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How to make useful Moodle course layout/component templates available to your teachers in Moodle's text editor
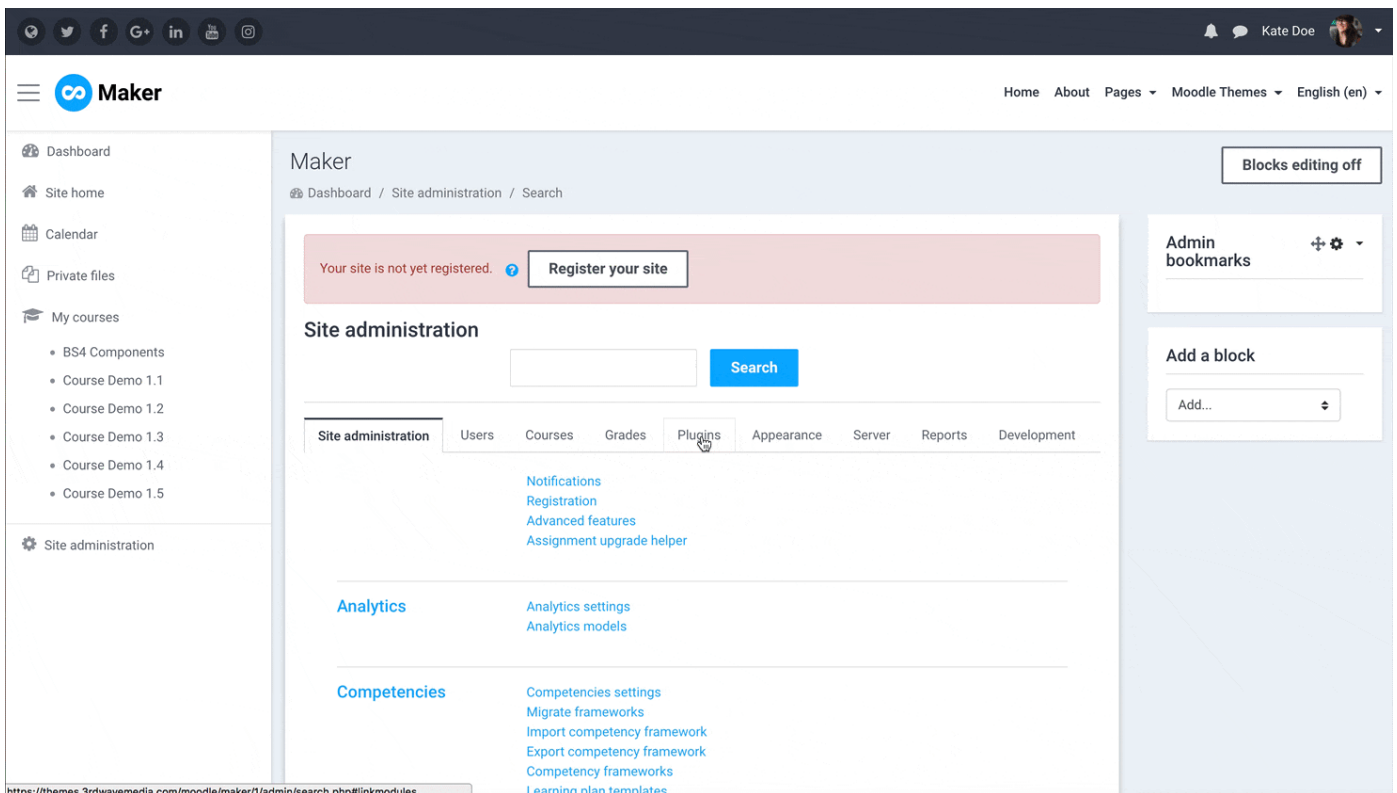
Posted on April 23rd, 2018

Want to provide predefined and preformatted course layout/component templates such as **tables, cards, badges and buttons** for your teachers to easily drop into courses they are creating? We've found the perfect solution for you – you can install a Moodle plugin called "Templates" (https://moodle.org/plugins/atto_templates) to achieve that. This could be a great way to **empower your teachers to create engaging courses with beautiful layouts and useful components**. You can even use this to make fully-fledged course templates for teachers to choose from.

In this tutorial we will walk you through the whole process of making a template available for your teachers to use in Moodle's text editor.

Step 1 – Install Plugin

Download the "Templates" plugin (https://moodle.org/plugins/atto_templates) from Moodle's plugins directory and upload the downloaded zip file to your Moodle's plugins page: `Site administration > Plugins > Install plugins`

Step 2 – Create Templates

Go to the plugins' settings page to add your templates: `Site administration > Plugins > Text editors > Atto HTML editor > Template settings`

By default, you can add 3 templates but you can add as many templates as you want by increasing the number in the "**Template count**" field.

To define a template, you need to enter the **template name** (plain text) and **content** (raw HTML code). For this tutorial, we created three templates called "tables", "cards" and "buttons". **The HTML code used in the templates was taken from the built-in Bootstrap components in our Moodle theme Maker (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/moodle-theme-maker-useful-bootstrap-4-components/3139/)** (Maker (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/themes/moodle-theme-maker/) is the theme used for the demo site)

📢 If you are using our premium Moodle themes (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/themes/), there are lots of built-in Bootstrap components you can utilise to create your templates. You might find the tutorials below useful:

Maker Theme: Tutorial (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/moodle-theme-maker-useful-bootstrap-4-components/3139/)
Labland/Impression/Herald/Gourmet/Element Theme: Tutorial 1 (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/add-useful-bootstrap-components-to-moodle-theme-gourmet/1939/) | Tutorial 2 (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/advanced-bootstrap-components-for-moodle-theme-impression/2459/)

Template settings

Template count		
atto_templates | templatecount	3	Default: 3

The number of templates you wish to have.

Settings for Template: Tables

The key that identifies template 1
atto_templates \| templatekey_1

Tables   Default: Empty

The key should be one word and only contain numbers and letters, underscores, hyphens and dots.

The body of template 1
atto_templates \| template_1

```
<table class="table">
 <thead>
  <tr>
   <th scope="col">#</th>
   <th scope="col">First</th>
   <th scope="col">Last</th>
   <th scope="col">Handle</th>
  </tr>
 </thead>
```

Default: Empty

Put the template here

Settings for Template: Cards

The key that identifies template 2
atto_templates \| templatekey_2

Cards   Default: Empty

The key should be one word and only contain numbers and letters, underscores, hyphens and dots.

The body of template 2
atto_templates \| template_2

```
<div class="card-deck">
  <div class="card">
   <img class="card-img-top" src="https://3rdwavemedia.com/demo-
images/slides/maker-card-0.jpg" alt="Card image cap" />
    <div class="card-body">
     <h5 class="card-title">Card title</h5>
     <p class="card-text">This is a longer card with supporting text below as a
natural lead-in to additional content. This content is a little bit longer.</p>
```

Default: Empty

Put the template here

Settings for Template: Buttons

The key that identifies template 3
atto_templates \| templatekey_3

Buttons   Default: Empty

The key should be one word and only contain numbers and letters, underscores, hyphens and dots.

The body of template 3
atto_templates \| template_3

```
<!--//Basic Buttons-->
<p><a class="btn btn-primary" href="http://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/">Primary
Button</a></p>
<p><a class="btn btn-secondary"
href="http://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/">Secondary Button</a></p>
<p><a class="btn btn-success"
href="http://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/">Success Button</a></p>
<p><a class="btn btn-info" href="http://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/">Info
Button</a></p>
```

Default: Empty

Put the template here

Save changes

Step 3 – Add "Templates" to the Moodle text editor's toolbar

After creating your templates, you also need to add the "templates" utility to the Moodle text editor's toolbar so your users can access the templates.

Go to the text editor's settings page to configure: `Site administration>Plugins>Text editors>Atto HTML editor`

Now your teachers should be able to access all of the available templates in the text editor by clicking the "templates" icon in the text editor:

💡 **Tip:** When working with templates **it's very helpful to make the text editor go fullscreen** so there is plenty of screen space for previewing and editing the inserted templates.

📄 **Learn more (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/how-to-make-your-moodles-text-editor-to-go-fullscreen/3487/)**

Below are some screen captures to show you how to insert the templates to your desired course:

Add a label to a course so you can add content to the course:

Insert "Tables":

Insert "Cards:

Insert "Buttons"

#	First Name	Last Name	Username
1	Mark	Otto	@mdo
2	Jacob	Thornton	@fat
3	Larry	the Bird	@twitter

Card title

This is a longer card with supporting text below as a natural lead-in to additional content. This content is a little bit longer.

Last updated 3 mins ago

Card title

This card has supporting text below as a natural lead-in to additional content.

Last updated 3 mins ago

Card title

This is a wider card with supporting text below as a natural lead-in to additional content. This card has even longer content than the first to show that equal height action.

Last updated 3 mins ago

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▸ Advanced Bootstrap Components for Moodle Theme Impression/Labland/Herald/Gourmet/Element (https://elearning.3rdwavemedia.com/blog/advanced-bootstrap-components-for-moodle-theme-impression/2459/)

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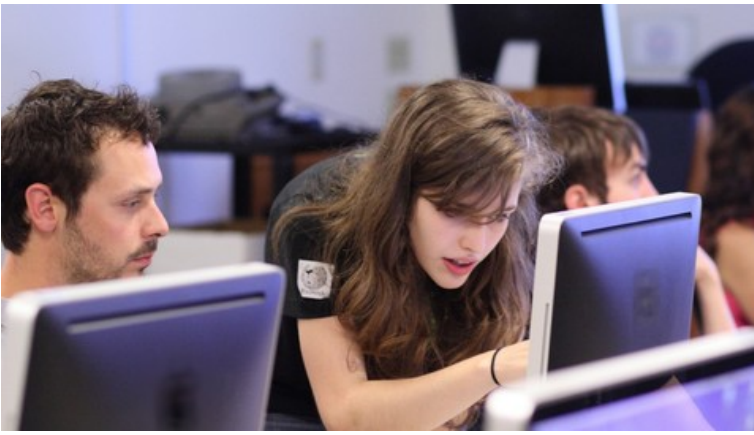Moodle 3.0x Masterclass: Complete Educator's Guide to Moodle (https://click.linksynergy.com/link?id=yEvJ0*btrl4&offerid=323057.622824&type=2&murl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.udemy.com%2Fmoodle-tutorial%2F)

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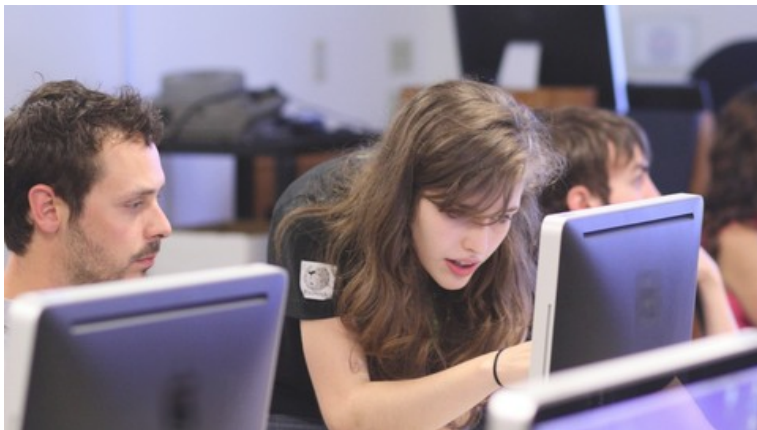
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