

CMS? We Don't Need No Stinking CMS!  
Building Your Own Course Management System-Free and Easy.  
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What is a CMS? Basically, a Course Management System is a way to organize course materials, communications, and the administrative tasks associated with running a course. These may include:

Administrative Tasks:

- Calendar
- Drop box
- Gradebook
- Profiles
- Roles and permissions
- Site roster of users
- Site statistics

Course Materials:

- Syllabus
- Assignments
- E-portfolio
- Readings
- Exercises
- Videos
- Tests and Quizzes
- Glossary
- Web pages
- Wiki

Communications:

- Announcements
- Blogging
- Chat
- Discussion forum
- News
- Email archive

Common Course Management Systems include Angel, Blackboard, Moodle, and Sakai. But you can develop your own CMS, without any of these systems. Here are some resources for building your own CMS:

ISPs:

- Check out your institution's web system first
- BlueHost: <http://www.bluehost.com/>
- GoDaddy: <http://www.godaddy.com/>
- Google Sites: <https://sites.google.com/>
- Intuit: <http://www.intuit.com/free-website-builder/>

Wiki:

- PBWorks: [pbworks.com](http://pbworks.com)
- Wikispaces: <http://www.wikispaces.com/content/teacher>

Blogging:

- Wordpress: [wordpress.org](http://wordpress.org)
- Blogger.com: [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

Scheduling:

- YouCanBook.me: <http://youcanbook.me/>
- Google Calendar: [www.google.com/calendar](http://www.google.com/calendar)

Collaboration and project management:

- Googledocs: [docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)
- Skype: <http://beta.skype.com/en/>
- DropBox: <https://www.dropbox.com>
- Join.me: <https://join.me/>
- wiggio: [wiggio.com](http://wiggio.com)
- trello.com: <https://trello.com/>

Mailing lists:

- MailChimp: <http://mailchimp.com/>
- It may be simplest to use your institution's existing mailing list server, which is generally going to be something like Majordomo or Listserv

Chat:

- Skype: <http://beta.skype.com/en/>
- AIM: [www.aim.com](http://www.aim.com)
- Google Talk: [www.google.com/talk](http://www.google.com/talk)

Discussion fora:

- Lefora: <http://www.lefora.com/>
- ProBoards: <http://www.proboards.com>
- Google Groups: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!overview>

Collecting assignments:

- DROPitTome: [dropitto.me](http://dropitto.me)

Getting materials:

Course-Specific Content:

- Publishers' platform-agnostic modules, or publisher-hosted systems

Videos

- Video Download Helper:  
<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/video-downloadhelper/>
- Zamzar: <http://www.zamzar.com/>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com>
- TeacherTube: <http://teachertube.com/>

Graphics

- Jing: <http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html>
- Google Images: [images.google.com](http://images.google.com)
- Compfight: <http://compfight.com/>

Ideas and Materials:

- Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology: <http://teachpsych.org/otrp/index.php>
- Sue Frantz's website: <http://suefrantz.com/>
- Bill Altman's website: <http://www.williamaltman.info>