

Notes on restoring deleted Moodle Forum

Someone deleted a Moodle Discussion Forum with 137 posts, and it was urgent to recover it because in that course, these were part of the grade.

This is not a guaranteed solution, just a record of what we did. We only attempted it because of the urgency of the situation. Our experiment seems successful, and here's what we did.

Note: this is in the form of a shell script, with most of the lines commented out, because we only ran one step at a time, then did queries to check that results were what we expected.

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restore.sh# April 7, 2011 - experiment in restoring a forum that had been deleted. # First we fou
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After the steps above were done, we had a working version of the deleted forum on our stage server. Then we tested it, did a Moodle backup of the cloned course, backed up the real class site (just in case), then restored this forum into the it. Since our course format is programmed to automatically create a Discussion Forum when it finds a site doesn't have one, the students had a bunch of posts on the new forum that we copied over to the recovered forum. We renamed the restored forum to "Discussion Forum Restored," and went into each posting in the restored forum and used Moodle's "Move this discussion to..." tool in the upper right hand corner of the forum post. Once all of the posts were moved to the Discussion Forum, we deleted "Discussion Forum Restored."

I think we need to make it harder to delete a forum. Maybe we should suggest or force a backup first? Or, remove the ability of instructors or TAs to remove Forums?

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