

A Comparison:

Open Source vs Proprietary LMS



"The key appeal of Open Source software is that it avoids vendor lock-in and gives the buyer freedom to choose what to do and when to do it."

Scavo (2004)

Feature	Open Source, Moodle or Totara LMS	Proprietary LMS
Secure & Stable	Yes, currently used by the US Army and also the MoD in the UK.	Yes
GPL license (you can download the code)	Yes	No
Over 80 Million users	Yes, Moodle	No
License fees	No	Yes
Customisable to your needs	Yes, customisable to your needs	No, usually a standard design
No vendor lock-in	Yes	No
Flexible: Host in house or on the cloud	Yes	No
Driven by community, not profit	Yes	No
Scalable	Yes	Yes
Supported	Yes, via partner networks	Yes
Shareable 'apps'	Yes	No
Freely available, open APIs	Yes	No
Free modules to add to your LMS to improve learner experience	Yes	No