example, an instructor wants to meet with a particular student to review their work.
- **Group** – to divide students enrolled in a large course into smaller work or collaboration groups.
- **Groupings** – Used to assign sessions to a Moodle Grouping (e.g. group of groups). The concept of Groupings is best described by the following example:
  - In a class, you've divided your students into 4 groups, each with their own author to research. Groups A and B, while they have different authors, are both assigned to write in a forum; groups C and D, though writing on different authors, are supposed to make a wiki. You might create a Forum *Grouping*, containing groups A and B, and a Wiki *Grouping*, containing groups C and D. Then, you can make the Wiki activity available to only the Wiki grouping, but you still have your two Wiki sub-groups, as well - C and D - for an added layer of distinction between the work going on about two different authors.



The screenshot shows a Moodle form for creating a session. The 'General' section is visible. The 'Title\*' field is filled with 'Beginning Methods in Mathematical Physics'. The 'Session Type' dropdown menu is open, showing the following options: 'Course' (selected), 'Custom Group Session Name', 'Private', 'Group', and 'Grouping'. There are also empty input fields for 'Custom Group Session Name' and 'Session Name'.

**Figure 3. Session Types**

**Predefined moderators from existing Moodle users:** You can also predefine who is assigned the ability to be the moderator in the Elluminate session on a system-wide level or by course. While Elluminate *Live!* allows you to promote or demote moderators on the fly, this capability lets teachers and students just click and join with the proper moderators already assigned even before the session starts.

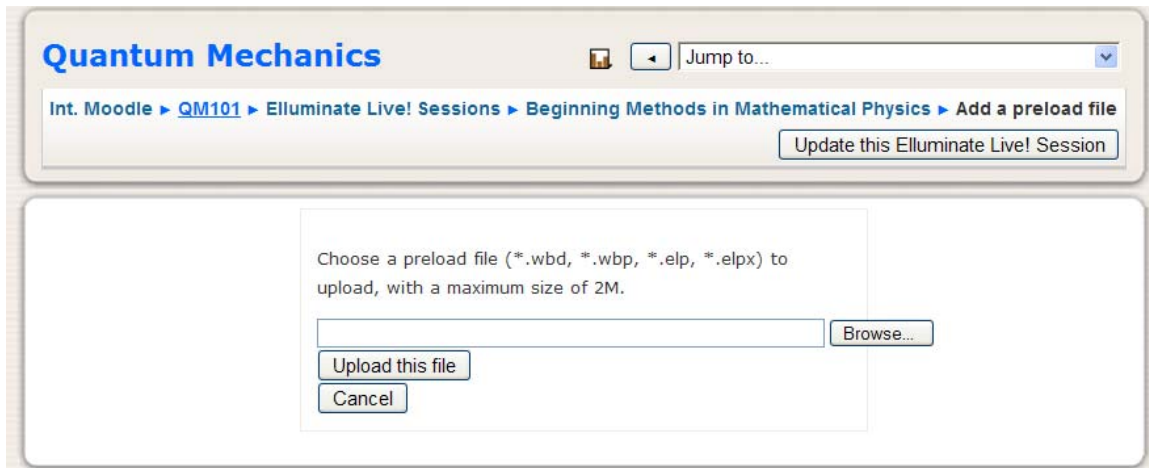
Session Creator: Admin User (admin)

0 existing moderators	1 available moderator
Ken Horemans (kenh)	Matthew Schmidt (matts)
<input type="button" value="Remove moderator(s) -&gt;"/>	<input type="button" value="&lt;- Add moderator(s)"/>

\* - Indicates session creator and cannot be removed from the session.

**Figure 4. Assign moderators for a session from Moodle before the session**

**Pre-load content:** When adding a session you can also pre-load content, such as a whiteboard or an Elluminate Plan file. Pre-loaded content will be available when the session starts.

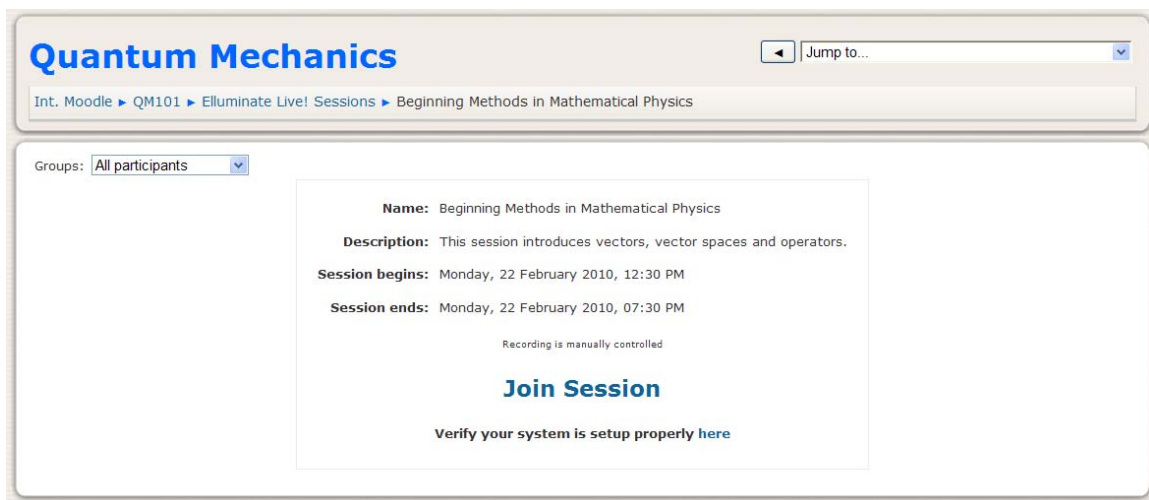


**Figure 5. Adding Preloaded content**

## Easy to Access and Use for Students

The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle makes students joining live and recorded Elluminate sessions simple. Since they already know Moodle, they will quickly understand the way in which Elluminate sessions are used in it. No new user interface training is needed.

**Students can join from their Moodle interface:** Students can join their live sessions directly from the Moodle course.



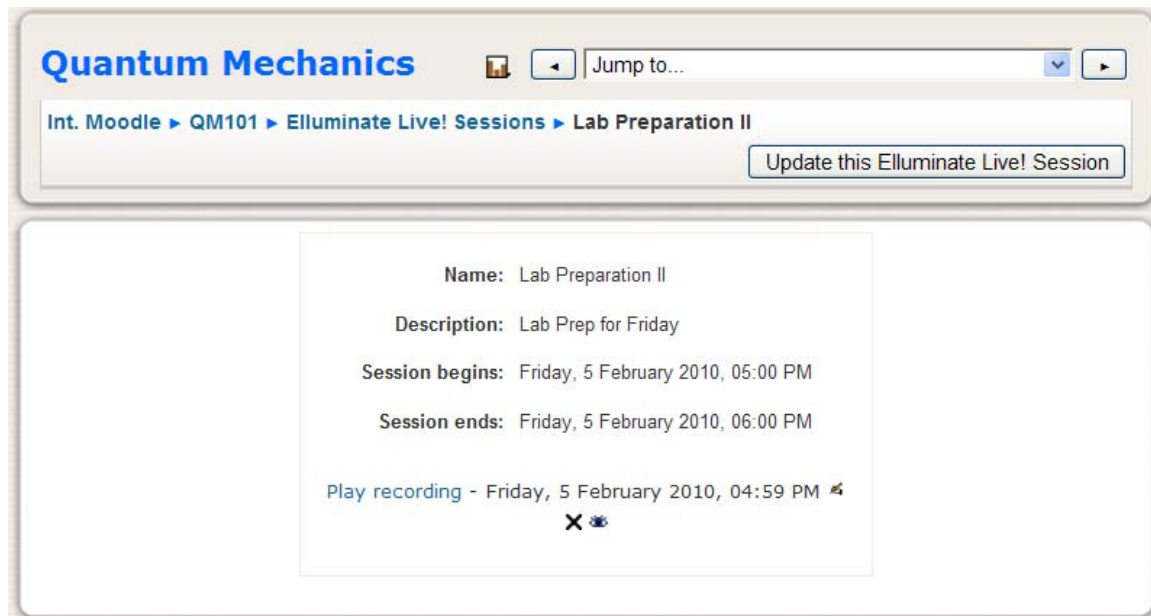
**Figure 6. Join live or view recorded Elluminate sessions directly from a course**

**Illuminate sessions are Moodle activities:** Illuminate sessions show up in Moodle as activities. They can appear in the topic outline.

The screenshot displays two sections of a Moodle topic outline. The top section, titled "Weekly outline", lists four activities: "News forum", "Lab Preparation", "Lab Preparation II", and "Lab Session". Each activity is accompanied by a set of icons for navigation and management. Below the list are two dropdown menus: "Add a resource..." and "Add an activity...". The bottom section, titled "23 February - 1 March", lists four activities: "Beginning Methods in Mathematical Physics", "Exam Preparation I", "Exam Preparation II", and "Office Hours". It also features the same set of icons and dropdown menus. To the right of the second section are icons for a table of contents, visibility, and scroll navigation. At the bottom of the entire outline is a "Jump to..." dropdown menu.

**Figure 7. Topics can contain live Elluminate sessions as activities**

**Recent session recordings and course recordings:** Recent public session recordings are shown in the Elluminate recording block, while individual courses show recordings of individual sessions from within the course.



**Figure 8. Access recordings from the course**

## Valuable to Administrators and IT Professionals

**The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle is open source:** This allows security conscious instructors to examine how the system connects from the campus Moodle to Elluminate.

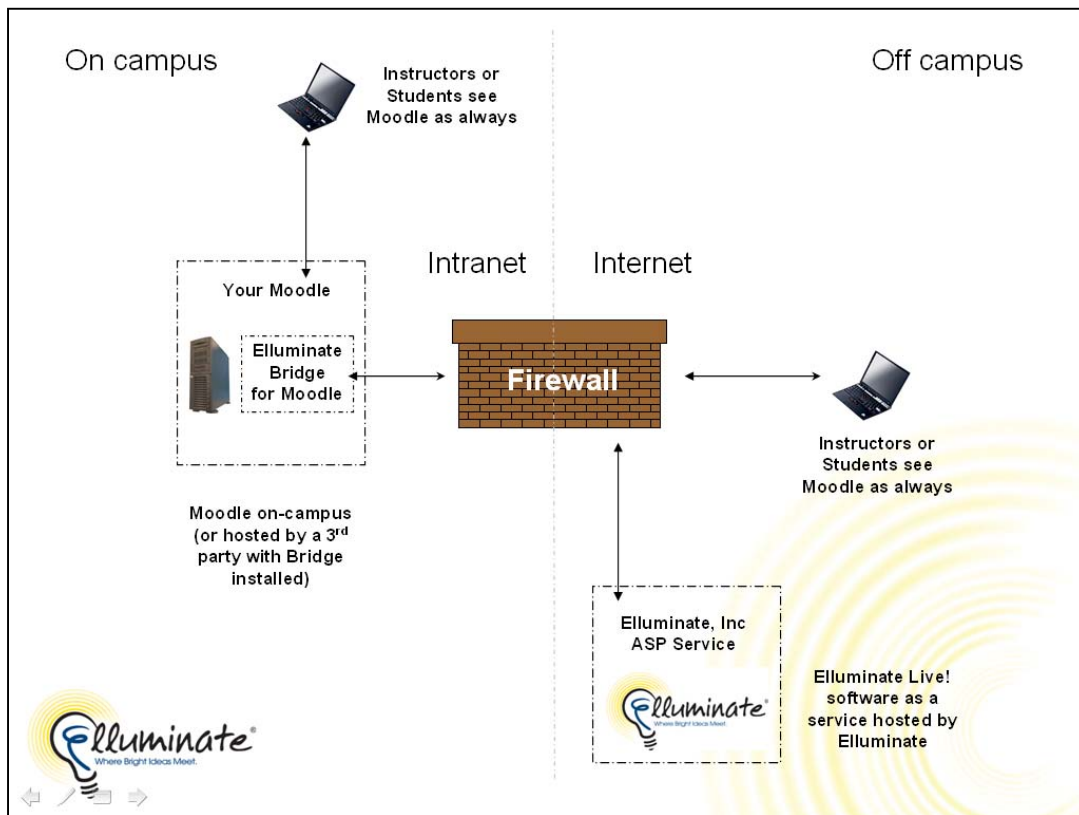
**The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle is built on the Elluminate Bridge Standard API:** This is the same API that has allowed partners and customers to construct other bridges. If your campus wants to build a bridge between a custom campus portal and Elluminate *Live!* this is the same documented and supported API you will use. Elluminate also has professional services available to help you build your own Elluminate Bridge.

**ASP or Hosted:** The Elluminate Bridge for Moodle can connect to a campus supported or an ASP-hosted version of *Elluminate Live!* This gives your campus maximum deployment flexibility (see the next section).

## Deploying the Elluminate Bridge for Moodle: ASP or Self Hosted

Elluminate recognizes that some organizations want to host Elluminate *Live!* themselves while others want an ASP software as a service (SaaS) model. In either case, the Elluminate Bridge for Moodle connects the Moodle you are already supporting on your campus to the Elluminate *Live!* system. (Elluminate does not host the actual Moodle instance.)

**Elluminate ASP-hosted Elluminate Live! Services:** When you are using Elluminate *Live!* services hosted by the Elluminate ASP, the Elluminate Bridge for Moodle connects your Moodle to the Elluminate *Live!* ASP managed servers.

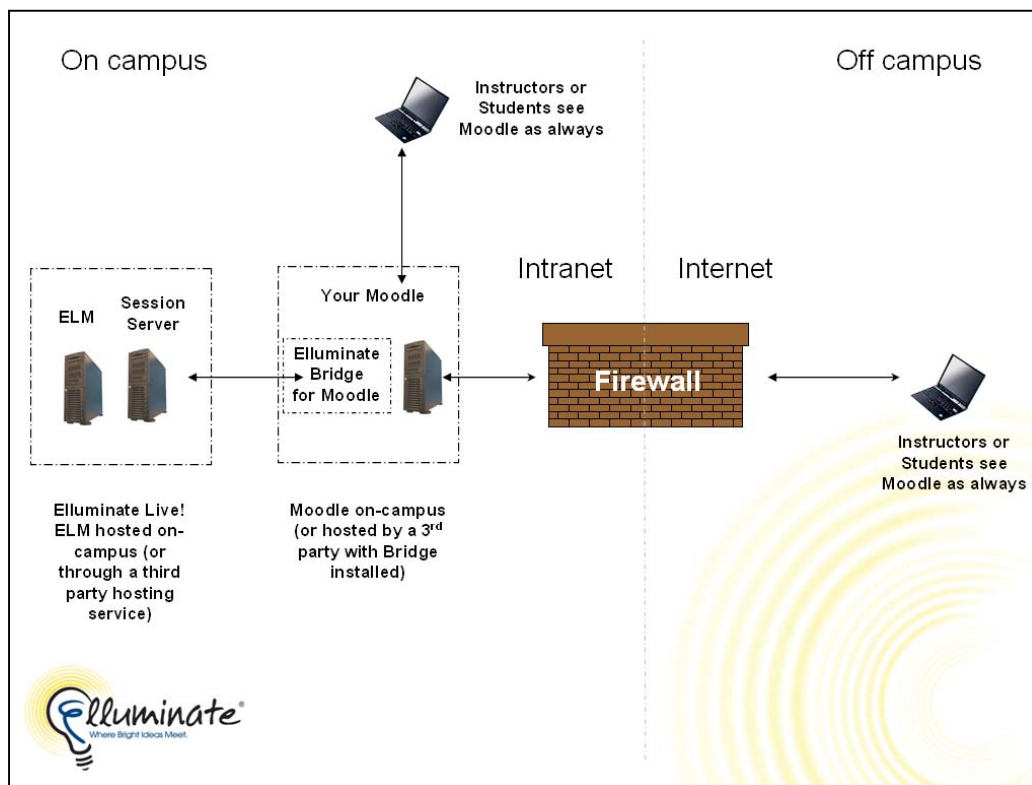


**Figure 9. Elluminate ASP-hosted service bridged to Moodle**

In the scenario in Figure 10 above, you install the ASP-hosted Elluminate Bridge for Moodle (the SAS version) from the open source tree. Here are a few important things about this scenario.

- The Bridge itself is free and open source, but there are additional ASP hosting costs involved in connecting the bridge to the *Elluminate Live!* ASP. Please contact your Elluminate salesperson for more details on this hosting service fee.
- In this scenario, Elluminate *Live!* services are hosted by Elluminate. If you host Elluminate on your own campus with Elluminate ELM, see the following scenario.

**Self-hosted Elluminate Live! server:** When you are hosting the Elluminate *Live!* server from your campus, the Elluminate Bridge for Moodle connects your Moodle to your Elluminate *Live!* ELM server.



**Figure 10. Campus hosted Elluminate (ELM) bridged to Moodle**

In the scenario in Figure 11 above, you install the self-hosted Elluminate Bridge for Moodle (the ELM version) from the open source tree. Here are a few important things about this scenario.

- Elluminate, Inc. is not a provider that will host the Moodle instance. Hosting providers can discuss these options with you. Of course, Moodle can be hosted by your own campus IT department.
- In this scenario, Elluminate *Live!* services are hosted by your campus, or by a hosting provider your campus contracts with. To bridge with Elluminate ASP services, please see the other scenario.

## For More Information

For more information, please email us at [info@illuminate.com](mailto:info@illuminate.com) or visit us on the web at [www.illuminate.com](http://www.illuminate.com). You may also contact Elluminate by phone at 1-866-GO-ELLUMINATE. Outside the US/Canada, please call 1-954-229-2622.

## **About Elluminate**

Elluminate, Inc. provides proven, best-in-class web, audio, video, and social networking solutions that support 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching, learning, and collaboration. The company serves more than 1 billion annual web-collaboration minutes to over 7 million teachers and students located in 170 different countries.

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