
































































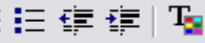

























































Carlson LMS, WebVista, Moodle Comparison

Item				up/green arrow = strength (2 pts) side/yellow arrow = limited, read notes (1 pt) down/red arrow = not available (0 pts)
Centrally supported at UMN				Carlson LMS is a local system. WebVista and Moodle are centrally supported course management systems at the U.
Class link shows via MYU portal 				Technically, the MYU portal pulls an appropriate class link whichever of the three systems the instructor is using. (note that LMS feeds into WebVista, which feeds to the MYU portal).
Copy files from other courses 				In WebVista, it is possible to copy some course content, but the process is not intuitive. To copy a course, a service request must be made. In Moodle, copying a course or previous files is easy/intuitive.
Email the class 				Carlson LMS and Moodle allow instructors to email the class. WebVista has a feature called "mail" but it is internal to webvista (i.e. does not actually email students). Instead, students must login to WebVista and look for "mail" messages.
Add Teaching Assistants 				LMS TA's must be added via request. In WebVista, instructors can add a "teaching assistant," but it provides limited capabilities (e.g. no access to upload course files). For greater access, a request must be made. In Moodle, instructors can easily add TA's as a co-instructor (full access).
Add Co-instructors 				In LMS and WebVista, an instructor cannot add another person at the same level as themselves. Instead, a request must be submitted to a WebVista admin. In Moodle, instructors can easily add TA's or co-instructors at the same level as themselves (i.e. the "instructor" role.)
Upload files (e.g. PPTs, PDFs) 				Files loaded into Carlson LMS and Moodle automatically show a file type icon (e.g. if a PPT file, a PPT icon shows). WebVista uploads files, but the file icon is the same regardless of the file.
Grade Book 				LMS does not have an electronic grade book; instead, the electronic grade book is inside the webvista section. The current Moodle grade book can be a little unintuitive. Moodle v 1.9 is due out in Summer 2009 and there are supposed to be improvements to the grade book. The WebVista grade book is fairly straight-forward, and also allows "pushing" of data to the grade book.
Quizzes 				LMS does not have quizzes; instead, quizzes are inside the webvista section. Both WebVista and Moodle have quizzes. WebVista quizzes allow for fine tune control (e.g. conditional release). Moodle quizzes allow for greater levels of feedback and more "learning quizzes" options.

Carlson LMS, WebVista, Moodle Comparison

Item				up/green arrow = strength (2 pts) side/yellow arrow = limited, read notes (1 pt) down/red arrow = not available (0 pts)
Discussion boards 				LMS does not have discussion boards; instead, discussion boards are inside the webvista section. Both WebVista and Moodle have discussion boards.
Assignment dropboxes 				LMS does not have assignment dropboxes; instead, assignment dropboxes are inside the webvista section. Both WebVista and Moodle have assignment dropboxes.
Surveys				LMS does not have surveys; instead, surveys are inside the webvista section. WebVista has surveys. Moodle currently has "canned" surveys (e.g. Stephen Brookfield's Critical Incident Questionnaire). Future versions of Moodle should allow for open creation of surveys.
Grading Rubrics				WebVista has grading rubrics that may be associated with Assignments. The rubrics allow easy scoring and feedback for electronic assignments.
Hide/Unhide course 				LMS availability can be easily achieved via the "red-x." In WebVista, there is a way to deny/grant students access to a course, but it is less intuitive. In Moodle, an instructor can hide/release a course easily.
Class Announcements				All three systems have announcements. LMS can email the Announcements. Moodle can email the announcement and/or students can subscribe to the "news" forum. WebVista announcements remain inside the webvista section. Students must login to WebVista to receive announcements.
Built-in syllabus				LMS has a built in tool. WebVista has a built in tool, but it is somewhat awkward to use. In Moodle, there is no built-in tool (but a syllabus file could be uploaded to the site like any other file.)
Rich text editor 				The rich text editor in Carlson LMS and Moodle is easy to use. In WebVista, the HTML editor is functional, but many professors encounter problems.
Student pictures 				LMS shows student x500 pictures to instructors. WebVista's roster tool lists students names/emails, but does not show pictures. In Moodle, if students fill out their Moodle profile, students may upload an optional picture.
Student names				All three systems display student names and email addresses.
Student Groups or Teams				WebVista and Moodle have abilities to put students into groups.
Multiple course sections merged into one course space				Carlson LMS, WebVista and Moodle allow multiple sections of students to be merged together into one class space.

Carlson LMS, WebVista, Moodle Comparison

Item		WebVista		up/green arrow = strength (2 pts) side/yellow arrow = limited, read notes (1 pt) down/red arrow = not available (0 pts)
When multiple sections are merged, ability to email by section				LMS splits up the email lists by section automatically. WebVista does not have "email." In Moodle, there is a way to setup emailing by section, with a little patience (email for details)
time/date release, uploaded files				Carlson LMS and WebVista have ways to time/date release of files. Moodle has ways to show/hide files but no easy way to time/date the access to regular files.
move files				Carlson LMS, WebVista and Moodle have easy ways to move files.
drag and drop moving of files				LMS has drag-and-drop moving of files. WebVista does not have drag-and-drop move of files. Moodle has drag-and-drop capability (but it is currently not recommended).
Learning modules				All three systems have learning modules
Student-View of course content				All three systems provide a way to see a "Student View" of course materials, etc.
Standardized "look and feel" across various dept courses				With LMS, an LMS admin applies a consistent template to the webvista sections (e.g. Carlson logo). In native WebVista, having a consistent look is not required and there is no easy way to "skin" courses with a Carlson look. With Moodle, an instructor can easily "skin" a course with the Carlson Logo etc in the Settings area.
More intuitive, easy-to-use software interface				LMS and Moodle have more graphical, intuitive interfaces. Many instructors find the WebVista 4 interface unintuitive.
Free in-person training via UMN UTTC				LMS has training, but not through Central UTTC. Both WebVista and Moodle have free training sessions through UMN UTTC.
Learning Goals				LMS allows instructors to input learning goals for "sessions." WebVista allows learning goals to be associated with course activities. Moodle does not currently have a built-in feature for learning goals.
TurningPoint 				In WebVista, instructors can apply a smartlink for students to register their ResponseCard ID (e.g. to download student lists and use them for in-class response card sessions)
online support webpages				All three systems have online support webpages with self-guided support materials

- Moodle <http://moodle.umn.edu>
- WebVista <http://webvista.umn.edu>
- Carlson LMS <http://lms.csom.umn.edu>

This comparison was put together for instructors wanting a contextual comparison of these three systems at UMN. If you have feedback or suggestions contact olevista@umn.edu