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Note: This page is about creating courses with a text (.csv) file. If you want to upload a course backup in .mbz or .tgz format, see Course restore.
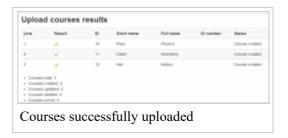
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Upload courses

In addition to creating new courses, the upload courses functionality may also be used to update or delete courses, or import content from another course. For information on using this functionality to create course templates, see Adding a new course.

To upload one or more courses

1. Go to *Administration > Site administration > Courses > Upload courses*
2. Either drag and drop the CSV file or click the 'Choose a file' button and select the file in the file picker
3. Select appropriate import options carefully, then click the preview button.

Upload courses admin screen

Courses successfully uploaded

Note: It is also possible to use the command-line tool *admin/tool/uploadcourse/cli/uploadcourse.php*.

When using the web interface, use the *Preview* option to see if any errors were detected in the previewed rows. If you proceed with the upload and there were something wrong detected with a course, it will be ignored.

Short file example

uploadcourse.csv:

Note: shortname, fullname, and category are required.

The category field takes the id of the category, with the default category Miscellaneous having id 1. Categories must already exist. If you put a category id that does not exist, you will receive a "Could not resolve category by ID" error during upload preview, and courses in that category will not be created.

```
shortname,fullname,category,summary,enrolment_1,enrolment_1_role,enrolment_1_enrolperiod,role_student
courserestored,Course restored,1,a summary,manual,student,1 month,
courserestored2,Course restored 2,1,a summary,,,,
courserestored3,Course restored 3,1,a summary,,,,padawan
courserestored4,Course restored 4,1,"a summary, with comma",manual,student,1 month,padawan
```

Notice there are no spaces between the items.

Creating the text file

The text file to upload courses must be a CSV file. It accepts the following columns which are divided in two categories, the course information, and the course actions.

Course information fields

Most of those settings are available on the settings page of a course. Please refer to Course settings for more information. Field names must be lower-case.

shortname
> The shortname

fullname
> The full name

idnumber
> The ID number

category
> The ID of the category to place the course in. This takes precedence over *category_idnumber* and *category_path*.

category_idnumber
> The ID number of the category to place the course in. This takes precedence over *category_path*.

category_path
> The path of the category to place the course in. If you want to place the course in a category named "Science-Fiction" which is located under the category "Movies", the value to provide is:

```
Movies / Science-Fiction
```

> . Note that the separator must be

```
[space]/[space]
```

> . Also note that the category MUST exist, it will not be created. If you want to place the course in the top-level category "Movies", the value to provide is:

```
Movies
```

visible
> 1 if the course is visible, 0 if hidden

startdate
> The time at which the course starts. Please note that this value is passed to the PHP function strtotime to generate a timestamp. Example 01.12.2014 (1st December 2014)

enddate
> The time at which the course ends. Please note as with startdate that this value is passed to the PHP function strtotime to generate a timestamp. Example 01.12.2014 (1st December 2014)

summary
> The summary of the course

format
> The course format to use, this must be a valid course format plugin name. E.g. *weeks*, *topics*.

theme
> The theme to use

lang
> The language to use

newsitems
> The number of news items

showgrades
> 1 to show the gradebook to students, 0 to hide it.

showreports
> 1 to show the activity reports, 0 to hide it.

legacyfiles
> 1 to enable the legacy course files, 0 not to.

maxbytes
> The maximum upload size of the course in bytes. Use 0 for the site limit.

groupmode
> 0 for *No groups*, 1 for *Separate groups* and 2 for *Visible groups*.

groupmodeforce
> 1 to force the group mode, otherwise enter 0.

enablecompletion
> 1 to enable the activity completion, 0 not to.

tags
> A comma-separated list of tags to add to the course. Existing tags will be deleted. Enclose multiple tags in quotes.

Enrolment fields

Some fields can be constructed to enable and configure enrolment methods. The fields must be named *enrolment_[number]* for the enrolment method name, and *enrolment_[number]_property* for its properties.

enrolment_[number]
> The name of the enrolment method (eg, manual, guest, self)

enrolment_[number]_delete
> 1 to delete this enrolment method from the course, if set to 1 all the other properties will be ignored.

enrolment_[number]_disable
> 1 to disable this enrolment method from the course, if set to 1 all the other properties will be ignored.

enrolment_[number]_startdate
> The enrolment start date. This value is passed to the PHP function strtotime().

enrolment_[number]_enddate
> The enrolment end date. This value is passed to the PHP function strtotime().

enrolment_[number]_enrolperiod
> Number of seconds, or if not a value understood by strtotime() such as "4 days".

enrolment_[number]_role
> The role short name

enrolment_[number]_[property]
> Where property is understood by the specified enrolment method

enrolment_[number]_password
> The course enrolment key

Note: Upload courses is not yet compatible with all enrolment methods (MDL-43127).

Example

```
enrolment_1: manual
enrolment_1_role: student
enrolment_1_enrolperiod: 1 month

enrolment_2: self
enrolment_2_startdate: 2013-01-30
```

Role renaming

To rename some roles, using the following pattern:

role_[shortname]
> The new name of the role *[shortname]*.

Example

```
role_student: Apprentice
role_teacher: Master
role_mycustomrole: Jedi
```

It is worth noting that the short name for the teacher role is *editingteacher* and the short name for the non-editing teacher is *teacher*.

Course action fields

Those settings take precedence over the *Course process* parameters.

delete
> 1 to delete the course

rename
> The shortname to rename the course to

backupfile
> An absolute path to a backup file (.mbz) to import in the course.

(This means the full path to your course, for example */home/yourmoodle/public_html/moodle27/transfert/backup.mbz* . If you are unsure of this, look at include_path in *Site administration>Server>PHP info.)*

templatecourse
> The short name of a course to import the content from

reset
> 1 to reset the course

Mandatory fields

shortname
> This field is mandatory for every operation, with the only exception of creating new courses. See details on the course process parameter *Shortname template* for more information.

fullname
> Required when creating a new course.

category, category_idnumber, category_path
> One of these is required when creating a course.

Import options

To prevent unexpected behaviour, you have to specify what you want the tool to be able to do.

Upload mode
> This allows you to specify if courses can be created and/or updated.

Update mode
> If you allow courses to be updated, you also have to tell the tool what to update the courses with.

Allow deletes
> Whether the *delete* field is accepted or not

Allow renames
> Whether the *rename* field is accepted or not

Allow resets
> Whether the *reset* field is accepted or not

Course process

This allows you to specify actions to be taken for every course uploaded.

Shortname template
> If you are creating courses without a shortname, you can use this field to automatically generate a shortname. This field accepts two placeholders: %i for the ID number, %f for the summary.

Restore file
    A backup file (.mbz) to import in the course after create/update.
Restore from course
    The shortname of a course to import content from after create/update.
Reset after upload
    Whether to reset the course after creating/updating it.

Default course values

Those are values that can be set in the web interface for all the fields that are not specified in the CSV file. Note that they are always used when creating a course, but only when specified during update (see *Update mode*).

Increasing speed

When importing the content of a backup file, or another course, you are advised to enable the setting *keeptempdirectoriesonbackup*. This will considerably speed up the process of the upload if you are importing multiple times from the same source.

See also

- Demo screencast: Bulk course creation
- Upload users
- Creating course templates in Moodle 2.6 blog post by Mary Cooch

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Category: Course