

User Disguises

Project Team

- Andrew

Estimated Effort

12 weeks of dev time

Tracker

[MDL-1071](#)

Outstanding Work

Summary

- Complete the implementation of backup/restore
- UI polish, changes, and improvements
- Apply to additional modules
- Apply to course?
- Add/improve help and documentation
- Improve web service linkages
- Confirm that we are happy adding a new field to the *context*
- Allow for definable user profile images instead of the stock head and shoulders
 - This is currently difficult because the user only stores an integer which relates to the revision of the user picture (IIRC). It doesn't do anything to hide that value, and some places (e.g. some WS) just take that number and translate it into a URL.
- Confirm that we're happy with the way in which disguises force a redirect to their own configuration page (Damyon raised this)
- Confirm: Whether we one-day intend to begin deprecation of `fullname()`, and replacing it with `\core_user::displayname()`
 - At the moment I have not planned to do this, but it is something that we may wish to consider deciding. Even if it's just part of the developer notes to say that: "We

intend to deprecate the fullname() function from 3.6”, or just “We recommend that you use \core_user::displayname()”.

- Unit tests and Functional tests

From Martin on the tracker issue:

FWIW I'm a big supporter of this feature but I have to agree that it still needs some polish in the UI that exists, and also that it would be better if it lands with a more completely useful implementation across all core activity modules and also gradebooks, blocks, user reports etc. I hope to see it for 3.2!

Also - missing full implementation of backup/restore.

UI Review

Course module settings page:

The screenshot shows the 'Disguises' section of the course module settings page. It includes the following elements:

- Disguise type:** A dropdown menu with 'Simple disguise' selected. A tooltip is visible showing 'None', 'Simple disguise', and 'Select from a list of tutor-defined names'.
- Mode:** A dropdown menu with 'Simple disguise' selected. A tooltip is visible showing 'Simple disguise' and 'Select from a list of tutor-defined names'.
- Show user's real identity alongside their disguise:** A dropdown menu with 'Identity hidden' selected.
- Stop disguising users from:** A date range selector set to '25 May 2016 06:20' with an 'Enable' checkbox.
- Log anonymously:** A checked checkbox.

At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: 'Save and return to course', 'Save and display', and 'Cancel'. Below the buttons, a small red error message reads: 'There are required fields in this form marked *'.

“Simple disguise” - can we call this “Anonymous” (pseudonymous might be more correct but would make sense to less people). “Simple disguise” tells me nothing about what will happen if I choose this option.

Can we call “Select from a list of tutor defined names” just “Select from a list” ?

Add some more types:

- User chooses their own pseudonym (“User chooses”)
- User selects from available options (basically assigned from list, but user chooses instead of automated assignment)

- *Future: User creates (this could even include a virtual profile if we wanted to)*

Can we show the drop down list as radio buttons? The reason is on the original bug - most people were only asking for a “Anonymous []” checkbox for forum. This seems the most common use case - so let's put the word “Anonymous” in the page where they can see it without opening the select box - and make it one click to enable it.

I guess “Mode” is there because an “Optional” mode was planned. Is “optional” really required or can we (please) drop this setting?

The options in the “Show user's...” setting need better strings (particularly the “Identity restricted to certain users” option). In fact I think an admin/editing teacher should probably always be able to see an identity (and we could use a “Yes/No” option for this setting).

Admin settings page:

Stable Master PostgreSQL

Dashboard ▶ Site administration ▶ Plugins ▶ User disguises ▶ Manage disguises Blocks editing off

NAVIGATION ☰

Dashboard

- ▀ Site home
- Site pages
- Courses

User disguises

Plugin	Instances	Version	Uninstall	Settings
Select from a list of tutor-defined names	0	2016041101	Uninstall	Settings
Simple disguise	0	2015072900	Uninstall	

ADMINISTRATION ☰

This is a standard plugins page - no real comments except the renaming of the plugins mentioned above.

Admin “tutor defined names page”:

The screenshot shows the Moodle Stable Master PostgreSQL interface. The browser address bar indicates the URL is `damyon.per.in.moodle.com/stable_master/user/disguise/predefined/settings.php`. The page title is "Stable Master PostgreSQL". The breadcrumb trail is "Dashboard > Site administration > Plugins > User disguises > Select from a list of tutor-defined names". The user is logged in as "Admin User".

The main content area is titled "Sets" and contains a table with the following data:

Set name	Wrapper	Names	
Countries	{{name}}	249	X Share Eye

Below the table, there are two sections:

- Create a new set**: This section has two input fields: "Set name" and "Wrapper". The "Wrapper" field contains the text `{{name}}`. A "Create set" button is located below these fields.
- Import an existing set**: This section has a "Set configuration file" label and a "Choose a file..." button. Below this is a dashed box containing a blue arrow pointing down and the text "You can drag and drop files here to add them." An "Import set" button is located below the dashed box.

They are called “sets” in this interface and “lists” elsewhere. Can we consistently call them lists?

Does this make sense for admins to define these lists? IMO a teacher might want to re-use their own lists - but I don't see much of a use case for a site wide list.

This is called “Wrapper” on this page and “Display format of user disguises” elsewhere. Lets use “Display format” everywhere.

Can we put “Create a new set” and “Import” in popups or separate pages opened from buttons. It’s confusing having two forms and a list on the one page.

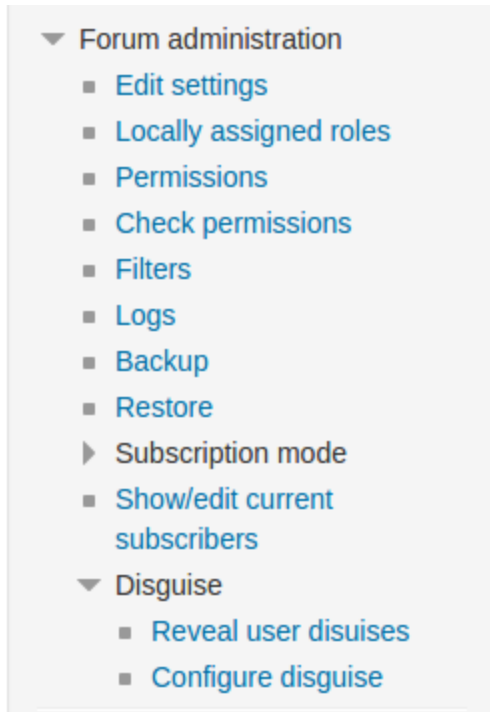
Defining a site-wide list of names:

The screenshot shows the Moodle Stable Master PostgreSQL interface. The page title is "Stable Master PostgreSQL" and the current view is "Editing the 'Countries' set". The breadcrumb trail is: Dashboard > Site administration > Plugins > User disguises > Select from a list of tutor-defined names > Countries. The page is in "Admin User" mode. The left sidebar contains navigation and administration menus. The main content area displays a list of countries with an 'X' icon for each, indicating they are in the set.

Country	Action
Afghanistan	X
Åland Islands	X
Albania	X
Algeria	X
American Samoa	X
Andorra	X
Angola	X
Anguilla	X
Antarctica	X
Antigua And Barbuda	X
Argentina	X
Armenia	X
Aruba	X
Australia	X
Austria	X
Azerbaijan	X
Bahamas	X
Bahrain	X
Bangladesh	X
Barbados	X
Belarus	X
Belgium	X

I don't think we should provide a default list because it is a burden for translators.

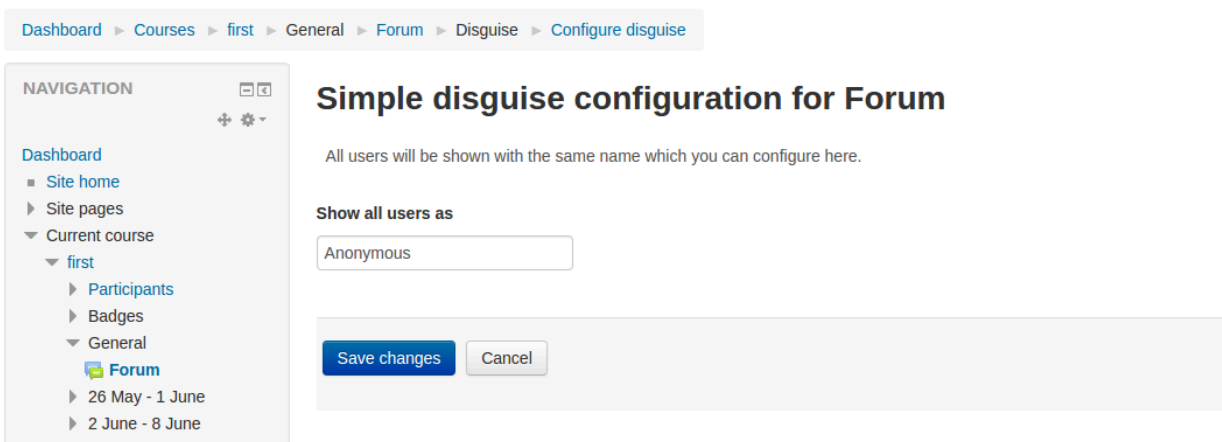
Activity navigation:



Can we add a confirm when revealing user disguises ?

Configure simple disguises for activity:

Forum



How does allowing free text here work with multilang? Should we remove this option ?

Configure choose from list:

Dashboard > Courses > first > General > Choose from list > Disguise > Configure disguise

NAVIGATION

- Dashboard
 - Site home
 - Site pages
 - Current course
 - first
 - Participants
 - Badges
 - General
 - Simple disguise
 - Choose from list**
 - 26 May - 1 June
 - 2 June - 8 June
 - 9 June - 15 June
 - 16 June - 22 June
 - 23 June - 29 June
 - 30 June - 6 July
 - 7 July - 13 July
 - 14 July - 20 July
 - 21 July - 27 July
 - 28 July - 3 August
- Courses

Disguises

Disguise ^	Enabled	Currently assigned
Afghanistan ↗	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Åland Islands ↗	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Albania ↗	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Disguise configuration

Display format of user disguises ?

[Save changes](#)

Add new disguise names

Names to add

[Add names](#)

Can we move these forms to a separate page, or a popup? Multiple forms on a page is confusing. Why can't I remove a disguise from the list here? What is the expected format for "Names to add" (placeholder example text would be good).

Can a teacher Import/Export these lists ?

Why disable a name instead of delete?

More Work

Remove changes to the context table and add a new table for holding the disguise information, linked to the context table. This will have performance implications for caching, context preloading etc.

What is the list of activities we should update to support this for 3.2 ?

Ideally any interactive activities should be prioritised.

Most important

- Forum
- Chat
- Feedback
- Choice
- Glossary

Less important

- Wiki
- Database
- Workshop
- Quiz
- Lesson
- Assign

What about non-activities - Blogs ?

Should we allow defining disguises for an entire course ? (We may not want to do this before updating most of the activities or it will give an odd experience where some activities obey the disguise, but some do not).

Verify that disguises are maintained in reports ?