

Chamilo LMS - Feature #7001

Update plugins & dashboard code

10/03/2014 17:24 - Julio Montoya

Status:	New	Start date:	10/03/2014
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:		% Done:	0%
Category:	Dashboard / Control panel	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	3.0	Spent time:	0.00 hour
Complexity:	Challenging	SCRUM pts - complexity:	?

Description

Now we use a better way to separate code from HTML (twig, new controllers, silex), that old code should be improved in order to create a better Dashboard (ex userportal) so users (admin/teachers/students) can add blocks (sessions, courses, users, groups, etc).

History

#1 - 10/03/2014 18:39 - Julio Montoya

- File Selection_001.png added

Something like this:



1

Homepage My courses Personal agenda Reporting Social network Dashboard Administration Ticket 6 John Doe

Dashboard (ex userportal)

Profile
Inbox 6
Compose
Pending invitations
Edit profile

Courses
Create a course
Sort courses
Courses sessions history
Course catalog

Skills
My skills
Manage skills

My courses
list of courses

My sessions

My groups

My special courses

My friends

My students

Etc

#2 - 10/03/2014 18:40 - Julio Montoya

- File deleted (Selection_001.png)

#3 - 10/03/2014 18:41 - Julio Montoya

- File Selection_001.png added

#4 - 10/03/2014 18:56 - Yannick Warnier

Chamilo LMS is loved and known for its ease of use. By adding blocks this way, you are only adding to the confusion that could end up building a new Moodle with Chamilo LMS (or a new Chamilo LCMS).

For me, this is an absolute "no". 100%.

The user portal as it is right now is almost perfect. We need to find ways to mix sessions and courses in harmony, but adding more elements is suicidal.

I'm only letting you develop your idea further in case we manage to develop some interesting conclusion to this, but if you could talk with teachers and students a little more, they would tell you what I'm telling you.

#5 - 10/03/2014 18:57 - Yannick Warnier

Plugins and the current dashboard are another story, but please don't touch the user portal page.

#6 - 10/03/2014 19:32 - Julio Montoya

- File Selection_002.png added

Yannick Warnier wrote:

Chamilo LMS is loved and known for its ease of use. By adding blocks this way, you are only adding to the confusion that could end up building a new Moodle with Chamilo LMS (or a new Chamilo LCMS).

??? Chamilo LCMS ? Moodle?

For me, this is an absolute "no". 100%.

The user portal as it is right now is almost perfect. We need to find ways to mix sessions and courses in harmony, but adding more elements is suicidal.

I'm only letting you develop your idea further in case we manage to develop some interesting conclusion to this, but if you could talk with teachers and students a little more, they would tell you what I'm telling you.

The problem of userportal is that we can't manage in a single page all this items:

Courses, courses in sessions, courses categories, session categories, user defined categories.

It works well if you have 1 or 2 courses, but if you have a big system (like our beeznest clients) this does not works.

In 1.10 there was a client request in order to add pagination in userportal, that's why now in 1.10 we show **only** courses in userportal, then you have links to see the "Sessions", "my courses categories", etc.

So It was already changed (before this task was created).

The image above show a real dashboard were a power user can see everything at a glance and is true that is more complicated but this could be changed depending of the users needs.

A simple version of that dashboard will be to show only 1 block (in 2 columns) that will show all your courses in a "classic" way. Then a second block that will show the sessions, something like this:



Dashboard (ex userportal)

My courses

Profile

Inbox 6

[Compose](#)[Pending invitations](#)[Edit profile](#)

Courses

[Create a course](#)[Sort courses](#)[Courses sessions history](#)[Course catalog](#)

Skills

[My skills](#)[Manage skills](#)

My sessions

· ECC...

#7 - 10/03/2014 20:08 - Yannick Warnier

Moodle and LCMS are considered more complex by users because they "show too much information" (literally said by 90% of all people that used Moodle and Chamilo LMS). Your idea of showing blocks and allowing the user to decide which blocks he wants to show on the homepage is a little like LCMS, but it does not match our market. We provide a simple solution to people who want to learn. We do not provide a control panel where they can, in a single learning session, go to 20 different places to "check their current progress". That's just not what our users do.

The normal user is not a "power" user, and "power" users represent less than 0.1% of our users base (including inside the teachers segment), which is why I am opposed to touching the user_portal.php script for that.

The specific case you are talking about ("BeezNest clients") has 600,000 sessions, something that we are not likely to see anywhere else in the near future. In this case, the issue is really on the "sessions history" page, not on the main page. In this specific case, also, they only show sessions to users, so courses are not an obstacle in most cases, but around 20 users (teachers) in a group of 500,000 have courses as well as sessions. For them, and to avoid overloading the system, we decided to show **only** one list + pagination, and make it possible to load the other one by clicking on it (other query). Showing all blocks at the same time would increase complexity for the user and reduce efficiency for the system (and caching would add requirements to the installation of Chamilo and increase our workload).

Another case with a similar issue is usil, where they decided to show "closed courses" but to load them in AJAX only if you need them, because they don't use sessions so they don't have a time expiry notion. Again, they load only one list, and load another one on demand, because showing all the information would be overwhelming.

I'm not arguing against the benefits of having many things shown on the same screen for power-users. The dashboard exists just for that purpose (although under-used at the moment), but most users are just not power-users, and I believe showing them too much information would be harmful to Chamilo.

But yes, making it possible for power-users (admins and power-teachers with more than 10 courses each) is nice. This should be possible through extending the dashboard page and adding a few options so users can choose on which page they want to land after login. If this is what you are suggesting, then yes, I'm cool with that!

#8 - 10/03/2014 23:39 - Noa Orizales Iglesias

I would like to share with you my thoughts about this but it is too late today and I can't, so I will send a more detailed post on this tomorrow.

But just to give you an idea, none of the teachers I have met so far has been able to use the dashboard on its on.... so imagine. I think that Yannick is right in trying to keep the software as simple as possible for common tasks. I believe that we already have a couple of features and sections within Chamilo that are more complex than what we wanted.

#9 - 11/03/2014 11:11 - Julio Montoya

Guys, the problem here is that you can't sort or do a pagination with the current state of userportal. Is unmaintainable the way it was done.

#10 - 11/03/2014 11:18 - Julio Montoya

Yannick Warnier wrote:

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Ok, so for students or teachers there will be only one block, in fact they will not notice the change. But the problem still occurs with the change I already did (pagination for courses).

The normal user is not a "power" user, and "power" users represent less than 0.1% of our users base (including inside the teachers segment), which is why I am opposed to touching the user_portal.php script for that.

userportal was already changed.

The specific case you are talking about ("BeezNest clients") has 600,000 sessions, something that we are not likely to see anywhere else in the near future.

I think that is sad and not optimistic to say that.

In this case, the issue is really on the "sessions history" page, not on the main page. In this specific case, also, they only show sessions to users, so courses are not an obstacle in most cases, but around 20 users (teachers) in a group of 500,000 have courses as well as sessions. For them, and to avoid overloading the system, we decided to show **only** one list + pagination, and make it possible to load the other one by clicking on it (other query). Showing all blocks at the same time would increase complexity for the user and reduce efficiency for the system (and caching would add requirements to the installation of Chamilo and increase our workload).

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The userportal page was already changed and now it only shows courses.

So what option you propose?

Creating 6 links so when you click in one of them you will see the classic userportal view, so no blocks?

- Courses
- Course sessions
- Sessions in categories
- Category sessions
- My course categories
- Courses in categories

#11 - 02/04/2014 19:37 - Noa Orizales Iglesias

This is a difficult one. Indeed, your proposal Julio veen if we do it using graphic methafors does not seem to be practical because sometimes users might not know if the course they want to log in is a category, a session or a course...

What if we ask teacher how they would like to see their homepage? Maybe they have another idea, because at this moment I don't see any fine solution for this.

#12 - 31/01/2016 23:55 - Yannick Warnier

- Target version changed from 2.0 to 3.0

Files

Selection_001.png
Selection_002.png

63.6 KB
62.3 KB

10/03/2014
10/03/2014

Julio Montoya
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