



## Link a due date from Forum to the Calendar.

▼ **Details**

Type:	New Feature	Status:	CLOSED
Priority:	Minor	Resolution:	Fixed
Affects Version/s:	2.2.1, 3.6	Fix Version/s:	3.7
Component/s:	<a href="#">Calendar</a> , <a href="#">Forum</a>		
Labels:	<a href="#">ci</a> <a href="#">docs_required</a> <a href="#">patch</a> <a href="#">release_notes</a> <a href="#">triaged</a> <a href="#">ui_change</a>		
Environment:	Moodle 2.2.1+ (Build: 20120119)		
Database:	MySQL		
Testing Instructions:			

### ✓ Creating a forum

1. Login as a teacher of a course
2. Add a new forum activity to the course.
3. On the 'Adding a new Forum' page, expand the 'Availability' section and set a due date and a cut-off date.
4. Submit the form to create the forum.
5. Go to the calendar from the course and **verify** that you can see an event that is related to the forum
6. **Verify** that the event's date is on the due date
7. **Verify** that there is no event on the cut-off date

### Editing a forum

1. Log in as a teacher
2. Edit the forum's settings and change the due date and the cut-off date.
3. Go to the calendar and **verify** that the forum's due date on the calendar is updated.

### In action, when the due date is in future

1. Log in as a teacher
2. Edit the forum,'s settings and make sure that the forum's due date is set to a date in future. If not, change that to a date in future and save the form.
3. Now log in as a student and go to the forum.
4. **Verify** that the due date of the forum is being displayed to you at the top of the page.
5. **Verify** that you see the "Add a new discussion" button. Click on that button and post something to the forum.
6. Go to the discussion you created. **Verify** that the due date of the forum is being displayed there as well.
7. **Verify** that you can reply to your post by clicking on the reply button and posting a reply.

### In action, when the due date is in the past, but the cut-off date is in future

1. Log in as a teacher
2. Edit the forum,'s settings and make sure that the forum's due date is set to a date in the past, and the forum cut-off date is set to a date in future. Adjust the value of the fields to meet the mentioned condition and save the form.
3. Now log in as a student and go to the forum.
4. **Verify** that the due date of the forum is being displayed to you at the top of the page.
5. **Verify** that you see the "Add a new discussion" button. Click on that button and post something to the forum.
6. Go to the discussion you created. **Verify** that the due date of the forum is being displayed there as well.
7. **Verify** that you can reply to your post by clicking on the reply button and posting a reply.

### In action, when the cut-off date is in the past

1. Log in as a teacher
2. Edit the forum,'s settings and make sure that both the forum's due date and cut-off date are set to dates in the past. If not, change them to dates in past (for example to yesterday and to the day before yesterday) and save the form.
3. Now log in as a student and go to the forum.
4. **Verify** that you see a message saying the cut-off date is reached.
5. **Verify** that you cannot create new discussions in the forum (there shouldn't be a button to create a new discussion)
6. Go to a discussion
7. **Verify** that you see a message saying the cut-off date is reached.
8. **Verify** that you cannot reply to any post

### Drag & Drop

1. Log in as a teacher of a course
2. Add a new forum activity (name it "forum2") to the course.
3. On the 'Adding a new Forum' page, expand the 'Availability' section and set a due date and a cut-off date.
4. Go to the calendar in the course
5. Find the event that is for "forum2" in the calendar
6. Start to drag the forum event
7. **Confirm** that you get an error message when you try to drop the event on an invalid day
8. **Confirm** that if you drop the event on a valid day that the calendar is updated correctly
9. Go to the settings of "Forum2" and **confirm** that the due date for the forum is updated correctly

Workaround: ✓ Manually enter forum due dates into the calendar.

Affected Branches: MOODLE\_22\_STABLE, MOODLE\_36\_STABLE

Fixed Branches: MOODLE\_37\_STABLE

Pull from Repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git)

Pull Master Branch: [MDL-31355-master](#) Core no status  
 Pull Master Diff URL: <https://github.com/rezaies/moodle/compare/dafcc3cf7b...MDL-31355-master>  
 Travis-CI.com: ✗ Not enabled. See [Travis docs](#) to enable.

▼ **Description**

When creating a forum, I would like to see a new item added that states:  
"Show this due date in the Calendar."

This can go either above or below the "Restrict ratings to items with..." items, but it should not replace these "Restrict ratings..." items. Each will serve its own purpose. Currently, the forum setup webpage is lacking a connection to the calendar.

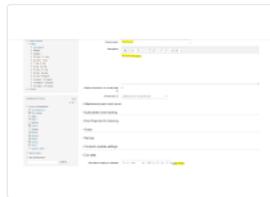
With this approach, a forum can remain open even after the due date just in case students want to continue discussion. By also having the "Restrict dates..." field, it becomes obvious when student do not post by the due date. So I believe that all of these fields can work well together. However, maybe this post will stimulate some even better ideas.

▼ **Attachments**

Drop files to attach, or [browse](#).



[01\\_create\\_forum.PNG](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 192 kB



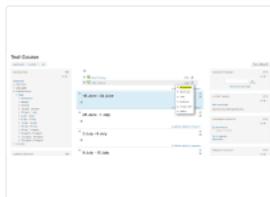
[02\\_fill\\_fields.PNG](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 81 kB



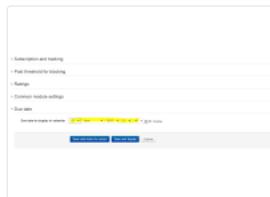
[03\\_event\\_created.P](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:13 PM 87 kB



[04\\_link\\_in\\_descripti](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 13 kB



[05\\_edit\\_forum.PNG](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:13 PM 88 kB



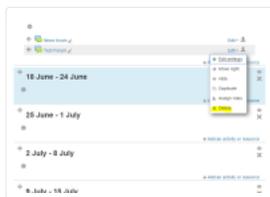
[06\\_change\\_duedate](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 24 kB



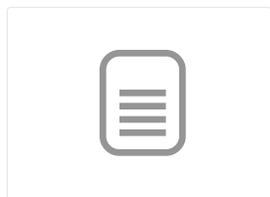
[07\\_event\\_updated.P](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 21 kB



[08\\_disable\\_duedate](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:12 PM 20 kB



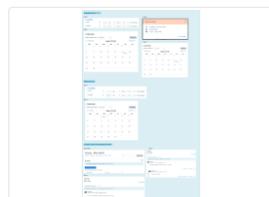
[09\\_delete\\_forum.PN](#)  
23/Jun/15 5:13 PM 33 kB



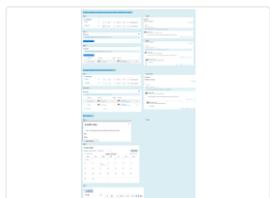
[MDL-31355-add-du](#)  
24/Mar/12 3:34 PM 8 kB



[should be complete](#)  
14/Feb/19 11:03 AM 145 kB



[Test 1,2 & 3\\_Confirm](#)  
11/Apr/19 10:47 PM 281 kB



[Test 4,5 and 6\\_Conf](#)  
11/Apr/19 10:47 PM 325 kB

▼ **Issue Links**

blocks

[MOBILE-3019](#) Support the new forum due dates in the app

≡ CLOSED

**has a non-specific...**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <a href="#">MDL-39707</a> Update mod_forum to add additional functionality, and improve accessibility and performance |  OPEN   |
|  <a href="#">MDL-18300</a> Forum: Add calendar events for forum rating restriction dates                               |  CLOSED |
|  <a href="#">MDL-48344</a> Display date restrictions (if any) for rating posts with activity module information.       |  OPEN   |

**will help resolve**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <a href="#">MDL-18299</a> forum due dates should appear in calendar/upcoming events |  OPEN |
|---|--|

[Show 1 more links](#) (1 will help resolve)

Activity ↑

- Michael de Raadt added a comment - 25/Jan/12 2:50 AM

Thanks for suggesting this.

If you can propose a code solution, that will help others who may have the same need and may that will increase the chance of this improvement/feature coming about sooner. If you are able to provide a patch, please add a patch label so we will spot it. Another way to raise the priority of this would be to suggest it in a forum and ask people to vote for this issue in the tracker.

- Rick Jerz added a comment - 25/Jan/12 9:34 PM

Michael, I am sorry to say that I cannot propose a code change because I am not a php programmer. It's on my list of things to learn. So we will have to wait for someone else to help.

- Isuru Madushanka Weerathna added a comment - 10/Mar/12 5:27 AM

Hi,

I would like to help here. I have gone through implementing this requested feature. So far I could add an event to the calendar considering only due date for rating of the forum. That is I could add a check box 'Show due date in calendar' which enables adding the rating deadline as an event in calendar.

But the thing is that I had to add two columns for the moodle table '[prefix]\_forum' to store those necessary data. I would really like to attach a patch here, but since I am new to moodle development community I would like to know how to define my database table changes in a patch file?

- Thanks.

- Rick Jerz added a comment - 10/Mar/12 5:51 PM

I appreciate you working on this item.

I would prefer that another date item titled "Due Date" be added because I believe the "Restrict ratings" dates serves a different purpose (i.e., when posts can be rated, not when they are due). I don't know if a check box is also needed, but maybe so for consistency. If we consider the "Quiz" items, it contains both an "open" and a "close" date, along with enable. So maybe ideally, the forum should read:

Open the forum (a date field)  Enable

Close the forum (a date field)  Enable

These are suggestions, but I think any progress on this item would be helpful. I like to suggest improvements just in case it is the same amount of programming effort in either case.

- Rick Jerz added a comment - 11/Mar/12 3:04 AM

Well, I thought more about your solution, and saw what you proposed in the moodle.org forums. Your solution would be fine.

- Isuru Madushanka Weerathna added a comment - 21/Mar/12 8:43 AM

Hi,

I would like to propose my code solution in abstract manner before I upload it as a patch here. Because, there are some small database changes I had to do to make success in this feature. The changes I have done are indicated as follows.

1. I had to insert two columns for '[prefix]\_forum' to identify whether this forum has a due date event in calendar and the next column will identify corresponding event id.

2. Additional check box has been provided to enable/disable showing the due date as an event in calendar. If user has unchecked the check box which was previously checked, the corresponding event will be deleted from table '[prefix]\_events'. (Need feedback on whether the good solution will be to hide the event rather than deletes it)

However, I would like to know feasibility of adding those extra column for that moodle table whether it allowed or not. As an alternative I can even create a separate table for each forum to store information regarding events. I really appreciate someone can let me know what could be the best solution here for a database change.

-Thanks

---

✓  [Isuru Madushanka Weerathna](#) added a comment - 24/Mar/12 3:34 PM

Hi,

I have finished the implementation of this feature. I have attached the diff file. Or you can check it from here.

[https://github.com/isuru89/moodle/tree/MDL31355\\_forum\\_rating\\_event\\_calendar](https://github.com/isuru89/moodle/tree/MDL31355_forum_rating_event_calendar)

-Thanks

---

✓  [Barbara Taylor](#) added a comment - 03/Jul/12 11:27 PM

Our instructors are use to this having this option in 1.9. How soon can we get this for 2.2.3 or 2.3.x? It seems to me that all activities should go to the calendar.

---

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 18/Dec/12 4:48 PM

I just upgraded to Moodle 2.4, and the new Assignments features made me think about Forums again. Also, I recently spent some time with my university's Blackboard support folks (they are trying to convince me to use Blackboard), and I noticed how disconnected the Calendar is to activities in Blackboard.

The Moodle Forums remain disconnected to the Calendar, and the priority of getting it connected needs to be raised!

In Moodle's 2.4 Assignments, there is now a "Cut-off date". The solution for Forums now becomes clear. The same "Cut-off date" method should be implemented for Forums, and this is how. The Forum's "Due Date" should show in the Calendar. The Forum's "Cut-off Date" should turn the rating feature off (which is what the current Due Date does). I believe that this logic provides a consistent logic with Assignments.

---

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 11/Sep/13 9:33 AM

When I was at MoodleMoot West Coast (Portland) this summer, Martin Dougiamas spoke about how Forums were a high priority for improvement. He made me think about my request to link Forum Due Dates into the Calendar. At MoodleMoot, I encouraged attendees to vote for this tracker item. I am hoping that this request gets some attention.

---

✓  [Barbara Taylor](#) added a comment - 11/Sep/13 9:01 PM - edited

If the Q&A could be setup better so instructors didn't have to create the post for each group (sometimes up to 20 groups or more in a large lecture class) that would be 2nd for me behind the dates in the calendar. #3 would be the ability to respond privately.

---

✓  [Lisa Beach](#) added a comment - 12/Sep/13 11:50 AM

Calendar dates and private responses are at the top of my forum-priority list as well.

---

✓  [Anthony Borrow](#) added a comment - 24/Nov/14 5:59 AM

Rather than creating a calendar event, I am suggesting in [MDL-48344](#) that information about rating restrictions be visible similar to how conditions from conditional activities are displayed. Peace - Anthony

---

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 04/Dec/14 12:44 AM

Anthony, I don't agree. A "Forum" is one of the major features of an LMS, so it should have a due date that goes into the Calendar. Of the three major LMS features, Quiz, Assignment, Forum, it is only the Forum that lacks this connection.

What I see for Forums is something nearly identical to Assignment:

- 1) Restrict ratings From (this is the start date)
- 2) Due Date (this is what goes into the Calendar)
- 3) Cut-off Data (this is identical to what we have today. It still allows posts, but the "rating" ability is no longer available. I really like this because it allows students to always go back and say something more. But if needed, maybe Moodle could have a fourth choice:
- 4) End Posting (forum is officially closed and does not permit any more posts.)

---

✓  [Anthony Borrow](#) added a comment - 04/Dec/14 7:15 AM

Rick,

Thanks for sharing your comments and perspective. As I continue to think about it, I believe by creating [MDL-48344](#), I am taking care of how ratings should be handled. That frees up this issue to specifically look at the issue of the due date (which I see as separate from the ratings dates).

I agree that the forum is a major LMS feature and a due date does make sense from a teacher's perspective. In fact, I might go as far as to say in most cases having a due date should be the default (there may be some instances where it does not make sense to have a due date but then the due date functionality could just be turned off in those cases).

To implement the due date for forum, I think that the approach would be to create a duedate field in the mod\_forum and then treat it consistently as due date is treated with other activities including showing up on the calendar. If both issues were fixed, then to have the due date show on the calendar you would set

the due date. This functionality would be independent of the ratings start and end dates as this is strictly for grading. So by fixing both of these issues I think we could be consistent in that due dates are shown on the calendar and ratings restrictions (like conditional restrictions) are shown with the activity.

I also agree that allowing folks to post beyond the ratings date is important. If there is a due date we may want to have an option to allow or disallow (default to allow) posts past due date. This is consistent with the assignment activity that allows late submissions. Having that ability to me is important not only to encourage students to post any time but also because it is consistent with the underlying constructionist pedagogy.

What do you think of separating due date from the ratings? I think we can get the best of both worlds with these two issues and that it would enhance the usability of the forums from a teachers perspective. Peace - Anthony

---

▼  Rick Jerz added a comment - 04/Dec/14 8:27 PM

Anthony, thanks for your reply. Yes, I think separating due date from ratings would be great.

What I really seek is when creating (or editing) a forum, there should be a place to set a date that immediately goes into the Calendar. I really love how Quizzes and Assignments do this. Quite honestly, this date-to-calendar is a great moodle feature that does not exist in Blackboard. Someday, maybe Blackboard will have this feature, but I am confident that Moodle will have it first.

So yes, just a simple "Calendar Due Date" would work. I can't wait to see this. As you see, my feature request is over two years old. I keep encouraging folks to vote on it.

---

▼  Matt Lambert added a comment - 10/Jun/15 6:52 PM

I thought I would take a swing at this issue. I'm about halfway through.

I'm in this branch: <https://github.com/mjlambert/moodle/commits/MDL-31355-master>

Progress:

- Updated DB
- Added fields to form

Todo:

- Wire up calendar event creation/update
- unit tests

---

▼  Rick Jerz added a comment - 10/Jun/15 7:39 PM

Matt, I am not the best person to experiment, but I did try to download your working copy.

I see at the bottom your "Due date to display in calendar Day" item, which looks great! However, might you want to somehow add a checkbox for "Show due date in Calendar"? For me, I think I would want to always show a forum's due date in the calendar, but some folks might not want this. Or do you plan to show this due date, or not show it, based upon whether or not "Restrict ratings to items with dates in this range:" is checked?

By the way, I really do appreciate your work on addressing this issue (since I was the one who originally posted it.)

---

▼  Barbara Taylor added a comment - 10/Jun/15 8:10 PM

Thank you Matt. +1 Rick's suggestion of "show due date in calendar." I suggest having that separate from "restrict ratings to items with dates in this range" since many of our instructors don't use that feature but want the due date on the calendar.

---

▼  Matt Lambert added a comment - 12/Jun/15 3:52 PM

Hey, thanks for the feedback.

I actually have a checkbox called 'duedateenabled' under the same heading as the 'duedate' date selector. (I might have missed something in my commit if it's not showing up for you?)

I'm planning to hook it all up tomorrow, so I'll be able to check everything then.

---

▼  Matt Lambert added a comment - 17/Jun/15 8:18 AM

I've finished all the functionality in the issue.

I'm just working on updating the unit test.

As I do not have permissions to assign this issue to myself, can I request a peer review?

Here is my working branch: <https://github.com/mjlambert/moodle/commits/MDL-31355-master>

---

▶  CiBot added a comment - 17/Jun/15 11:45 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git](https://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git) Te

---

▼  Jetha Chan added a comment - 17/Jun/15 12:55 PM - edited

Thanks for working on this, Matt! 😊

```
[N] Syntax
[N] Whitespace
[-] Output
[N] Language
[Y] Databases
[N] Testing (instructions and automated tests)
[-] Security
[N] Documentation
[N] Git
[-] Third party code
[Y] Sanity check
[-] Icons
```

- **Syntax:** In `mod/forum/lib.php`:
  - a new variable is introduced with underscores - underscores are not allowed for variables in Moodle (they are, however, permitted for functions).
  - inline comments need to end with full-stops, exclamation marks or question marks
  - lines 199 and 220, move that comment down one line so you can use the `} else {` construct
- **Syntax:** In `mod/forum/mod_form.php`:
  - line 187: while I can see that matching the surrounding code was your intent, the surrounding code itself doesn't abide by our guidelines 😊 remove this separator and you'll be fine.
- **Whitespace:** Extraneous whitespace in `mod/forum/db/upgrade.php` - three blank lines in a row is too much, one line would be better
- **Language:** Your new lang string **duedate** could potentially be copied from an existing lang string - `mod_assign` has a lang string also called **duedate**.
  - We use a system called AMOS in cases like this, which tells our build system what to do with lang strings (refer to our [AMOS cheatsheet](#)). In this case, you could instrument the commit in question (`cdc77dcfc5b36ed28391a7676ec596b7fe467d90`) like so:

```
MDL-31355 mod_forum: Add due date element to form

AMOS BEGIN
  CPY [duedate,mod_assign],[duedate,mod_forum]
AMOS END
```

- **Testing:** It'd be good to get some automated tests for this, both PHPUnit and Behat. See [https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Unit\\_test\\_API](https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Unit_test_API)
- **Testing:** Need manual testing instructions.
- **Documentation:** This is a UI change - tagging with `ui_change` and `docs_required`.
- **Git:** Commits `548e1b2` and `77899df` have commit messages that are too long - we typically require that commit messages have a maximum line length of 72 characters.

Sorry for the length - it's a good first effort though! 😊 Fix these things up and there's no reason this couldn't get in.

> 🤖 **CiBoT** added a comment - 17/Jun/15 4:55 PM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: `git://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git` Te

✓ 👤 **Matt Lambert** added a comment - 21/Jun/15 4:32 PM

Thanks for the feedback.

I have addressed all the issues listed above and have finished updating the unit test.

Everything is committed to my working branch: <https://github.com/mjlambert/moodle/commits/MDL-31355-master>

> 🤖 **CiBoT** added a comment - 21/Jun/15 7:35 PM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: `git://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git` Te

✓ 👤 **Jetha Chan** added a comment - 21/Jun/15 8:13 PM

Thanks for the update Matt! Looking better. 😊

- **Syntax:** Some minor coding style errors remain (see the CiBoT comment directly preceding this one); I'm pretty sure you don't need the preceding & in your PHPDocs block for `forum_update_duedate()`. That said...
- **Syntax:** I'm not sure how much I like the current form of `forum_update_duedate()`, seeing as it requires two objects as parameters - that's a bit heavy for a function that does what it does. Perhaps:
  - Split calendar event creation and deletion into their own functions (perhaps `forum_create_duedate()` and `forum_delete_duedate()`?) as the logic to do that is now duplicated in two places - needs to be maintainable 😊
  - Refactor `forum_update_duedate()` such that it doesn't need two objects as parameters - it seems like you could pass in 1) a forum object and 2) the id (if any) of an extant event instance
- **Testing:** I'll confess to being a little confused by:

```
// Assert true if event cannot be found.
try {
    $event = \calendar_event::load($forumduedateevent);
} catch(dml_missing_record_exception $e) {
    $this->assertTrue(true);
}
```

I suggest removing the try/catch and just modifying this code to assert that \$event should not be false (you can use \$this->assertNotFalse() to accomplish this).

- **Testing:** Great work writing that PHPUnit test, but we still need manual testing instructions - what should a user do to test this new functionality?
- **Sanity check:** Would be good to see calendar events created with a link back to the forum instance - the user shouldn't have to manually go to the course and then find the activity with the right name.

Sorry for the big review!

✓  [Marina Glancy](#) added a comment - 22/Jun/15 4:47 AM

Hello, I was just looking at [MDL-50338](#) (forum cut-off date) and then found this issue.

I looked at the code and my biggest question is - WHY are we introducing this date? From Moodle point of view, what changes if student submits a post before or after this date? As far as I can see - absolutely nothing. So, what's the point? Just to create a calendar event?

It has to be linked to the completion criteria, or there should be an option to disable posts after due date, or something else.

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 22/Jun/15 9:07 PM

Hi Marina, I am the creator of this feature request, so I will try to answer your question.

In many courses, the main activities include quizzes, assignments, and discussions. These activities typically are graded, and they can have due dates. For quizzes and assignments, a due date is automatically put into the Calendar when the activity is defined, but this does not happen for forums (i.e., there is no coordination between a due date and the calendar.) This was the basis of my initial request; that a forum due date should be created in the Calendar at the time the forum is created, and to avoid always having to manually enter the due date into the Calendar.

I am not sure that I follow your position of "what changes if student submits a post before or after this date?" One could make the statement about quizzes and assignments "what changes if the students submits their quiz (or assignment) after the due date?"

The point is to provide a consistent logical place to create Calendar due dates for main Moodle activities.

Incidentally, forums already have the ability to "disable posts after due date." But this serves a different purpose, at least to me. For a quiz, we have the ability to define three dates: open, closed, and grace times (close shows in Calendar). For an assignment, we have the ability to define three dates: start, due, and cut-off times (due shows in Calendar). But for a forum, neither of the two dates, "from" or "to", show in the calendar. It makes sense to have some date that links to the calendar, and Matt's way of adding a calendar date makes sense. Yes, maybe there is even a better way, but this feature is long overdue and Matt is doing a good job adding this feature.

I am willing to try Matt's approach, and if necessary, request changes to it if I see an even better way to do this. I really appreciate Matt's work on this issue.

➤  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 23/Jun/15 5:25 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: git://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git Te

✓  [Marina Glancy](#) added a comment - 23/Jun/15 9:03 AM

This is what the help text for assignment "due date" says:

This is when the assignment is due. Submissions will still be allowed after this date but any assignments submitted after this date are marked as late. To prevent submissions after a certain date - set the assignment cut off date.

Which makes perfect sense. But in the case of forum - it is not possible to mark posts as "late", so there is absolutely no visual difference between the posts submitted before or after due date.

Besides, there is no cut-off date for forums either, that's exactly what [MDL-50338](#) is suggesting. Until we implement the cut-off date the "due date" will only be confusing. My recommendation is to create a single patch for both due date and cut-off date.

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 23/Jun/15 3:24 PM

Marina, you have made me think more about these "dates" in Moodle. I will try to gather my thoughts and make a post later. However, I do want to address one of your comments, that for forums, "there is absolutely no visual difference between the posts submitted before or after due date."

Yes there is. Right now, posts submitted after the due date do not provide the instructor the ability to "rate" late posts. The "rate" feature is not shown for overdue posts.

I use this (current) feature as a way of not providing points for late posts. It is my strong visual cue for grading posts. In fact, for forums, I really like this feature. I am one who likes to tell students that forums have a due date "for credit", but discussions are always open throughout the semester in case anyone wants to return to an earlier post and provide additional thoughts. These will not get credit, but I find that I never want to reject any students' ideas, and that

they are always able to provide thoughts (posts) to any discussion topic throughout the semester.

However, I do understand that some instructors might want to completely turn off discussions on some particular date, and there really is a need to review the ideas for start, due, cut-off dates for various activities in order to improve their capabilities, and to make them consistent. This also will get us into a discussion about "user overrides," right?

▼  [Matt Lambert](#) added a comment - 23/Jun/15 5:12 PM

Hey guys,

I've fixed all the issues mentioned above and have added a link to the forum in the event.

Branch: <https://github.com/mjlambert/moodle/commits/MDL-31355-master>

Since I don't have permission to add the manual testing instructions myself, I'll just leave them here.

### Test due date event is created

1. Add a new forum activity to a course.



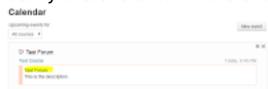
2. On the 'Adding a new Forum' page, give the forum a name, description, and enable a due date by clicking the 'enable' checkbox under the 'Due Date' heading.



3. Click 'Save and return to course' and go to the calendar.
4. Verify an event has been created on the date you specified.



5. Verify there is a link in the event description that links to the forum.



### Test due date event is updated when the forum changes

1. Go back to the course and click 'Edit settings' on the forum you created.



2. Under the due date heading change the due date



3. Save the forum and go to the calendar.
4. Verify the due date event has been updated to the new date.



5. Edit the forum again and uncheck the 'enable' checkbox under the due date heading

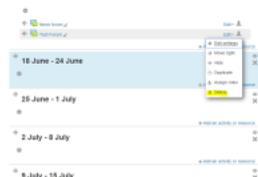


6. Save the forum and go to the calendar
7. Verify the due date event has been removed

8. Edit the forum again and re-enable the due date
9. Save the forum and go back to the calendar
10. Verify the due date event has been created again.

#### Test due date event is deleted when forum has been deleted

1. Make sure the due date event still exists
2. Delete the forum



3. Go to the calendar
4. Verify the due date event has been removed.

Marina Glancy added a comment - 24/Jun/15 7:47 AM

Hi Rick, that's a good point and I also saw it in the original description. However Matt's implementation is different. He adds a new date field to the form. BTW Matt, I tried to check out your branch to test and got an error:

```

Debug info: Unknown column 'duedateenabled' in 'm_forum'
ALTER TABLE m_forum ADD duedateevent BIGINT(10) NOT NULL DEFAULT 0 AFTER duedateenabled
Error code: ddlexecuteerror
Stack trace:

line 449 of /lib/dml/moodle_database.php: ddl_change_structure_exception thrown
line 905 of /lib/dml/mysqli_native_moodle_database.php: call to moodle_database->query_end()
line 76 of /lib/ddl/database_manager.php: call to mysqli_native_moodle_database->change_database_structure()
line 533 of /lib/ddl/database_manager.php: call to database_manager->execute_sql_arr()
line 262 of /mod/forum/db/upgrade.php: call to database_manager->add_field()
line 706 of /lib/upgradelib.php: call to xmldb_forum_upgrade()
line 424 of /lib/upgradelib.php: call to upgrade_plugins_modules()
line 1630 of /lib/upgradelib.php: call to upgrade_plugins()
line 433 of /admin/index.php: call to upgrade_noncore()

```

Marina Glancy added a comment - 24/Jun/15 8:07 AM

Matt, I fixed the error in my branch and was able to finish upgrade.

So let me do a review. First of all, I would get rid of the field duedateevent . Please see the function update\_calendar() in mod/assign/locallib.php - you should have something similar.

Also position in mod\_forum that Rick suggested in the issue description seems much more logical than where you placed it (in the bottom of the form). You can even move it to the very top like in assignment.

And I will still insist that duedate should be implemented together with cutoff date. Cut-off date does not need to appear in the calendar. Feel free to borrow the form interface and copy strings from mod\_assign

Rick Jerz added a comment - 24/Jun/15 2:38 PM

Marina (and Matt), the addition of another date field (3 in total) matches the number of date fields in the Quiz and Assignment activities (the Quiz has a Grace Period, in a group called "Timing", and the Assignments has a Cut-off Date in a group called "Availability".)

I do agree with Marina that it would be best if dates were presented in groups. So this new Calendar Date might be best group within the "Ratings" group, probably after the current "To" item in this list. But we would have to be careful not confuse it with "Restrict Ratings to items with dates in this range", I think, meaning that someone might not want to restrict ratings, yet show this forum due date in the calendar. It is, of course, easy for me to suggest this because I am not the programmer, but realistically, I am not sure how easy or difficult it is for you to move your code, Matt.

Marina, I totally agree with you about separating due date with cutoff date, and the work that is being done on [MDL-50338](#). Even though this would be a fourth date, I think it is a very good idea for instructors who really want to shut down a forum. Maybe Matt's good work, and progress on this item, will inspire the completion of [MDL-50338](#). Although these various activities have different group names (Timing, Availability, and Ratings), this doesn't bother me at all.

Marina Glancy added a comment - 08/Sep/15 6:30 AM

my apologies, [Jetha Chan](#) has left Moodle HQ and did not unassign the issues from himself and I missed that this one got stuck in the "peer review in

process" status

>  **CiBot** added a comment - 08/Sep/15 6:35 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: git://github.com/mjlambert/moodle.git Te

▼  **John Okely** added a comment - 11/Sep/15 9:22 AM

Thanks Matt.

1. We can now squash commits into logical chunks. In moodle we don't need to keep complete history of the changes you made while working on this issue. Just the logical changes. Make sure to keep the AMOS instructions when squashing
2. It sounds like a good idea to combine the due date with the ratings group as Marina suggests, and we will need to change the name of the fieldset to Availability like it is in assignment, workshop.
3. As Marina pointed out, it would be good to have an update\_calendar function in locallib.php (the function will basically be forum\_update\_duedate and you can move the create and delete functions to locallib too)
4. [mod/forum/lib.php:95](#) and [mod/forum/lib.php:283](#) should reuse the forum\_update\_duedate function since it does those checks already (or at least the create one)
5. If we set the module name and instance then we can get rid of the duedateevent field, and just identify it by the instance id each time as assignment does.
6. There is a bug I found where if you delete the calendar event then try and re-enable the due date it will give an error "Can not find data record in database table event." Need to account for someone deleting the event or preferably prevent it from being deleted like an assignment due date event
7. On that note, it would be good to make the event look the same as assignment, where it's directly linked to the module rather than just a link in the description
8. The mod/forum/tests/externallib\_test.php unit test seems to be failing as a result of the fields added here. You might need to take a look and update it.
9. As for [MDL-50338](#) I think that can be worked on after this is done. Conceptually a due date is a very different thing to a cut off date, as we know from the assignment. But since we have a due date with no cutoff date, it would be good if we marked posts that were made after the due date so that tutors could easily see, and not consider them while marking

**Matt Lambert** this is looking good so far, thanks heaps for doing this work. You picked a lot of good details that would otherwise be missed. Would you be available at all to continue work on this? If not just let me know.

▼  **Marina Glancy** added a comment - 05/Oct/15 4:36 AM

==CODEFREEZE3.0==

This is a bulk message to all improvement issues that have either "Waiting for peer review" or "Peer review in progress" status at the moment of 3.0 code freeze.

Please remember that peer review of this issue needs to be completed ASAP in order to be included in 3.0.

Thank you!

▼  **John Okely** added a comment - 05/Oct/15 5:41 AM

Reopening so that others can take a look. The patch there is good, just if someone could address those points I wrote it would be ready for Integration. Thanks again **Matt Lambert** for the work (and feel free to work on it if you get time)

▼  **Tony H** added a comment - 27/Feb/18 4:57 AM

I recently started using Moodle and noticed that due dates in forums are missing. Frankly, I was quite surprised by this omission. I do not want to echo others, so here are my reasons for seeing due dates on forums as a critical component.

First off, a philosophical argument. Instructional design should dictate how one uses the software for learning, not vice versa. Software engineers (I'm a former one who developed educational software, so I am speaking from experience) should not be the ones to tell educators how to use the tools. There is no one correct way how to use forum software.

Practically speaking:

1. Forums are a core feature of LMSs. Teachers commonly assign due dates to forums. Some instructional design dictates that the forum should be locked out at the due date, while others are open-ended. Due-dates is a standard forum feature on other LMS platforms because it follows real-life teaching practices.
2. Forums are a versatile tool not only for discussions, such as an adjustable plier-wrench. For example, forums are a fantastic tool for students to post links to projects for peer-review. Or, students posting a picture or short text that is then used during the actual class time for discussion. For example, I had my students post a picture of a negative user experience that we then discussed during class. Forums were the quickest and easiest way for them (and me) to accomplish this task.
3. There are other tools that teachers could use to do the same thing, but I think forums as-a-tool are a natural choice. Students and teachers both know how to use them. They are familiar. For example, I've tried using a Wiki. I had to create an instructional page so the students would know how to use it. It was more complicated and created more issues than using a forum to post static content for a weekly assignment. It was suggested I try using a database, but that just sounds complicated when everyone uses and know forums.

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 14/Jun/18 7:12 PM - [edited](#)

I have pushed a new code that implements having forum due date and cut-off date both.  
It might be a good idea to merge "availability" and "discussion locking" fields in the forum edit form (maybe later).

Here is the original code by Matt Lambert for reference: <https://github.com/moodle/moodle/compare/master...mjlambert:MDL-31355-master>

---

✓  Rick Jerz added a comment - 15/Jun/18 3:27 PM

Shamin, thanks for making progress. I have to tell you that I don't know how to test your code. You provide the link to Matt's original code, but I can't seem to locate your code. I usually don't download code from git, so any help from you would be appreciated. I have no problem installing another instance of Moodle, so I just need to find what you have done. Thanks.

---

➤  CiBoT added a comment - 15/Jun/18 4:57 PM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: <git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git> master

---

✓  Stephen Bourget added a comment - 15/Jun/18 7:03 PM

[Shamim Rezaie](#),

Thanks for working on this. I was taking a look at your code and have a question. Since we are adding calendar events for forum, shouldn't we also add support for dragging & dropping those events in the calendar to change the date (similar to the other modules in core)?

You can see [MDL-59922](#) for an example of how this is supported in other modules..

---

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 27/Jun/18 6:48 AM

Hi Stephen,

Yes, drag and drop support can and will be added to forum calendar events. However, that will be done as part of a separate issue.

---

✓  Rick Jerz added a comment - 28/Jun/18 12:15 PM

Shamim, I looked at how you are implementing the due date, as a user, not as a programmer, and I want to tell you that I like what I see. I look forward to seeing this feature implemented.

---

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 06/Aug/18 12:20 PM

Hi Rick,

Sorry that I missed your previous comment. Reading your last comment suggests that you already figured out the answer. I'm glad that you liked the solution.

---

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 13/Aug/18 9:31 AM

Created [MDL-63448](#) as a follow-up.

---

✓  Andrew Nicols added a comment - 13/Aug/18 9:48 AM

Hi Shamim,

I am still reviewing this issue, but one of the points in my review was that drag and drop of these new forum events is not a part of this issue. Please do not defer functionality to a new issue in this manner. If you are going to add new events to forum in this issue, they must be complete in this issue - this includes the addition of Drag and Drop of those calendar events.

I have not yet completed my review, but I will say that I do not agree with the approach that this issue has taken, or the way in which previous comments and suggestions have been ignored. It really would have been far more beneficial to discuss this issue with the Forum team, and to have raised discussion of this issue in the relevant venues (i.e. moodle.org) before working on this change.

Andrew

---

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 13/Aug/18 10:39 AM - [edited](#)

Hi Andrew,

I am waiting for the review. But as far as I can tell, I have not ignored any of the comments previously made by Marina and John.

In response to Marina's comments:

- She wanted due date and cut-off date to be both covered by this issue ==> done

In response to John's comments:

1. squashing commits into logical chunks ==> NA
2. This one is about where the setting should be placed. While I don't agree with this one myself, but this is not a big deal. We both know it is a 5 minute job to move the setting on the form.

3. Having update\_calendar() in locallib.php ==> done [here](#)
4. The original patch was just dealing with due date and had not implemented cut-off date. Hence, John's comment here where he mentions forum\_update\_duedate(), is actually addressed by calling/reusing forum\_update\_calendar() in forum\_add\_instance. forum\_delete\_instance does not need to call forum\_update\_calendar() at all. Deleting activity module events is handled by course\_delete\_module() [here](#)
5. This one is only applicable to the original patch. I modified this part and my patch does not have any due date event field in my patch ==> so done
6. This bug is dealt with and is not in my patch. So done or NA
7. Done
8. No unit test failures anymore ==> done
9. This one is about cut-off date which I included in the current patch. this is actually in alignment with your comment where you said forum events should be complete in this issue.

✓  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 14/Aug/18 12:06 AM

I rebased the code and also added drag and drop support.  
Also updated a link in my previous comment

➤  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 14/Aug/18 12:17 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git mast

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 14/Aug/18 4:53 PM

Shamim, today I looked at your progress and it is really looking good. I am excited to soon see this code implemented. I am sorry that I am not a programmer and cannot help with the "failed check" above. I hope that it is something minor and can be easily fixed. We are so close to having this important feature added. Thanks again for all of your great work!

✓  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 15/Aug/18 4:47 AM

Thank you Rick,

The "failed check" above is actually a false alarm. It is required for each function to have a docblock including the functions description, however, an exception is made for overridden methods. CiBot is not intelligent enough to detect the exceptional case.

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 27/Sep/18 6:29 AM

Hmmm, I see that not much has progressed on this tracker issue for a while. Are we at "stalemate" again? Hopefully not. I recall that this is what happened around two years ago when Matt tried to solve this issue. I am not a programmer and feel bad that I can't help. Shamim, I know that you have worked hard on this fix, and it was looking almost ready to go. CiBot, can you provide any guidance? Is the "failed check" really a false alarm?

✓  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 27/Sep/18 9:01 PM

Hi Rick,

Yeah, that fail check is indeed a false alarm.

[Andrew Nicols](#), is this issue still on your radar?

✓  [Andrew Nicols](#) added a comment - 12/Dec/18 6:12 PM

Sorry, I'm going to remove myself as peer reviewer. I just got too busy and ran out of time.

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 12/Dec/18 8:43 PM

Andrew, so what does that mean? Will there be someone else who will review Shamim's work? I know how we all get busy, so I can appreciate what you are going through. I would just like to see this improvement get integrated, maybe by 3.7.

✓  [Przemek Kaszubski](#) added a comment - 13/Dec/18 4:02 AM

I have just landed here, and must say that I share [Marina's remarks from 2015 regarding completion criteria](#). Whoever gets to test this thoroughly should do it with "Expect completed by" turned on - for comparison. I sense some duplication of functionality here. But then I have never looked at or tested the new code, so I'm just sharing my view. Thanks.

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 16/Dec/18 5:54 PM - **edited**

I am not an official tester, nor do I use the Activity Completion "Expect completed on" feature in my courses, so I am not sure about all of the subtleties of the "Expect completed on" feature, or all of its connections. But I did just explore this with a brand new install of Shamim's code.

I first created a quiz with a due date and "Expect completed on" set. I viewed these in the calendar, and moved the dates around a little just to see how they behaved. Then I created a Forum, and set a due date and an "Expect completed on" date, just as I did with the quiz. I switched my role to student, went to

the Course overview/Timeline, and both the Quiz and Forum appeared to work the same. I could not see any difference.

Well, this is about where I end up. Shamim's code seems fine to me. But again, I am not an avid user of the "Expect completed on" feature and don't know what else to test.

I want to try to keep this feature improvement moving along. Let me know if there is something else that I can test.

✓  [Mark Nelson](#) added a comment - 24/Jan/19 6:16 PM

Hi Shamim and Matt,

Thanks for working on this.

This is going to require a rebase as there are conflicts.

The following testing steps for the scenario 'In action, when the due date is in future' do not work. As a student I do not see any date.

1. Now log in as a student and go to the forum.
2. Verify that the due date of the forum is being displayed to you at the top of the page.

I think what is missing here is having the teacher actually create a discussion topic and the student viewing the discussion. I think this applies to other tests listed here.

For the scenario "In action, when the due date is in the past, but the cut-off date is in future" I received the message "The due date for posting to this forum is Thursday, 10 January 2019, 7:47 am." - should this not be 'was' instead of 'is'? Pinging [Helen Foster](#) for her opinion on the new strings added here.

Also, why is the due date in red? It seems like a warning when to me it should be just information?

For "In action, when the cut-off date is in the past" the message is in blue, which seems inconsistent and it is also shown on the forum/index.php page AND the forum/view.php page, where as the other message is only shown in the view.php page.

I submitted the form for sending a message with the cut-off date in the past and did receive "Sorry, you are not allowed to post to this forum". So, there is post-validation. I think this is worth unit testing, as well as the web service equivalent. The externallib\_test.php file already has a 'test\_can\_add\_discussion()' so you can use this as an example (but create a new function to test just this case, separate smaller tests are better). This can also be done in lib\_test.php

`mod/forum/backup/moodle2/restore_forum_stepslib.php`

1. I was worried at first about always calling `apply_date_offset` even if the value is 0, but can see that if it is 0 `apply_date_offset` doesn't change the value, so this seems OK.

✓  [Mark Nelson](#) added a comment - 24/Jan/19 6:19 PM

I am not sure `mod/forum/local/lib_test.php` is the most appropriate place for that test. It seems you are just testing the generator and not the function `forum_update_calendar` specifically, which is in `lib.php`.

✓  [Helen Foster](#) added a comment - 25/Jan/19 1:40 AM - edited

Thanks Przemek for your comment. I share your concern that this issue is duplicating functionality that already exists but that people are not aware of.

The 'Expect completed on' date setting exactly covers the title of this issue - link a due date from forum to the calendar. The 'Expect completed on' date is also displayed in the timeline block.

I notice that this issue was created 7 years ago, before we had the 'Expect completed on' date setting. Is there anything lacking in the 'Expect completed on' functionality that is needed for the forum activity?

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 25/Jan/19 9:18 AM

Hi All, yes, I created this issue a long time ago, so maybe it is good to think this through a little.

The overriding goal of this feature request was to get the due date for a forum to show in the calendar without having to manually add it, and to put this control of getting the date in the calendar at the time the forum is defined.

Well, as we have discovered, and from my experimenting, yes, "Expect completed on" (to my surprise) will do it! Great, we can close this feature request and I am happy. Thanks all.

However, wait a moment... Quizzes and Assignment also contain "Expect completed on" which seems to duplicate "due dates!" So, maybe before we close this feature request we need to explore why we have both "due dates" and "expect completion on." Are there some subtle differences, advantages, disadvantages to each method? If Quizzes and Assignments have "due dates" then why shouldn't Forums? Although I am satisfied, we might need to look at the bigger picture. We might want to explore some consistency issues. For example, in a Quiz, we have "Close the quiz" whose date gets put into the calendar. If this instead said "Expect completion by" would that be any different? What is the real functionality of "Expect completed on?" I have never used this setting, so I am not sure.

Again, thanks, everyone.

✓  [Stephen Bourget](#) added a comment - 25/Jan/19 10:04 AM - edited

I think the big difference between the "expect completion on" date and the "due date" is the expectation on how they behave. "Expect completion on" does place a event on the dashboard and in the timeline block for any activity, but that is all it does. It does not prevent the student from submitting things "late", and it does not notify the user (teacher or student) when anything is "late". It behaves like a "soft" deadline. (Think of it as an expectation as opposed to a requirement)

The due date / available until date supported by most activity modules (quiz, assignment, lesson, database, choice etc) works as a hard deadline. Once the date has passed it prevents users from submitting content. Every activity module in seems to support the "soft" deadlines provided by "Expect completion on", but there are a few modules (like forum) that are missing support for the "hard" deadlines. This feels like an inconsistency with other standard modules. While this issue was initially asking for just the "soft" deadlines, the proposed patch is implementing both kinds (hard and soft) which has also been requested of the forum module in [MDL-52047](#) and [MDL-50338](#)

---

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 25/Jan/19 10:55 AM

Very helpful description, Stephen. Things are becoming clearer.

I have seen some requests to prevent students from posting after a certain date. I am not sure if there is a feature request for this, but I would not be surprised to find one.

In my own way of using forums, I never want to turn a forum off. My thought is that I want to allow students to always return to an earlier class idea (a post) and add more thoughts (in practice, this seldom happens because students like working forwards and not backward.) So using "Expect completed on" will work for me. One "date" feature that I do use in my forums is the Rating feature, and the "To" date. I set this date to be 5 minutes after the forums are due. Then, I will not be able to "rate" a post for students who submit after this date. This lets me know that the post was late.

It seems to me that relative to this feature request, I (and others) could be satisfied. If there is a feature request to "prevent" students from posting, maybe Shamin's work should be continued. Maybe Shamin will provide some ideas about this.

---

✓  [Mark Nelson](#) added a comment - 27/Jan/19 6:47 PM

Perhaps we can remove the 'Due date' field in this patch (which behaves as the 'soft' deadline) and rename the 'Cut-off date' ('hard' deadline) to 'Due date' so it behaves to the similarly named settings in other activities?

---

✓  [Rick Jerz](#) added a comment - 28/Jan/19 8:25 AM

Maybe so, Mark. Let's assume that "Due Date" is removed, and that the hard deadline, renamed to Due Date, is provided in the patch. Then, new "Due Date" is probably what should show in the Calendar. This would accommodate those instructors who want to prevent students from posting (probably a nice new feature to forums.)

In my own case, where I want to simply put a date in the Calendar while creating the forums, and have this Calendar item have the proper little icon next to it, I could use the "Expect completed on" date.

It seems that your suggestion would give instructors some good ways to show dates, in a more flexible way.

I think that I like what you suggest. I cannot think of any negative issues. Let's see what others say.

---

✓  [Przemek Kaszubski](#) added a comment - 29/Jan/19 6:16 PM

Shutting down a given thread – yes, this should be available. But freezing an entire forum? Debatable, though the more I think of it, the more I like it. Then of course comes the question of where and how this should be reported. And whether the "Due date" is final. Maybe the solution from Assignment = "Due date" and "Cut-off" is what we would want to use.

Regarding "Expect completed on" – it is tied to activity completion, which must be turned on in a course in the first place – this is a default setting now (was not a default a while back, I think, and even the site-wide settings used to be off, as far as I recall, but never mind). Overall this is a useful feature AND one that works systematically with anything, even resources. It will therefore work with those activities that do not have due dates for some reason (which is often unclear to me..).

However, activity completion works ONLY IF the teacher wants to use it (and to show to the students those completion boxes on the course page AND to display the % course completion status on the Dashboard – which altogether can be a high UX price. Not always do we want this. Only if we accept both, can we also use the "Expect completed by" feature and construct the extra reminders in the Calendar and the Timeline. This is how I have been working with quizzes lately, but especially forums (where no other reminders can be published) – I think the students' response rate has been much higher with these "Expect completed on" reminders – though I don't think it was the Calendar that helped in our case, but rather the Dashboard Timeline.

The forum's "Due date" should be visible at least in the Calendar AND on the Dashboard Timeline, without the Teacher having to rely on activity completion. Activity completion adds an extra layer for those who want it.

But then, the terminology is confusing across the various activities. "Closing dates" in quizzes shut them down, but "Due dates" in Assignments have no such effect – one needs to use the "Cut-off date" which – alas – is not reported to anyone whether on the Dashboard or in the Calendar – and THAT, I think, is a major flaw in the system. All this is confusing and standardisation is required across all the activities, to my mind. The time settings in some activities are called "Timing" in others "Duration" . Not helpful.

I think it would be wise to systematise all this and propose one approach regarding deadlines as well as grading (some activities are graded, some are not – why?) to all the core activities in Moodle.

---

▼  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 29/Jan/19 10:05 PM

Thank you Mark for reviewing the code.

I'm currently in the middle of working on another issue, so I'll get back to this one once I'm done with the other one.

In the meantime, it is worth thinking why the quiz and assignment modules have both "expected completion" and "due date", and when it comes to the forum we consider that as a duplicate. As far as i know, "expected completion" only works if completion tracking is enabled. What if the completion tracking is not enabled and a teacher still want to have a due date?

Even if the completion tracking is enabled, as a teacher, I don't want to be forced to define completion criteria on a forum simply because I wanted to have a due date. That little green check-mark that is shown next to the forum activity can be confusing when no other activity module has completion tracking and that particular forum is the only one!

When it comes to pedagogical terms, "completion" and "due date" are 2 different things.

---

▼  Rick Jerz added a comment - 30/Jan/19 8:06 AM - edited

Excellent points, Przemek and Shamim! I do have Activity Completion turned on in my course, and I do display checkboxes for Forum activities. So when I went to use the "Expect completion on" date, it (of course) worked! And I was satisfied.

But for Moodle, I think that we are wise going bad to Shamim's work, and having both a due date and a cut-off date, as Shamim has implemented it.

Shamim, yep, I know that you are busy. As I have said before, you have made great progress working on the feature. I look forward to having the few issues addressed and then having the ability to put a due date into Moodle's Calendar for Forum activities. All of these improvements will provide much more flexibility and power to Moodle's Forums

Przemek, I do agree at trying to get some consistency between activity wording for due date. Sure, there might be some subtle differences between a quiz, assignment, and forum that requires slightly different language, but we need to keep "consistency" in focus for overall learning and efficiency of Moodle.

(For example, Forums do not have an "Open the Forum" date, but they do have a Ratings On date. And Assignments have a "Remind me Date" that came into Moodle a year or two ago.)

---

▼  Mark Nelson added a comment - 30/Jan/19 9:50 PM

Finished review, putting back to 'Development in-progress' and leaving 'Peer reviewer' empty so someone else can take it if I don't.

---

▼  Rick Jerz added a comment - 14/Feb/19 11:03 AM

**Upcoming events**   

-  Ch04 Submit Your MS Access Case 6 Project File is due  
Today, 11:55 PM
-  Ch04 Self-Assessment closes  
Today, 11:55 PM
-  Ch04 FTP software success should be completed  
Today, 11:55 PM
-  Ch04 VPN to Ulowa "home" success should be completed  
Today, 11:55 PM
-  Ch04 Discussions. This is part of required homework. should be completed  
Today, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 Submit Your Visio 2013 ER Diagram is due  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 Submit Your MS Access Music Database is due  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 Self-Assessment closes  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 What is the URL to one of your "exported" files? should be completed  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 What is the URL to your SSH foo.txt file? should be completed  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM
-  Ch05 Discussions. This is part of required homework. should be completed  
Monday, February 18, 11:55 PM

[Go to calendar...](#)

Przemek, Shamim, and others, I am providing just a few more thoughts that already been discussed.

I have been using "Except Completion By" in my most recent forum assignments. Yep, I am discovering that it really isn't being represented as a "due date" and that it presents itself a little differently in the Upcoming Events block. I am attaching my example, and one can see how Quizzes and Assignments show a "due" date, and how "should be completed" is shown. So having a real "due date" in the forum definition, even a little redundant as we have discussed, seems to be "consistently" okay. (Shamin, I still like your implementation.)

✓  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 19/Mar/19 1:18 AM

Thank you, Mark, for reviewing the code.

In response to your comments:

- I rebased the branch.
- Testing instructions were correct. I fixed it so that users see the due date on view.php as well.
- I modified the message when due data is a past date (is ==> was).
- Changed the notification types, so now everything notification level is 'info'
- Added suggested unit tests ([test\\_can\\_add\\_discussion\\_after\\_cutoff](#) and [test\\_forum\\_user\\_can\\_post\\_discussion\\_after\\_cutoff](#))
- The function `forum_update_calendar` is actually defined in `locallib.php`, so the most appropriate place to test that seems to be `locallib_test.php`. Also, the way that `test_forum_update_calendar` tests `forum_update_calendar`, is in alignment with how the similar tests in `mod_assign` and `mod_scorm` work.

➤  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 19/Mar/19 1:27 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) maste

➤  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 19/Mar/19 1:47 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) maste

- ▼  [Peter Dias](#) added a comment - 31/Mar/19 6:26 PM - [edited](#)

Hi Shamim,

I haven't done a complete review on this but I noticed it on the 3.7 PR list and since it is dealing with updates to the forum module I thought I would let you know of some of the changes that we've been working on for this release. Firstly I would highly recommend you do a rebase on current integration master as we've been doing, which includes the massive rework of the forum implementation initiated by Ryan. I would then recommend you updating the patch to reflect the approach that has been adopted.

Admittedly this rework may mean a complete overhaul of your patch so not sure whether we should remove the 'Must fix for 3.7' if you think it will take too long.

Cheers

Peter

- ▼  [Przemek Kaszubski](#) added a comment - 01/Apr/19 4:23 AM

[Peter Dias](#) - do you mean this epic [MDL-64547](#) ?

- ▼  [Peter Dias](#) added a comment - 01/Apr/19 5:15 PM - [edited](#)

Yes. That's it.

- ▼  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 03/Apr/19 11:54 AM

Thank you, [Peter Dias](#).

Rebased and updated the patch to reflect the new approach.

- ▼  [Peter Dias](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 1:44 AM

Reassigning this back to Mark as he did the original PR and I wouldn't be able to finish it in time.

Note: Behat tests are passing on the forum with this patch.

- ▼  [Mark Nelson](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 1:50 AM

I am going to send this forward.

Shamim has read all the comments and his suggested approach is sane to me.

Sending this for IR before code freeze.

- >  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 1:55 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) master

- >  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 3:15 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) master

- ▼  [Mark Nelson](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 3:37 AM

Hey [Shamim Rezaie](#), can you please rebase and resolve the conflicts?

I also noticed some spelling mistakes. In this case it was the word 'Although' and I think this warrants a review by [Helen Foster](#).

- ▼  [Shamim Rezaie](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 4:34 AM

Thank you Mark,

Rebased and also fixed the spelling.

- >  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 4:39 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) master

- >  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 6:10 AM Moving this issue to current integration cycle, will be reviewed soon. Thanks for the hard work!

- >  [CiBot](#) added a comment - 08/Apr/19 6:27 AM Fails against automated checks. Checked MDL-31355 using repository: [git://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git](https://github.com/rezaies/moodle.git) master

- ▼  [Eloy Lafuente \(stronk7\)](#) added a comment - 10/Apr/19 6:24 AM

Hi,

just 2 main points (will try to number all them as I wrote them down):

A) conceptually, I think the idea is ok. clearly separated from the completion date and on par with other modules (although it's not 100% the same, some

have from/to, others from/due/cut..., this is going to be due/cut...). But all ok, so far. And under availability seems to be the correct place, agree.

B) While I'm still reviewing the code, my first attempt was to have it installed in my integration/testing site so I could go playing with things while the review happens. And, with the patch applied I got this when I visited the site:

```
Notice: Undefined property: stdClass::$duedate in mod/forum/classes/local/factories/entity.php on line 104

Notice: Undefined property: stdClass::$cutoffdate in mod/forum/classes/local/factories/entity.php on line 105
Exception - Argument 30 passed to mod_forum\local\entities\forum::__construct() must be of the type int, null given,

More information about this error

xDebug info:
Error code: generalexceptionmessage
xStack trace:
line 142 of /mod/forum/classes/local/entities/forum.php: TypeError thrown
line 105 of /mod/forum/classes/local/factories/entity.php: call to mod_forum\local\entities\forum->__construct()
line 2376 of /course/renderer.php: call to mod_forum\local\factories\entity->get_forum_from_stdclass()
line 2438 of /course/renderer.php: call to core_course_renderer->frontpage_news()
line 133 of /index.php: call to core_course_renderer->frontpage()
```

In other words those new fields are needed really early when visiting the site... so we should be bumping also the main version and modifying `is_major_upgrade_required()` to get the upgrade to be run immediately.

I'll continue after lunch... dying of starvation here! 😊

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 10/Apr/19 11:29 AM

Thank you Eloy,

Please find <https://github.com/rezaies/moodle/commit/83835f497fe2f018e04cb2c9346d637b9dba913c> for the major upgrade.

✓  Eloy Lafuente (stronk7) added a comment - 10/Apr/19 12:30 PM

Thanks Shamim Rezaie,

B) we are already using 2019041000.01 @ integration.git, but don't worry will update it on merge to whatever is needed to bump. So no further action needed.

C) little detail: should we also [add cutoff in generator?](#)

D) New params and return values in existing external functions must be defined as VALUE\_OPTIONAL for BC. And commented in the corresponding upgrade.txt

E) Good news, behat @mod\_forum is passing ok, so yay!

Other than that I think everything makes sense and is ready for integration. Will wait till the points above are fixed and then proceed. Good stuff!

PS: I must confess that, personally, I somehow find the duedate/cutoffdate "couple" a little bit strange because, after all, both point to the same concept (end of activity), just in an optional or mandatory way. And pretty much see it like just one date with a flag (instead of 2 dates). But, as far as it seems that people likes the "couple" I'm happy!

PS2: Maybe we should create a little project about to analyse, reconcile (when possible) all these start/end/due/cutoff times over as many activities as possible. Right now there are too many alternative (al valid!) approaches, IMO.

Ciao 😊

✓  Rick Jerz added a comment - 10/Apr/19 1:53 PM

As the original poster, I have been very pleased seeing the continued progress, and programming, to make this feature work. I can't wait to see it (in 3.7)! Thanks, everyone.

Eloy, yes, I too think that having two end dates could confuse some. But there seems to be some ideas behind the activity completion features, so I can accept this, especially since the activity completion features are "off" by default.

It has been suggested in a number of places to somehow tackle a review of all activity and resource dates. Yep, a big project, and probably an even bigger project to write and re-write code.

✓  Eloy Lafuente (stronk7) added a comment - 10/Apr/19 4:53 PM

It has been suggested in a number of places to somehow tackle a review of all activity and resource dates. Yep, a big project, and probably an even bigger project to write and re-write code.

Go for it and create an issue! +1

---

▼  **Eloy Lafuente (stronk7)** added a comment - 10/Apr/19 4:54 PM

(LoL, was going to say, 2025 is around the corner, but won't do! Sorry could not resist!)

Seriously, far better if it's created. What doesn't exist cannot be considered. Ciao 😊

---

▼  **Przemek Kaszubski** added a comment - 10/Apr/19 5:19 PM

+1 to the idea of standardisation. And will be happy to test 😊.

Some activities don't even feature proper due dates. Forum is about to make it - a game changer for me. Looking forward to 37 !

---

▼  **Przemek Kaszubski** added a comment - 10/Apr/19 5:25 PM

AND while the plans are made 😊, let's not ignore group overrides and user overrides - known from Assignment and Quiz (but also working inconsistently). At least some activities should have those too, so course groups can really become a big feature in courses..

---

▼  **Shamim Rezaie** added a comment - 11/Apr/19 3:49 AM

Thank you, Eloy.

B) Thank you. I leave this in your good hands.

C) Actually, even the due date is not needed there. So I removed that. The generator is better to be kept minimal. I had added due date because the unit tests were failing, but with the latest implementation, that is not needed anymore. So, I removed due date from the generator.

D) Done

E) yay!

---

▼  **Eloy Lafuente (stronk7)** added a comment - 11/Apr/19 4:02 AM

Great, thanks! Will look shortly...

---

▼  **Eloy Lafuente (stronk7)** added a comment - 11/Apr/19 10:20 AM

Integrated (master only), thanks!

---

▼  **Gladys Basiana** added a comment - 11/Apr/19 10:47 PM

Confirmed and verified on Master

Test Passed



---

▼  **CiBoT** added a comment - 12/Apr/19 2:58 PM

Thanks for your contributions! This change is now available from the main moodle.git repository and will shortly be available on download.moodle.org.

Closing as fixed!

✓  Rick Jerz added a comment - 15/Apr/19 8:35 AM

Yes, thanks, everyone! As the original poster, I want to say that this feature request illustrates the commitment and dedication, and certainly a lot of care, that programmers have to the Moodle platform. You might notice that I made this request back in January 2012 - seven years ago. This also illustrates how an idea doesn't have to get hundreds of votes to be considered viable. Shamin, some special thanks, of course, go out to you (if you happen to be in Catania next week, I will treat you to a coffee! 😊)

Oh, I did download the development release, and everything looks great!

Note: The ideas of improving the consistency of dates, across all activities, has been discussed on Moodle.org an MUA. I don't use all the various Moodle activities, so I will have to find time to explore every activity before making a feature request in Tracker. Maybe I will do this soon, however.

✓  Shamim Rezaie added a comment - 15/Apr/19 11:23 PM

Thank you Rick,

Many people including yourself helped this improvement to happen. Thank you for not giving up after this long time.

I won't be in Catania unfortunately, but I'll get my coffee one day for sure 😊

✓ **People**

- Assignee:  Shamim Rezaie
- Reporter:  Rick Jerz
- Peer reviewer: Mark Nelson
- Integrator: Eloy Lafuente (stronk7)
- Tester: Gladys Basiana
- Participants: [Andrew Nicols](#), (20)  
[Anthony Borrow](#), [Barbara Taylor](#), [CiBoT](#), [Eloy Lafuente \(stron...](#), [Gladys Basiana](#), [Helen Foster](#), [Isuru Madushanka ...](#), [Jetha Chan](#),
- Component watchers: [Andrew Nicols](#), (9)
- Votes: 47
- Watchers: 39 [Stop watching this issue](#)
- Favourite: [Add to favourite issues](#)

✓ **Dates**

- Created: 24/Jan/12 11:22 PM
- Updated: 10/May/19 5:41 AM
- Resolved: 12/Apr/19 2:58 PM
- Fix Release Date: 20/May/19

✓ **Time Tracking**

- Estimated: 0m
- Remaining: 0m
- Logged: 7h 10m

✓ **Development**

**10 commits** Latest 11/Apr/19 10:17 AM

✓ **Agile**

[View on Board](#)