

This document tracks the time I spent to learn the Online Course "Introduction to Joomla!", course number B133.03 taken at <http://www.eclasses.org/> from reading and documenting online lectures, reading online resources, reading the book, and doing homeworks/projects.

These online classes are primarily conducted via the web board interface - called Web Crossing. You can take a Virtual Tour of an Online Classroom at <http://www.eclasses.org/Demo/>. The previous statement was the old way of running the classes, As of August 2, 2009 eClasses.org is using the Moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) classroom. Moodle is also known as a Course Management System, Learning Management System, or Virtual Learning Environment. It has a significant user base with 49,256 registered sites with 28,177,443 users in 2,571,855 courses (as of February, 2009).

Moodle is designed to help educators create online courses with opportunities for rich interaction. Its open source license and modular design mean that people can develop additional functionality. Development is undertaken by a globally diffused network of commercial and non-commercial users, streamlined by the Moodle Company based in Perth, Western Australia.

[See Wikipedia.](#)

(Note: the ".03" in B133.03 refers to the number of times the course has been given).

Total number of hours I spent on Introduction to Joomla! (Details below) = 20.5 hrs

*******Course Description*******

Introduction to Joomla! - course number B133.03

Start Date: 10-May-2010; **Duration:** 4 weeks; **CEUs:** 2.0; **Course Number:** B133.03; **Instructor:** Christine Gysin

How eClasses Work

The classroom environment is based on Lundeen & Associates Web Crossing technology, a threaded messaging system. Instructors post lectures, reading selections, and hands-on assignments once a week in the online classroom. Students can discuss the assignments with the instructor and amongst themselves in the classroom area. **This format has no set meeting time**, which allows students to attend class at a time most convenient to them, yet still provides logically organized communication between class participants. Students can apply for the completion certificate after finishing the class. Web Study certificate is also available. Click on the Certificates link on the top navigation bar for more information.

About eClasses.Org - Affordable Web Technology Learning

Since 1998 eClasses.Org offer over 60 online instructor-led courses and 4 Web certificates. Our courses are for both casual and professional interest in the areas of Web Design, Web Programming, and eCommerce.

The main benefit of our courses is the interaction among you, your instructor and other students in classroom (online message board). Students can post comments or questions to the instructor or other students, share ideas, communicate about your learning experience, or discuss topics of the course with other interested students.

- **Convenience :** Complete all courses via the Internet.
- **Flexibility :** Attend classes at anytime and from anywhere you would like to.

- **Instructor-Led Education** : Our instructors will help you with assignment questions, provide you additional resources, and keep you up-to date with rapidly changed internet technologies.
- **Affordable** : We provide high quality courses with much lower tuition than other training organizations.

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Course Outline:

Introduction to Joomla! (B133)

The introductory Joomla! 1.5 course provides historical and background information on Open Source and Joomla!. Students will explore the Joomla! Website and download and install the Joomla! 1.5 files. Students will become familiar with the basic content and features of Joomla! 1.5, create several pages of content, and link the content to basic menus.

Outline

Week 1:

- What is Open Source?
- History of Joomla!
- Examples of Joomla! Web page
- Content Management System
- Installing Joomla 1.5

Week 2:

- Website structure
- Front End
- Front Page
- Menus
- Newsflash
- Search
- Poll
- Content
- Feed
- Back end

Week 3:

- Administration
- Tool bar
- Submenus
- Filter Elements
- Content Area
- Help Menu

- Control Panel
- User Manager
- Media Manager
- Metadata
- Search Engine Optimization

Week 4:

- Section Manager
- Category Manager
- Article Manager
- Menus
- Front Page Manager
- Editing Menus
- Adding More Content

Prerequisites

Students should have some familiarity with html and a basic understanding of the term 'database'.

Requirements

Must have a functioning web server which has PHP 4.3 or later, has Zlib, and MySQL 3.23.x on or with Unicode character sets MySQL from 4.1.x on.

Books:

Required Book: [Building Websites with Joomla! 1.5](#) By Hagen Graf

Additional Information:

Your place in the course is confirmed by your payment. Introductory courses are intended for students with no experience in the subject matter and are seeking beginner level training.

Refund Policy: Please read our Terms and Refund Policy before registering for this course.

Additional Cost: Book and software might be required for the course. Read the Requirements and Book section for more information. Course fee does not include the book and software cost .

How eClasses Work: Instructors post lectures (text-based, no video or audio), reading selections, and hands-on assignments once a week in the online classroom. Students can discuss the assignments with the instructor and amongst themselves in the classroom area. This format has no set meeting time, which allows students to attend class at a time most convenient to them, yet still provides logically organized communication between class participants. Students can apply for the completion certificate after finishing the class.

Instructor: Christine Gysin

Christine Gysin has been employed in the technology field for over twenty years, both as a full time employee and an independent sub-contractor. Her experience ranges from a computer analyst, database programmer/administrator, technology directory, and Web designer/programmer. Christine Gysin has also been a tutor/teacher for over twenty years working with elementary, secondary, and college level students.

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How eClasses Work

About the Classroom

The classroom environment is based on Web Crossing technology, a threaded messaging system (message board). Instructors post lectures, reading assignment, and hands-on assignment once a week. Classes start on a certain date but this format has no set meeting time, which allows students to attend class at a time most convenient to them. Students only need to complete the assignment within one week and continue with another assignment in the following week.

The main benefit of our classes is the interaction among you, your instructor and other students in classroom (online message board). Students can post comments or questions to the instructor or other students, share ideas, communicate about your learning experience, or discuss topics of the course with other interested students.

How to Access Your Classroom

After you register for a class, you will get a receipt email and an instructional email. Simply follow the instructions to add yourself to the classroom (or grant yourself access to the classroom). After that, you can access your classroom at <http://classroom.eclasses.org/>

How to Use the Classroom

The classroom is organized by folders and discussion. A folder is like a folder or directory on your hard disk. It contains discussions or other sub-folders. Every folder has a title and a heading which describe the folder. On top of each page, there is the path of the current folder, so you can see where you are. If you click on any folder or you will go to that page.

A discussion has a title and heading that describe its purpose. Discussions are not 'chat-rooms', they are more like organized electronic mail. You can browse a discussion and post a message at any time. To post a message, just scroll down to the message form at the end of each discussion. Fill in the form, and then click on the 'Post Message' button following the form.

Someone else will see your post later, when they are browsing or when they check for new messages. You can always read the whole discussion from beginning to end, so you never have to wonder what people are talking about. Because a discussion may have many of messages posted to it, long discussions are split into smaller pieces. In a long discussion, you'll see buttons at the top and/or bottom that let you go back and forth.

The system automatically keeps track of messages as you view them. When you see a discussion in a folder, the listing includes how many messages are in the discussion, and how many are new messages. There is another way to check for new messages, through your 'Subscription List'. After you subscribe to a discussion or folder, you can later check your subscription list at any time. You'll then be shown the first new message, discussion, or folder that has been added since you last checked.

What are CEUs?

One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is generally defined as ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship and qualified instruction. For instructor-led online learning, each course is assigned a number of CEUs for that course which may not relate to the total number of hours an individual takes to complete the course. The number of CEUs awarded is the average number of hours required to complete a course.

Class Schedule

Almost every week, a group of classes is open for registration. A class is open about 1-2 months prior to its start date. Click on the Open Classes link to see the list of classes that are open for registration now. The same class is offered every 2-3 months.

Student Center

[Student Center](#) is another online system which requires a different password (which students selected when they first register.) Below is the list of what you can do in the Student Center:

- Grant yourself access to your registered courses
- Register for new eClasses

- Get the list of your previous and current courses
- Get your payment history
- Check your final grades
- Apply for class completion certificates
- Apply for Web Study certificates
- Check your Web Study certificate application status
- Update your email and mailing address

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So what is Joomla! and what can it do for my Web site?

Joomla! is a Content Management System (or "CMS") which enables easy control and editing of the content and presentation of your website. With Joomla!, you can do things like:

Edit the content of every page of your site through a word processor-style interface.

Add new pages to your site using a point-and-click interface.

Add images and other media through Web-based uploads.

Control site elements like navigation menus and page layout.

Many additional functions are available within Joomla!'s default user interface. Essentially, Joomla! removes the need to have a "geek" involved in the day-to-day management of your Web site content: If you are able to surf the Web, interact with Web-based forms and interfaces, and handle basic desktop computing tasks, you will be able to use the Joomla! interface to manage the content of your Web site.

Out-of-the-box, Joomla! provides all of the primary functions of managing Web page content. It also includes a number of specialized elements which support specific functionality, for example, end user registration, interactive polls, advertising banners, a contacts directory, and much more. Included with Joomla's native capabilities is an "Extensions" system which enables additional features via third-party Extensions software packages. (See <http://extensions.joomla.org> for more information.)

Joomla!-powered Web sites are different from Web sites which contain manually updated, or "static," HTML files. Instead, Joomla! is a dynamic Web application. Joomla! uses a database (MySQL) to store all of the content and information about your site, and it uses a programming language (PHP) to power its interactive functionality and dynamic Web pages.

What is Joomla!?

Joomla! is software that lets you make and update web pages easily.

You can think of a Joomla! website as bringing together three elements.

Your content, which is mainly stored in a database.

Your template, which controls the design and presentation of your content (such as fonts, colors and layout).

Joomla! which is the software that bring the content and the template together to produce webpages.

Joomla! is an [open source content management system](#) platform for publishing content on the [World Wide Web](#) and [intranets](#) as well as a [Model-view-controller](#) (MVC) [Web application framework](#). It is written in [PHP](#), stores data in [MySQL](#) and includes features such as [page caching](#), [RSS](#) feeds, printable versions of pages, news flashes, [blogs](#), [polls](#), search, and support for [language internationalization](#).

A **content management system (CMS)** is a collection of procedures used to manage work flow in a collaborative environment. These procedures can be manual or computer-based. The procedures are designed to:

- Allow for a large number of people to contribute to and share stored data
- Control access to data, based on user roles. User roles define what information each user can view or edit
- Aid in easy storage and retrieval of data
- Reduce repetitive duplicate input
- Improve the ease of report writing
- Improve communication between users

In a CMS, data can be defined as nearly anything - documents, movies, pictures, phone numbers, scientific data, etc. CMSs are frequently used for storing, controlling, [revising](#), semantically enriching, and publishing documentation. Content that is controlled is industry-specific. For example, entertainment content differs from the design documents for a fighter jet. There are various terms for systems (related processes) that do this. Examples are web content management, digital asset management, digital records management and electronic content management. Synchronization of intermediate steps, and collation into a final product are common goals of each.

Types of CMS

There are six main categories of CMS, with their respective domains of use:

- [Enterprise CMS](#) (ECMS)
- [Web CMS](#) (WCMS) --- Joomla! Belongs to this category 'Web Content Management System', since its functionality is administered from a Web browser.
- [Document management system](#) (DMS)
- [Mobile content management system](#)
- [Component content management system](#)
- [Media content management system](#)
- [Learning Content Management System](#) (LMS)

A **Web Content Management System** (WCM, WCMS or Web CMS) is [content management system](#) (CMS) software, implemented as a [Web application](#), for creating and managing [HTML](#) content. It is used to manage and control a large, dynamic collection of Web material (HTML documents and their associated images). A WCMS facilitates [content](#) creation, content control, editing, and essential Web maintenance functions.

The software provides authoring (and other) tools designed to allow users with little knowledge of [programming languages](#) or [markup languages](#) to create and manage content with relative ease.

Most systems use a [database](#) to store content, [metadata](#), or artifacts that might be needed by the system. Content is frequently, but not universally, stored as [XML](#), to facilitate, reuse, and enable flexible presentation options.^{[1][2]}

A presentation layer displays the content to Web-site visitors based on a set of [templates](#). The templates are sometimes [XSLT](#) files.^[3]

Most systems use [server side caching](#) boosting performance. This works best when the WCMS is not changed often but visits happen on a regular basis.^[4]

Administration is typically done through browser-based interfaces, but some systems require the use of a [fat client](#).

Unlike Web-site builders, a WCMS allows non-technical users to make changes to a website with little training. A WCMS typically requires an experienced coder to set up and add features, but is primarily a Web-site *maintenance* tool for non-technical administrators.

Capabilities of a Content Management System

A WCMS is a software system used to control a dynamic collection of Web material (HTML documents, images and other forms of media).^[6] A CMS facilitates document control, auditing, editing, and timeline management. A WCMS typically has^[7]:

Automated templates

Create standard output templates (usually HTML and [XML](#)) that can be automatically applied to new and existing content, allowing the appearance of all content to be changed from one central place.

Easily editable content

Once content is separated from the visual presentation of a site, it usually becomes much easier and quicker to edit and manipulate. Most WCMS software includes [WYSIWYG](#) editing tools allowing non-technical individuals to create and edit content.

Scalable feature sets

Most WCMS software includes plug-ins or modules that can be easily installed to extend an existing site's functionality.

Web standards upgrades

Active WCMS software usually receives regular updates that include new feature sets and keep the system up to current web standards.

Workflow management

[Workflow](#) is the process of creating cycles of sequential and parallel tasks that must be accomplished in the CMS. For example, a content creator can submit a story, but it is not published until the copy editor cleans it up and the editor-in-chief approves it.

Delegation

Some CMS software allows for various user groups to have limited privileges over specific content on the website, spreading out the responsibility of content management.^[8]

Document management

CMS software may provide a means of managing the life cycle of a document from initial creation time, through revisions, publication, archive, and document destruction.

Content virtualization

CMS software may provide a means of allowing each user to work within a virtual copy of the entire Web site, document set, and/or code base. This enables changes to multiple interdependent resources to be viewed and/or executed in-context prior to submission.

Content syndication

CMS software often assists in content distribution by generating [RSS](#) and [Atom](#) data feeds to other systems. They may also e-mail users when updates are available as part of the workflow process.

Multilingual

Ability to display content in multiple languages

Joomla! is a "Content Management System", which means that it is a system for managing different types of content. All content is stored in the database. The administrative back-end of Joomla! Allows you to edit this content or add new content. Whenever a visitor visits the website, the front-end shows him this content from the database. Hence, managing a Joomla! site is mainly about logging into the administrative panel and adding or editing content.

Joomla! - The dynamic portal engine and content management system.

What is Joomla!?

Joomla is an award-winning content management system (CMS), which enables you to build Web sites and powerful online applications. Many aspects, including its ease-of-use and extensibility, have made Joomla the most popular Web site software available. Best of all, Joomla is an open source solution that is freely available to everyone.

What's a content management system (CMS)?

A content management system is software that keeps track of every piece of content on your Website; much like your local public library keeps track of books and stores them. Content can be simple text, photos, music, video, documents, or just about anything you can think of. A major advantage of using a CMS is that it requires almost no technical skill or knowledge to manage. Since the CMS manages all your content, you don't have to.

What are some real world examples of what Joomla! can do?

Joomla is used all over the world to power Web sites of all shapes and sizes. For example:

- Corporate Web sites or portals
- Corporate intranets and extranets
- Online magazines, newspapers, and publications
- E-commerce and online reservations
- Government applications
- Small business Web sites
- Non-profit and organizational Web sites
- Community-based portals
- School and church Web sites
- Personal or family homepages

I need to build a site for a client. How will Joomla! help me?

Joomla is designed to be easy to install and set up even if you're not an advanced user. Many Web hosting services offer a single-click install, getting your new site up and running in just a few minutes.

Since Joomla is so easy to use, as a Web designer or developer, you can quickly build sites for your clients. Then, with a minimal amount of instruction, you can empower your clients to easily manage their own sites themselves.

If your clients need specialized functionality, Joomla is highly extensible and thousands of extensions.

I'm a developer. What are some advanced ways I can use Joomla?

Many companies and organizations have requirements that go beyond what is available in the basic Joomla package. In those cases, Joomla's powerful application framework makes it easy for developers to create sophisticated add-ons that extend the power of Joomla into virtually unlimited directions.

The core Joomla framework enables developers to quickly and easily build:

- Inventory control systems
- Data reporting tools
- Application bridges

Monday May 10, 2010	3.75	<p>Extensive Online Search for a Joomla template. For the class project.</p> <p>Read Week1 Teacher's Lecture for Introduction to Joomla! class.</p> <p>Read Week1 Online References: http://www.opensource.org/ http://www.joomla.org/ http://docs.joomla.org/ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joomla http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_content_management_system http://www.youtube.com/user/joomlasultan http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkOK78E9i70 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_EF4Gz6_Nc http://help.joomla.org/files/VisualGuide15.pdf http://help.joomla.org/ghop/feb2008/task167/index.html</p> <p>Book: Building Websites with Joomla! 1.5; By Hagen Graf [Pages 1-13]</p> <p>Finished Week1 Homework. Submitted it online at: http://blueoliveonline.com/joomla/</p>
Sunday May 16, 2010	2.25	<p>Documented and Read Week2 Teacher Lectures.</p> <p>Read Week2 Online References: http://www.siteground.com/tutorials/joomla15/joomla_layout.htm</p> <p>Finished Week2 Homework. Submitted it online at: http://blueoliveonline.com/joomla/</p>
Monday May 17, 2010	3.0	<p>Read Week2 Online References: http://www.siteground.com/tutorials/joomla15/joomla_create_template.htm http://clubtvk.com/joomla-video-tutorials</p>
Tuesday May 18, 2010	2.75	<p>Documented and Read Week3 Teacher Lectures.</p> <p>Read Week3 Online References: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf0Fovrm4Lc</p> <p>Finished Week3 Homework. Submitted it online at: http://blueoliveonline.com/joomla/</p>
Thursday June 4, 2010	4.5	<p>Documented and Read Week4 Teacher Lectures.</p> <p>Read Week4 Online References: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf0Fovrm4Lc</p> <p>Finished Week4 Homework. Submitted it online at: http://blueoliveonline.com/joomla/</p>

Total = 20.5 hrs

**** End of Introduction to Joomla! ****
