Anexo 2. Comparación de las prestaciones de tres plataformas para educación a distancia

©2009 EduTools / WCET			
Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
Communication Tools			
Discussion Forum	A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.	Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.	Students can enable or disable posts to be sent to their email.
			Students can receive posts by email as daily digests of subject lines or whole posts.
	Discussions can be viewed by date, thread, or poster. Discussion threads are expandable and collapsible to view an entire conversation on one screen. Posts can contain URLs, file attachments and may contain HTML. The discussion software includes a formatting text editor which can create mathematic equations.	Spell-checker is available in new web browser like mozilla firefox 2.0	Students can subscribe to forum RSS feeds.
			A spell-checker is available for student and instructor responses.
			Granular roles system enables students to be set as administrator of individual forums in a course.
Discussion Management	Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.	Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.	Instructors can allow students to create discussion groups.
	Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.	Instructors can set up moderated discussions where all posts are screened.	Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.	Posts may be peer reviewed by other students.	Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.
	Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.	Instructors can view statistical summaries of discussions displaying participation which can be used to generate grades.	Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.
	Discussions can be shared across courses, departments, or any institutional unit.		
			The Q & A forum requires students to post their perspectives before viewing other students' postings. After the initial posting, students can view and respond to others' postings. This feature allows equal initial posting opportunity among all students, thus encouraging original and independent thinking.
	Instructors can associate a discussion with any course content. Instructors can enable or disable anonymous posting, and determine whether student posts are re-editable. Instructors can determine if threads are graded or ungraded. Instructors can enable peer rating, which uses a 5-star scale. Instructors can determine if threads are moderated – if so, control over moderation		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	can be delegated to any user. Instructors can view posting statistics to evaluate student participation. Instructors may create separate discussion environments for small groups of students and teaching assistants.		
File Exchange	Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.	Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.	Students can submit assignments using drop boxes.
	Students can share the contents of their personal folders with other students.		
	Administrators can define disk space limitations for each user.	Each course space have is assignment tool	Students can upload files to their blog and share them with other users via the blog.
	Students have a private folder into which they can upload and download files. Students can upload files to a shared group folder. Students can submit assignments using drop boxes. Instructors can upload files to the personal folder of a student. Students can also submit assignments to instructors via an integrated Assignment tool. Students and instructors can also exchange content outside of course boundaries. Students may access their folders and upload content using WebDAV. The system allows commenting, tracking, and versioning for documents.		
Internal Email	Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or groups.	Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.	Students can use the built-in email functionality to email individuals or

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
			groups.
	Students can use a searchable address book.		Students can use a searchable address book.
	Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.		Instructors can email the entire class at once at a single address or alias.
			Students can elect to forward their mail to an external address.
	Students can use the Blackboard Messages (internal email) to email individuals in their courses. Emails can be sent to all users, users by role, or individual users. Students can attach files to emails, and emails can contain URLs, file attachments and may contain HTML.		
			The Moodle messaging system can deliver mail either online or via email.
Online Journal/Notes	Students can make private notes about their course. Students can also use Portfolios to manage online journaliing.		
Real-time Chat	The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions	The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions	The chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions
	Students can create new rooms.	The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.	Students can create new rooms.
	Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms.		The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.

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Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	The chat tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.		
	The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms.		
	The Java-based chat tool supports unlimited simultaneous group discussions and private messages. Instructors may moderate chats and suspend students from the chat rooms. The system creates archive logs for all chat rooms. Instructors can view chat logs and share these with students. The virtual classroom tool supports a structured way for students to ask questions and instructors to provide answers.		
Whiteboard	The whiteboard supports image and PowerPoint uploading.		There are several optional add-ons with whiteboard capabilities such as Elluminate and DimDim.
	The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols.		
	The software supports group web browsing.		
	The software supports application desktop sharing.		
	The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	The software supports a whiteboard that can have multiple instances in the same course. The whiteboard supports mathematical symbols, and image and PowerPoint uploading. The software supports group web browsing. The software can archive a recording of whiteboard sessions for future viewing.		
Productivity Tools			
Bookmarks	Students can create bookmarks to frequently-viewed content items.		
Calendar/Progress Review	Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.	Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.	Instructors and students can post events in the online course calendar.
	Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.	Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.	Instructors can post announcements to a course announcement page.
	Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.	Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.	Students have a personal home page that lists all courses in which the student is enrolled, new email and all course and system-wide events from their personal calendar.
	Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.		Students can view their grades on completed assignments, total points possible, course grade, and compare their grades against the class performance.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
			Students can subscribe to RSS feeds to be notified of changes to materials.
	Instructors can post course-related events and announcements in the course calendar or to the course homepage. The instructor can assign tasks by using the calendar and the instructor can enable an option so that the student can check their status at any point in a course. Students can check their grades on submitted assignments as well as compare their grades against the overall class performance.		
Searching Within Course	Students can search all course content.	Students can search all discussion threads.	Students can search all discussion threads.
	Students can search all discussion threads.		
	Students can search all course content and chat or virtual classroom session recordings by name or dates.		
Work Offline/Synchronize	Students can compile and download the content for an entire course into a format that can be printed or stored locally.		
	Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline.		
	Students can download course content and discussion group content with a PDA.		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can publish course content on a CD-ROM that can be linked to dynamically from within the online course or viewed offline. Students can download course content into a format that can be accessed on a mobile device and synchronize calendar events with a PDA.		
Orientation/Help	The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.		Students can access context sensitive help for any tool.
			The system includes online tutorials for students that help students learn how to use the system.
	Students can access online tutorials, a student manual, the product knowledge base, and the product reference center.		
Student Involvement Tools			
Groupwork	Instructors can assign students to groups.	Instructors can assign students to groups.	Instructors can assign students to groups.
	The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.	The system can randomly create groups of a certain size or a set number of groups.	Each group can have its own discussion forum.
	Students can self-select groups.	Students can self-select groups.	Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.
	Each group can have its own discussion forum.	Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.	
	Each group can have its own chat or whiteboard.	Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.	

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Each group can be given group-specific assignments or activities.		
	Groups may be private or instructors can monitor groups.		
	The software supports assigning students into groups by the instructor. Each group can have its own shared file exchange, private group discussion forum, synchronous tools, and group email list.		
Community Networking	Students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups at the system level.		Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.
	Students from different courses can interact in system-wide chat rooms or discussion forums.		
	If allowed, students can create online clubs, interest, and study groups. These groups can have their own catalog, templates, discussion boards, and more.		
Student Portfolios	Students can create a personal home page in each course.		Students can create a personal home page in each course.
	Students can use their personal home page to selectively display their course work.		
	Students can export their personal home page.		Students have a home page where their blog and personal calendar can be displayed. Custom blocks can be

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
			created to show other information.
	Students can create a personal home page. Personal home pages may include their photo, personal information, and links to important websites. Students may create portfolios, which can be private, shared with courses, shared with other users, or public. Students can contribute links, documents, or template-driven content to their portfolio, and can control the portfolio's look and feel. Portfolios can be exported.		
Administration Tools			
Authentication	Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.	Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.	Administrators can allow guest access to all courses.
	The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.	The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.	The system can authenticate against an external LDAP server.
	The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.	The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.	The system can authenticate using the Kerberos protocol.
	The system supports Shibboleth.	The system supports Shibboleth.	The system supports Shibboleth.
	The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).	The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).	The system supports the Central Authentication Service (CAS).

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Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.	The system can authenticate against IMAP, POP3 or secure NNTP.	The system can authenticate against IMAP, POP3 or secure NNTP.
	The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.	Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against a secondary source (e.g. the system's own database) in the event that the primary source (e.g. LDAP server) fails.	The system can support multiple organizational units and virtual hosts within a server configuration.
	Administrators can set courses to be publicly accessible or protect access to individual courses with a username and password. The system can also authenticate against an external LDAP server, Active Directory, Microsoft's .NET Passport Web Service, or using other protocols (Kerberos, Shibboleth, and CAS have been implemented). SIF is also compatible. User sessions can be encrypted with SSL. Administrators can set up fail-through authentication against multiple sources in the event that the primary source fails. Passwords stored in the system database are encoded.		Different users can have different authentication settings. The Moodle Network enables different servers to join in trust relationships to provide single sign-on between Moodle sites.
Course Authorization	The system supports restricting access based on roles and roles can also be customizedby the service provider.	The system supports restricting access based on roles and roles can also be customizedby the service provider.	The system supports restricting access based on roles and roles can also be customizedby the service provider.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools.	Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools.	Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools.
	Administrators can distribute the permissions and roles across multiple institutions or departments hosted in the server environment.	Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.	Administrators can distribute the permissions and roles across multiple institutions or departments hosted in the server environment.
	Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.		Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses.
	Administrators can create multiple domains, and designate users, courses, roles, and brands to each domain. Administrators can create an unlimited number of custom organizational units and roles with specific access privileges to course content and tools. Instructors or students may be assigned different roles in different courses. Administrators and Instructors can assign different levels of access to the system or to specific courses based on pre-defined roles. Administrators can delegate administration of the system to different organizational entities within an institution or consortia. The system can access authorization information stored in an LDAP directory.		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
Registration Integration	Instructors can add students to their courses manually or allow students to self-register.	Instructors can add students to their courses manually or allow students to self-register.	Instructors can add students to their courses manually or allow students to self-register.
	Administrators can batch add students to the system using a delimited text file.	Administrators can batch add students to the system using a delimited text file.	Administrators can batch add students to the system using a delimited text file.
	Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using delimited text files.		Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using delimited text files.
	The software supports data interchange with student information systems through an event-driven API.		Administrators can transfer student information bidirectionally between the system and an SIS using IMS Enterprise Specification v1.1 XML files via web services.
	The software supports integration with SCT Banner, SCT Luminis, Datatel, PeopleSoft 8 or customized integration with other SIS or portal systems.		The software supports data interchange with student information systems through an event-driven API.
	The software is compliant with the IMS Enterprise Specification for Student Data.		The software supports integration with SCT Banner, SCT Luminis, Datatel, PeopleSoft 8 or customized integration with other SIS or portal systems.
			The software is compliant with the IMS Enterprise Specification for Student Data.

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Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Administrators and Instructors can batch add students to a course using a delimited text file or students can self-register. Administrators can batch create courses, users, and enrollments in the system. The software supports integration with student information systems through an event-driven API or through their tool which is based on scheduled system extracts. Administrators can transfer student information bi-directionally between the system and an SIS in batch or in real time. The system supports the use of SOAP-based data integration. Integration with Student Information Systems is available through existing plug-ins. The service provider will assist, as a services engagement, in transferring student registration information between the CMS and the institutional SIS. The software is compliant with the IMS Enterprise specification for student data.		
Hosted Services	The product provider offers a hosted solution.	The product provider offers a hosted solution.	Hosting and support services from Commercial Affiliates.
		The product provider offers **only** a hosted solution.	

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	The product provider offers a hosted system that includes 99.75% Service Level Agreements with guaranteed system availability and performance on a network of high-performance, fault-tolerant servers with fail-over capability including load balancing and clustering, managed software installation, redundant Internet connections, redundant and conditioned power, redundant hosting platforms, 24x7x365 monitoring, 10GB – 20GB storage space to start, managed bandwidth usage, redundant T3 connections, daily data backups and weekly tape backups, and a secure facility with environmental control and a modern alarm/security system.	Hosting and support services from Commercial Affiliates.	
Course Delivery Tools			
Test Types	Multiple choice	Multiple choice	Multiple choice
	Multiple answer	Multiple answer	Multiple answer
	Matching	Matching	Matching
	Ordering	Fill-in the blank	Ordering
	Jumbled sentence	Questions can contain other media elements (images, videos, audio)	Jumbled sentence
	Calculated		Calculated
	Fill-in the blank		Fill-in the blank
	Short answer		Short answer

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Survey questions		Essay
	Essay		Questions can contain other media elements (images, videos, audio)
	Questions can contain other media elements (images, videos, audio)		Custom question types can be defined.
Automated Testing Management	The system can randomize the questions and answers.	The system can randomize the questions and answers.	The system can randomize the questions and answers.
	Instructors can create self-assessments.	Instructors can create self-assessments.	Instructors can create self-assessments.
	Instructors can set a time limit on a test.	Instructors can set a time limit on a test.	Instructors can set a time limit on a test.
	Instructors can permit multiple attempts.	Instructors can permit multiple attempts.	Instructors can permit multiple attempts.
	The students are allowed to review past attempts of a quiz.	The students are allowed to review past attempts of a quiz.	The students are allowed to review past attempts of a quiz.
	The system supports a MathML editor for the inclusion of mathematical formulas in both questions and answers.	Instructors can specify whether correct results are shown as feedback	Instructors can specify whether correct results are shown as feedback
	Instructors can specify whether correct results are shown as feedback		The system supports Remote Quiz Protocol which allows questions to be rendered and scored externally to the system via standards-based web services.
	The system supports proctored tests.		
			The system supports latex rendering of mathematical equations.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can create different levels of feedback messages. Instructors can import questions from existing test banks. Instructors can set dates and times for when students must access tests. Instructors can use passwords to restrict access to tests. Instructors can use the MathML and WebEQ equation editors to enable students to enter and edit mathematical notations. Instructors can create unit-specific tests or course-level tests. Instructors can provide personalized comments for essay/short answer questions, and can add comments to assessment results. Instructors can create extra-credit questions that can be scored separately. Instructors can differentially weight tests and create grading rules. Instructors can choose which attempt(s) to include in the grade calculations. Instructors can override the automated scoring and determine how to communicate test results to students.		
Automated Testing Support	Instructors can create personal test banks.	Instructors can create personal test banks.	Instructors can create personal test banks.
	Instructors can create system wide test banks.	Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.	Instructors can create system wide test banks.
	Questions can be imported from external test banks that support QTI.		The system provides test analysis data.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	The system provides test analysis data.		
			There are a wide range of supported question types for import, and new question importers are easy to write.
	Instructors can create question pools, an export and import those pools. The system provides analysis data for surveys and test item results can be exported for analysis.		
Online Marking Tools	Instructors can choose to mark each student on all questions or to mark each question on all students.		Instructors can choose to mark each student on all questions or to mark each question on all students.
	Instructors can choose to evaluate student responses anonymously.		
	Instructors can enable students to rate and comment on submissions of other students.		
	Instructors, and teaching assistants can mark paragraph questions, and mark and return assignments turned in through the Assignment tool. Instructors can provide feedback on quizzes and tests through annotations.		
Online Gradebook	When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.		When an instructor adds an assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook.
	Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.		Instructors can add grades for offline assignments.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can add details to the gradebook in custom columns.		Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.
	Instructors can export the scores in the gradebook to an external spreadsheet.		Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.
	Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ either percents, letter grades, or pass/fail metrics.		
			Instructors can add detailed comments to manually graded items in the Assignment module, Lesson module, and Quiz module.

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can add the grades for offline assignments to the online gradebook. Instructors can sort and view grades in the gradebook by assignment, by student, by category and for all students on all assignments. Instructors can import and export a comma-delimited version of the gradebook from/to an external spreadsheet program. Instructors can search the gradebook to find all students who meet a specific performance criteria, mark, or status such as exam completion. Instructors can create a course grading scale that can employ raw scores, percentages, letter grades or pass/fail metrics. When an instructor adds an assessment or assignment to the course, the software automatically adds it to the gradebook. The gradebook supports the creation of custom columns which can contain either grade information or other instructor-determined details. Instructors can delegate the responsibility for grading assignments. Instructors can manually edit all grades. The software automatically calculates the average grade on each assignment. Instructors can download the results of a test across sections of a course and across semesters.		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can aggregate data and perform item-level analysis of individual survey items across the entire system.		
Course Management	Instructors can selectively release assignments, assessments, and announcements based on specific start and stop dates.		

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Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	Instructors can release materials based on a single criteria (date, grade, etc.) or instructors can use Boolean expressions to identify multiple selective release criteria.		
	Instructors can set up specific course content that is released on a specific date and must be completed by students before they continue with the course.		
	Instructors can link discussions to specific dates or course events.		
	Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on group membership.		
	Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on previous course activity.		
	Instructors can personalize access to specific course materials based on student performance.		
	Instructors can selectively release assessments, announcements and other materials based on previous course activity, previous grade, or specific start and end dates. Instructors can specify start and stop dates for the entire course or for specific materials.		

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Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
Student Tracking	Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.	Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.	Instructors can track the frequency and duration of student access to individual course components.
	Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.	Instructors can get reports showing the time and date and frequency students as an aggregated group accessed course content.	Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.
	Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.	Instructors can get reports showing the number of times, time, date, frequency and IP address of each student who accessed course content, discussion forums, course assessments, and assignments.	Instructors can review the navigation record of each student.
		Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.	Usage statistics can be aggregated across courses or across the institution.

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Comparación de las prestaciones de tres plataformas para educación a distancia

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Product Name	**The Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 8.0)**	**Claroline 1.8.1**	**Moodle 1.8**
Developer Name	**BlackBoard**	**Claroline**	**Moodle**
	The Performance Dashboard contains at-a-glance statistics about student access, grades, and Discussion Boar participation. The Early Warning System allows instructors to set rules for acceptable performance, and track students based on those rules. Students who appear to be at risk can be notified within the system, and notifications are tracke. Instructors can get reports showing the number of times and date on which each student accessed course content, discussion forums and assignments. Instructors can set a flag on individual course components to track the frequency with which students access those components.		
Content Development Tools			
Accessibility Compliance	The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.		The product provider self-reports that the software complies with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act.
	The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.		The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 Level A guidelines.
	The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AA guidelines.		The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AA guidelines.

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			The product provider self-reports that the software complies with the WAI WCAG 1.0 AAA guidelines.
	To comply with Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act, the software implements the following features: a tool for instructors to add alt tags to uploaded images, alt tags on all system images, data tables that are optimized for use with screen readers, documentation to assist students and instructors in the use of the assistive technologies the software supports, appropriately titled framesets that describe the functionality of the frames layout, and support for most screen reader technology including JAWS. Developers and designers on the staff of the product provider are trained in the use of Section 508 standards and development techniques.		
Content Sharing/Reuse	Instructors can share content with other instructors and students through a central learning objects repository.		Instructors can make complete copies of entire courses and/or individual items in courses, and share them with other instructors or load them into one of the eCMS systems with a Moodle integration (Hive, Odalis, etc.)
	The repository can be system-wide or for individual organizational units.		
	Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation		

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	and review.		
	The repository supports IEEE LOM and metadata application profiles such as, Dublin Core, Cancore, and custom profiles.		
	The system supports sharing content across course and institution boundaries. The system provides a central content repository where course content files can be stored and accessed by other instructors. Instructors can designate their files to be private or publicly accessible. Content files can also be shared with specific groups or users as well as individuals outside of the system. Instructors can create links to content files in the central content repository so that changes made to the linked content are automatically displayed in their courses. Tools are available to enable version tracking and linking to specific versions as well as the creation and management of workflows for collaborative content creation and review. Instructors can describe course content using metadata. The repository supports IMS, Dublin Core, and custom		

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	tagging standards.		
Course Templates	The software provides support for template-based course creation.		The software provides support for template-based course creation.
	The system provides course design wizards that provide step-by-step guides that take faculty and course designers through the completion of common course tasks, such as setting up the course homepage, syllabus, organizer pages, content modules, discussion.		Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.

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	Course content may be uploaded through WebDAV.		The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.
	The system allows administrators to use an existing course or a pre-defined template as a basis for a new course.		
	Instructors can use templates to create course content. Content can be uploaded through WebDAV or a form.The templates include a rich text content editor. Instructors can categorize course content as announcements, calendar entries, course units, discussion forums, handouts, instructor biography, lecture notes, links, syllabus and course descriptions, tips, FAQs and resources. Instructors can create new content templates. A Course Creation Wizard enables instructors to easily set up a course using templates.		
Customized Look and Feel	The system provides default course look and feel templates.	Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.	The system provides default course look and feel templates.
	Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.		Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes for a course.
	Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.		Instructors can change the order and name of menu items for a course.

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	Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.		Institutions can create their own look and feel templates across the entire system, including their own institutional logos, headers, and footers.
	The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can apply its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.		The system can support multiple institutions, departments, schools or other organizational units on a single installation where each unit can apply its own look and feel templates as well as institutional images, headers and footers.
	Institutions can apply their own institutional images, headers and footers across all courses. Instructors can change the navigation icons and color schemes and the order, name, and function of menu items for a course. Through domains, a system can support multiple institutions, departments or schools on a single installation, including images, headers and footers as well as courses, users, and roles.		
Instructional Design Tools	Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.		Instructors can organize learning objects, course tools, and content into learning sequences that are reusable.

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	Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.		Instructors can create linear learning sequences organized hierarchically by course, lesson, and topic.
	Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.		Instructors can reuse courses as templates for future lessons.
	Instructors can create both linear and nonlinear learning sequences using a content library. Instructors can access information and tips and tutorials on instructional design and on creating a collaborative learning environment. Instructors can create relationships between assignments and required resources which can then serve as templates for future lessons. The product provider also offers instructional design services for a fee to help instructors create their courses.		
Instructional Standards Compliance	SCORM 1.2	IMS Content Packaging 1.1.3	AICC
	SCORM 1.3	IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4	IMS Content Packaging 1.1.3
		IMS QTI 2.0	IMS Content Packaging 1.1.4

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	The software has been issued a certificate of compliance with SCORM 1.2 level LMS-RTE3. The software has been self tested to support SCORM 2004 (aka SCORM 1.3) and is undergoing independent SCORM 2004 certification. The system supports the following standards: IMS Metadata vocabulary v1.2.1, IMS Content Packaging 1.1.2, IMS Enterprise Specification 1.01. The system includes tools to facilitate the migration of course content between different versions of the software.	SCORM 1.2	IMS Enterprise 1.1
		SCORM 1.3	SCORM 1.2
Hardware/Software			
Client Browser Required	A full browser matrix is available. Compatible browsers for Windows 2000 include IE 6.0, Netscape 7.1 and 8.0, Firefox 1.0. Compatible browsers for Windows XP include IE 7.0, and Netscape 7.1. Compatible browsers for Mac OS 10.2 and 10.3 include IE 5.2, Netscape 7.1, Firefox 1.0, Safari 1.0, 1.1, 1.2 and 2.0.		All major web browsers work fine.
Database Requirements	The system supports Oracle.	The system supports MySQL.	The system supports Oracle.
	The system supports MS SQL Server.	The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.	The system supports MS SQL Server.
	The system supports MySQL.		The system supports MySQL.
			The system supports PostGreSQL.

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			The application requires only one database and can coexist with tables from other applications.
UNIX Server	A Unix version is available.		A Unix version is available.
Windows Server	A Windows version is available.		A Windows version is available.
Company Details/Licensing			
Company Profile	Founded in 1997, Blackboard is a public company (NasdaqNM:BBBB) that has over the years acquired CourseInfo, Web-Course-in-a-Box, Prometheus, and WebCT course management systems. The Company's product line consists of the Blackboard Academic Suite (including the Blackboard Learning System, Blackboard Community System, and Blackboard Content System) and the Blackboard Commerce Suite. Blackboard is headquartered in Washington, D.C.		
Costs / Licensing	The annual license fee is based on FTE students in an institution (or school within an institution) or consortium. In some markets, the annual license fee is determined on a per-user basis.		
Open Source		The software is distributed under one of the OSI-approved licenses.	The software is distributed under one of the OSI-approved licenses.

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Optional Extras	The Blackboard Academic Suite is a tightly integrate set of products encompassing Course Management, Content Management and community building through a Portal server. Underlying the technology is the Blackboard Building Blocks architecture, a set of standards-based, open APIs. The APIs are available for free as part of the Blackboard Software Developers Kit (SDK). Using the Blackboard Building Blocks APIs developers can integrate applications, tools and services – called Building Blocks, to customize and enhance the Blackboard software. Clients can search for and download nearly 200 Building Blocks (commercial, free and open source) from the online catalog.		The M stands for Modular, new teaching and learning tools can be created and freely shared by using the modular API to extend the program's capabilities.
	Blackboard Academic Suite is fully internationalized and is available in 8 languages including language packs for English, Spanish, Italian, French, Simplified Chinese Japanese, Portuguese and German. A language pack editor enables clients to create their own language packs or edit existing languages and share them with their peers.		

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	Blackboard offers a range of professional services to help clients reach their e-Learning goals by providing services for strategic planning, implementation and customization, training, ASP and 24x7 support.		