

I have constructed an Ubuntu based server that is running an Xampp server platform. It is all open source and the software that I have installed is all open source as well. I considered and tried out many different modules before settling on the ones contained within my server. You will find three modules installed on my server: Moodle LMS, TikiWiki, WordPress, and B2Evolutions blogging software. I also attempted to install OpenMeetings and Bigbluebutton web conferencing software but could not get it to install and run reliably so I decided against using it. I also want to point out that I have installed the Ubuntu Education Desktop on my virtual machine because I felt the software would benefit my current students. All of the software installed is the most current version. (Ubuntu Login: UN-rwhite PW-123456 or UN-root PW-123456 when logging into server from http:// UN-lampp PW-123456, and for phpmyadmin UN-root PW-123456)

The first module that I installed is the Moodle LMS. I installed this because I was considering whether or not I would be teaching adults or kids and it seems easy enough to use for both. I want a way to manage my courses that is not dependent upon the school servers or the school's technical staff. There are a large number of plugins and add-on modules available in the open-source arena and this makes it affordable for almost anyone to use. These modules are easily installed and the software is constantly being updated and made more stable. There are also ways to purchase server and other services to support this LMS. (Moodle Login: UN-admin PW- Rwhite+1)

The next module that I installed is WordPress. You will notice two different blog modules installed, but I wanted this for a couple of reasons. I want WordPress to serve as the official blog site, where students will have discussions and interact with each other in a more official capacity. They will upload work and other items for review and assistance from me the teacher and their classmates. It is important in E-classes that communication be open and ongoing for them to be successful. (WordPress Login: UN-admin PW-123456)

I also wanted somewhere for my class to build a course knowledge base and with this in mind I installed TikiWiki. Using this to post cited information and research to build a knowledge base on topics of interest and discussions will keep the class moving forward. I really enjoy playing around with Wikis and students like them as well. If we build our own pages and sites within our course then it will encourage creativity and input from everyone. (TikiWiki Login: UN-admin PW-123456)

Finally I installed a module called B2Evolution that will serve as our course social media site. I wanted to have a space for students to login and blog with one another, upload files and media, or carry on discussions that did not relate strictly to course content. This blogging site will give them the chance to do this, and build the camaraderie and closeness of members who may be very far apart. It also gives everyone a break from the formal environment found within the classroom, even online. (B2Evolution Login: UN-admin PW-zToy4SqGj)

In wrapping up I can say that I have learned a great deal about creating a server from scratch. I have experienced technical frustrations and taught myself a lot about trouble shooting and where to look for errors. In putting this server together I think I have included a lot of the tools that would help make a course great. I would love to add a web conferencing module, but that requires a little more work and research on my part, but other than that I think I have built something very complete and workable. I can see myself working within these modules to establish course pages and guidelines, and working my syllabus around the content that I could include.