Ouriginal at the NATO Defense College

The NATO Defense College was established 70 years ago to develop critical, creative, and strategic thinking on key issues facing the Alliance. The college, through its education and research programs, strives to promote the Alliance’s shared values, military concepts and policies, helping reinforce solidarity among its members. The college offers courses for senior NATO executives including Colonels, Generals, Ambassadors, etc., who from more than 30 NATO countries and partners.

Daniel Sora, who manages the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS), at the NATO Defense College, has found working with Ouriginal via the Moodle integration, extremely easy to use and effective. Daniel’s primary role is to support all the online classes and activities, including seminars, research programs etc. As part of the course work, the members (students), submit their assignments online, primarily in English. In 2014, the college administration began to research various plagiarism detection solutions to ensure that all research and course work adhered to the highest standards in terms of originality, as would be expected from an organization of NATO’s standing.

In 2015, the college decided to pick Ouriginal (a text-matching system which combines the expertise of Urkund and PlagScan), from a list of five other contenders.

Why did the college choose Ouriginal?

“One of the main reasons for selecting Ouriginal was because of its easy integration with the Moodle LMS,” says Daniel Sora. Since the college was already using Moodle, they wanted a plagiarism detection solution that could work through the LMS, without having to set up a different system or interface.

Daniel goes on to add - “Another reason why Ouriginal stood out from its competitors at the time was because of its large and comprehensive database which included access to licensed and restricted content in addition to the freely available sources. Most of the other providers were offering to compare the content only against the freely accessible databases.”

The college was also looking for a provider that was well-established in the market and had a good track record. Ouriginal’s stellar reputation in Europe and large customer base made it an ideal choice for the college.

Easy setup and Moodle plugin

According to Daniel, the Ouriginal integration with Moodle works very well, with minimal outages and down time. “After the contract was signed, I was sent an email containing my login details and other information. All I needed to do is sign in, follow some instructions for the set-up, and the plugin was functional!” says Daniel. He further adds, “Our only task thus far has been to keep the plugin...”
updated, and we have never had any issues except once – but even that was resolved rather quickly.”

Users and faculty have found using Ouriginal to be really straightforward. “They don’t need to do anything – just click a link and view the results,” adds Sora.

**Very effective in meeting the objective of plagiarism prevention**

The effectiveness of Ouriginal as a plagiarism detection tool is laudable. Daniel notes, “Since our students are aware that the system is very effective, they don’t really try and copy-paste! Papers are better from the beginning and it helps in meeting the objective of plagiarism prevention.” The faculty at the college have also been very happy with its performance.

To summarise the overall experience using Ouriginal, Daniel says, “I have used many plagiarism detection systems in my lifetime – some have been very complicated. But Ouriginal is simple and easy to use, without compromising on effectiveness and results.”

Written by the Ouriginal Marketing team