

# Moodle Hosting: To Cloud or Not to Cloud?

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**catalyst** 

open source technologists

# Disclaimer - What is the Talk?

- Warning - Opinions are Coming ...
- Stand back - here comes Information
- Only you can decide what you should do.



# Terminology Cheat Sheet

- **Cloud** = someone else's computer (not internal)
- **Internal** = on a computer you can touch
- **Dedicated / Shared**
- **On-prem** = internal
- **Virtualised** = not on bare metal
- **Hybrid** = marketing speak



# Hi, I'm a “Hosted Moodle”



- Here's **Kevin**, he's the **Moodle Product Owner**. The one who has ownership and responsibility for the platform.
- Here's **Barry**, the **sysadmin** will makes sure my environment is ok. And fixes it if broken.
- Here's **Wayne**, the **Moodle dev** who fixes Moodle bugs and supports the data integration paths. As well as writing the odd Moodle plugin.
- Here's **Sue**, the **support manager** who talks to my learners and helps them where there is a problem.
- Look, my **educators**.
- Look, my **students**.

# A Month in the Life of A Moodle

- Learners do that **learning stuff**
- Teachers **engage with learners**
- Teachers **mark student submissions**
- Support team deals with **student issues and que**
- Support team deals with **teacher queries and issues**
- Learning design team **investigates new tools** and mechanisms to deliver learning
- Moodle expert **triages and resolves any bugs or issues**
- Moodle expert managed **Moodle version upgrades**
- Moodle dev **maintains, upgrades or extends Moodle** integration functions
- Moodle dev writes **new plugins or modules** for business



# Value Points in Moodle Hosting

*Either internal or external ...*

- Moodle Street Cred
- Reliability
- Performance
- Support Processes
- Flexibility



# Host Internally ... Why?



- We need **control**, ownership
- Internal **on-site usage patterns** in remote area
- **Capable infrastructure team**
- We have **Internal Moodle dev** capacity
- Bespoke/**complex system Integration** requirements that complicate external systems
- “It ain't broke”



# Host Externally ... Why?

- **Just not feasible** to house internally. No capacity/skill.
- Clean-up of **messed up internal Moodle instance**.
- Moodle has **outgrown internal team**
- **Student access** mainly external *i.e. datacentre better*.
- **Corporate policy** to push out services to cloud compute
- **Cost** considerations / Budget to outsource

open source Moodle business • **No willingness** to take on another hosting



# So, How About Moodle in the Cloud?

- Makes a lot of sense for **scalability, performance, flexibility** points of view.
- Makes a lot of sense for **big Moodle** with **big usage footprint**.
- Adds useful options during **massive load spikes**.
- Isn't always a magic wand. **May require some level of investment and re-architecture**.

# Moodle Hosting: Problem Signs

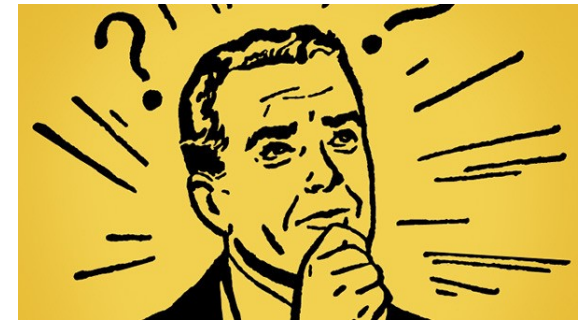
- Moodle version Upgrade lag
- Reliability issues
- Sub-par Performance
- No application ownership – *who ya gonna call?*
- Storage, bandwidth, infrastructure problems



# Time for a Deep Breath



# What to do Next?



- Do we have a **strategic plan** for our LMS?
- Assess the **current state of play** with our Moodle?  
i.e. what are the **problems**?
- What are the **priorities**?
- What are our **organisational options**?
- Who are our **potential technical partners / vendors**?

# Decision Making Metrics

- **Performance metrics** (concurrency / throughput)
- Confidence in **line of responsibility**.
- Support metrics – callback **times**, callback **availability**
- Can we **customise**? Do dev work?
- Can we get at **data** easily?
- One's to be be **careful of**: *uptime, storage,*

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*bandwidth*

# Questions?

- Did I mention we're hiring?

