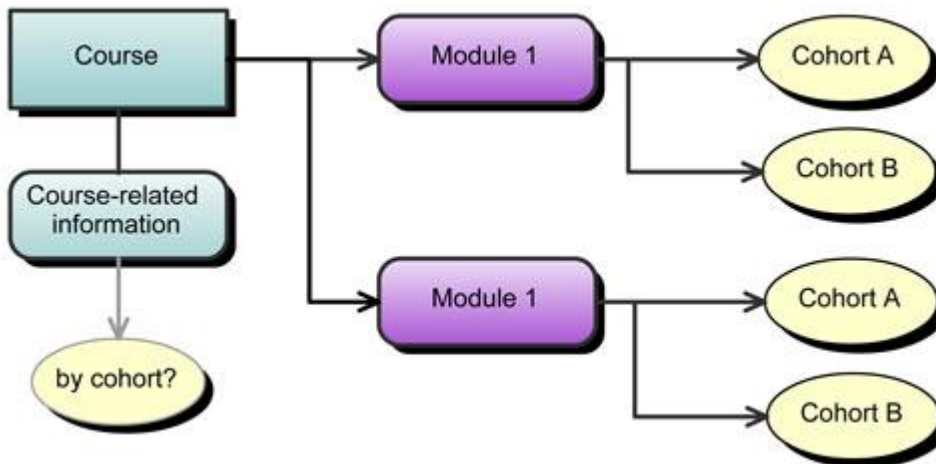


Blackboard Course Design Models

Model 1



Description:

One course site in Blackboard, with all modules as folders within it. To deliver different versions at different times to each new cohort, adaptive release is used.

Benefits:

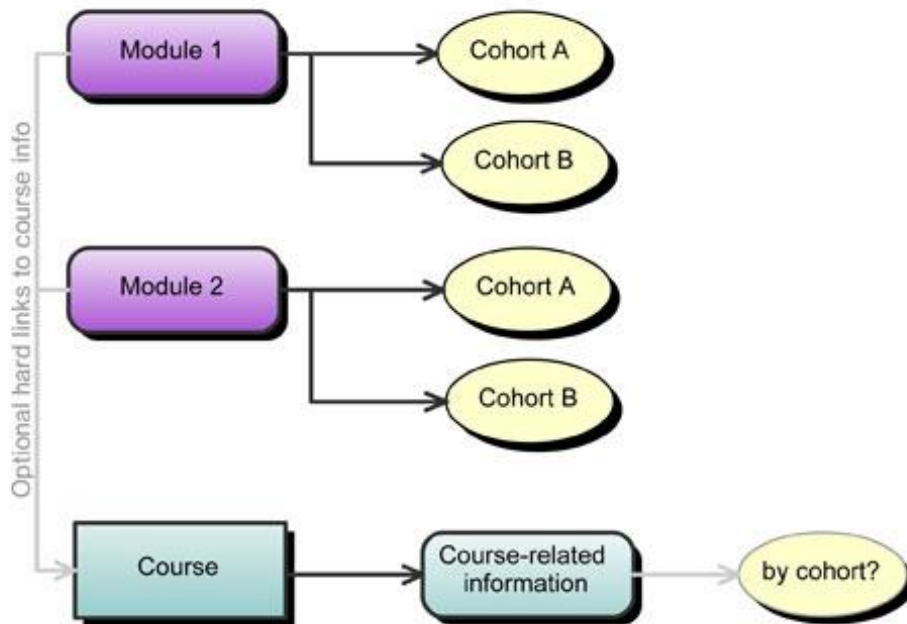
- Only one Blackboard course to deal with, for staff and students
- Course-level information is integrated with module information

Problems:

- For each cohort, new groups and adaptive releases need to be set up: difficult to maintain
- The gradebook (student marks tracking) will show all students from all cohorts together: confusing.
- Students can't see their course history (previously taken modules) - once they leave a module, they lose access.
- Difficult for individual staff to add to their own materials.
- Archiving/export is problematic, as the course and associated data become very large.
- High administrative load overall.



Model 2



Description:

One course site for each module in BlackBoard, allowing modules to be shared across different courses/cohorts. Within each module, cohorts are managed by groups/adaptive release.

Benefits:

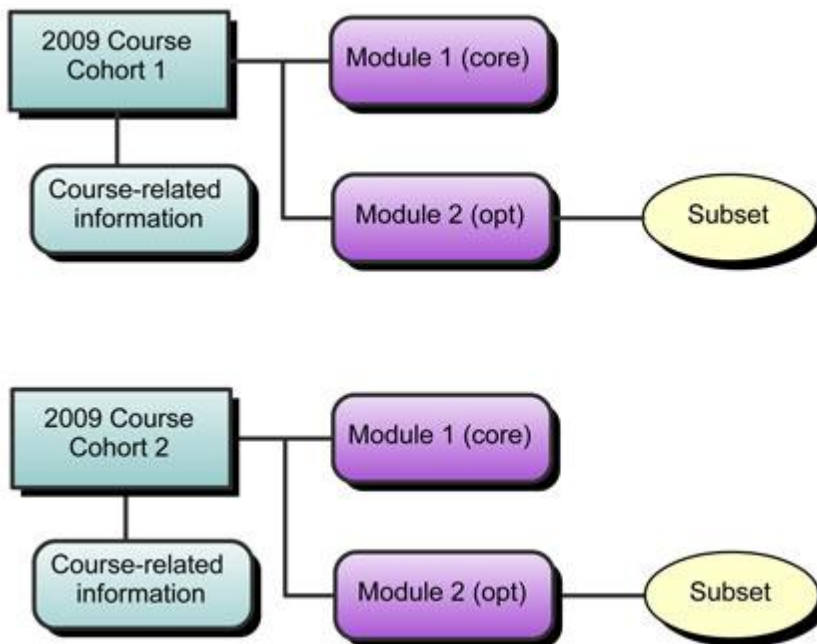
- Modules can be shared across courses and cohorts
- Students can see their course history (previously taken modules) at all times
- The gradebook (student marks tracking) shows only students in each module (although combined cohorts)
- Easy for individual staff to add to their own materials / manage their own module.
- Archiving/export is manageable.

Problems:

- For each cohort, new groups and adaptive releases need to be set up in *each* module site: difficult and time-consuming to maintain.
- Course-level information is not integrated with module information. *Can be virtually achieved with optional hard links.*
- High administrative load overall.



Model 3



Description:

One course site in Blackboard for **each** cohort, with modules repeated as folders within each one, allowing for differences by cohort without adaptive release. Optional modules will need groups and adaptive release setting up, to make available to a subset of students.

Benefits:

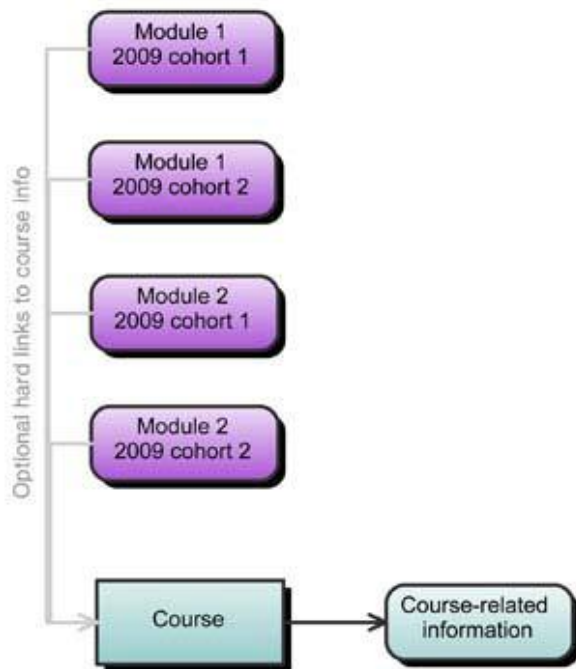
- Small number of BlackBoard courses: neatly organised one per cohort; easy to replicate for each new cohort.
- Limited adaptive release/groups needed: most of course is open to all.
- Staff can easily find and edit their own materials.
- Course-related information is integrated directly with module information.
- Students can see their course history (previously taken modules) at all times.

Problems:

- Can't share a module (e.g. optional module) across cohorts simultaneously.
- The gradebook (student marks tracking) will show all students across the cohort, rather than for individual modules.
- Medium administrative load, for adaptive release on optional modules.
- Unsuitable if have a lot of students suspending their studies and then rejoin the course as their records cannot be transferred from one course site to another.



Model 4



Description:

One course site for each module AND each cohort in BlackBoard, which removes any need for groups or adaptive release.

Benefits:

- Modules can be shared across courses and cohorts (each group gains a unique blackboard course).
- Students can see their course history (previously taken modules) at all times
- The gradebook (student marks tracking) shows only students from that particular cohort in that particular module.
- Easy for individual staff to add to their own materials / manage their own module; although they may have to repeat this across multiple iterations, one for each cohort.
- Archiving/export is manageable in terms of data size.

Problems:

- For each cohort, a new set of module courses need to be set up: not difficult, but managing such a large set of modules (courses x modules x cohorts) causes administrative problems.





- Course-level information is not integrated with module information. Can be virtually achieved with optional hard links.
- Unsuitable if have a lot of students suspending their studies and then re-join the course as their records cannot be transferred from one course site to another.

