# Moodle Outage Coming May 26 – June 1

Moodle will not be available May 26 through June 1, 2016.

As announced in the April 26th issue of Etc., we are moving all Moodle courses and course content to our new Moodle hosting provider, eThink.

We have almost 140 GB of data stored in Moodle and you've been adding more daily! How much is that? One estimate is that 1 Gigabyte (GB) is equivalent to enough printed paper to fill up a pick-up truck (http://www.slideshare.net/77lucy/big-data-and-enterprise-search-trends-120827nn)

So, imagine Tech Services filling 140 pick-up trucks with your papers, driving them over to eThink and unloading. The process isn't quite that bad, but it will take a while.
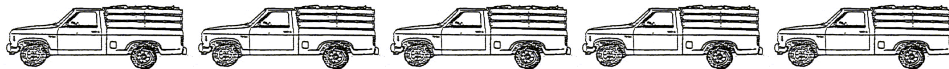
What does the move to our new hosting vendor mean for faculty?

Look and Feel - Moodle will look and work almost exactly the same when hosted by eThink as it does now with Moodlerooms.

Your Existing Courses - The good news is that we can move all your existing courses and course content to eThink.

Moodle Downtime - The bad news is that the conversion from Moodlerooms to eThink will take about 4 to 6 days, and Moodle will not be available for you or your students to use during this time. We apologize for this necessary down time. We use Moodle heavily, so there's a lot to move.

Additional Moodle Features - Other good news: eThink is much more flexible about adding Moodle plug-ins. Moodlerooms imposes hefty charges to add additional plug-ins. This means we will be able to more easily add extra tools – like a direct link to LiveText or a tool like BigBlue-Button (an online web conferencing system).

Moodle Reports - The "Joule reports" that we have been using in Moodle are proprietary to Moodlerooms and will, therefore, not be available after the conversion to eThink; however, eThink has agreed to create similar custom reports for us.

Advanced Forums - The version of Advanced Forums we have been using has some proprietary Moodlerooms features. We will lose some Advanced Forums grading features but will continue to look for replacements for this.

Realtime Registration Updates - Integration with Colleague will be better with eThink. Instead of waiting up to six hours after a student registers to see the registration show up in Moodle, eThink will check with Colleague and update course registrations every time a student logs in.

Unhiding Courses – Tech Services will be able to "unhide" all classes at the start of the semester; so if you forget to unhide your class, you won't have students calling you and asking where the class is in Moodle.

Reduced cost - It costs less than Moodlerooms! Always a good thing, in times of tight budgets.

We will be contacting summer instructors who will be impacted to help them plan for this disruption. In the meantime, if you have questions, please email helpdesk@alverno.edu.

Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding with this migration!

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