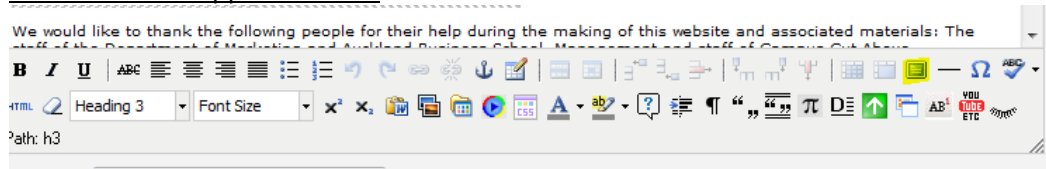


## Coursebuilder team's response to Libraries and Learning Services staff feedback April 2014

### Improvements:

- The editing windows are too **small**

➤ Can use the full screen plugin (see screenshot) . Wen will pilot changing the richtext editor to width of 100% of the screen. The full screen plugin tip has been added to FAQ to the [CourseBuilder Support website](#)



- **Search box** on the right hand corner seems not always working.
  - The search box strips out javascript, so. that resides in javascript code will not be searchable (for example, quiz text, tooltip text etc).
- It would be nice to have a selection of **accordion bars** for people to choose from, e.g. include the down arrows that used in the AI course
  - Wen will work on improving this feature.
- It would be nice to allow interactive **social media** to be built in, e.g. online chat (classroom and provide chat rooms)
  - We have facebook-like chat function in course preferences, we have a chat room function before but that is not a good design and will conflict with cecil's chat room function. The chat feature is available for students to text chat with whoever is online. The chat is one-to-one. If a more advanced chat feature is required, consider linking to Google chat. Other features for student engagement or feedback are outlined on the [CourseBuilder Support website](#). As an aside, FMHS are using Yammer more and more as a discussion platform due to the enhanced features of this tool.
- Enable students to **post files, videos** or audios on CB site. Currently CB enables only public (visible to all in class or if published online to anyone) discussion group posts.
  - Comment element will allow users to upload image/file, but it is only for UniSign protected courses, not for public courses. There is a risk of the feature being abused if the option is available for public-facing course websites. If you have a course website with a 'stable' student class cohort – i.e. not an all-comers website – you might consider using the 'student author' feature on certain pages. This is mentioned on the [CB Support website](#).
- **Design options**, enable wide arrange of platform background design colours, templates and graphics for staff to choose from
  - In freetext and accordion elements, there are 300+ icons to choose from. In the image plugin, there is an "Icon library" with all these icons to choose from. There are design guidelines for University websites plus a guide to writing for the web that covers central and faculty websites (<https://www.staff.auckland.ac.nz/en/central-services/media-and-marketing/writing-and-style-guides.html>), however, CourseBuilder websites are *usually* specific to a programme of study and so we consider these as the intellectual property of a member of teaching staff. Or they are external facing websites that require a shift from University branding. This means that we have allowed more freedom with certain design aspects of the tool, however, in the case of Libraries and Learning Services, we encourage you to maintain a University-centric template for consistency and branding.
- **More interactive functionalities**; e.g., Drag and drop feature made smoother and more directional options (currently left to right, top to bottom only); use of wider variety of colours and arrows.

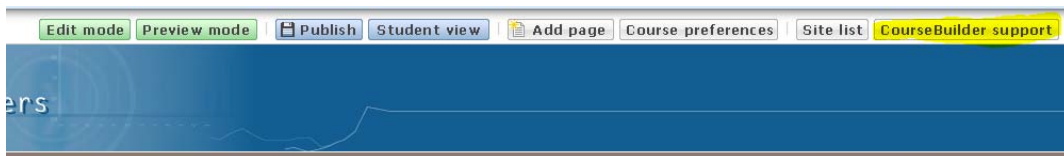
- Colour and arrows etc. can be added with in the richtext authoring of these interactive elements. Wen would have to add the directional options.

- **Integration of CB and Cecil.** Integrating CB into Cecil works well. However, is it possible to remove the additional Cecil column?

- Instructions on how to do this are added to cecil, or you can use the course template 3 that could embed in CECIL better (under Course Preferences > Course structure).

- **Training or online support,** more tutorials or drop in sessions with help on specific problems so that we can build skill and not have things done for us. Online support would be useful for staff to use at any time. These could include CB FAQs, a list of CB new features or new development etc.

Wen will add an announcement section under the course list. CourseBuilder online support document is on the top bar in edit mode. The [CourseBuilder Support website](#) also includes a list of FAQs and an area where you can ask a question. There is also a help button available from every CourseBuilder element when you are in edit mode. So that we can build on the list of FAQs, we encourage you to ask questions on your specific problems using the CB support website, or [coursebuilder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:coursebuilder@auckland.ac.nz)



## 1. Any aspirations (or concerns) you have for the future using CourseBuilder?

### Concerns:

- Both Wen and Craig have provided excellent support, as more and more CB sites developed, how can this be **sustained**? May have CB support from each faculty or departments which used CB intensively. Could also have regular user group meetings university wide.
- So far we can still cope with the demand, we have enable quite some number of people each month to design their courses/sites, but this is still limited to some faculties and departments, we haven't really see these demands creep up much for other faculties.
- **Can all CB sites be searchable on Google?**
- This has to be decided by course teachers on a case-by-case basis. Google cannot index course websites that require the students to log in, i.e. courses that are behind UniSign. For publicly available websites, e.g. the [flexiblelearning.auckland.ac.nz](http://flexiblelearning.auckland.ac.nz) url, If you take the tick off the box marked "Allow search engine to index the site", the site will not appear in Google's index. This is found under [course preferences -> advanced tab](#).
- **Compatible with mobile devices**
- Coursebuilder now enable flexible layout for small screen devices. We will gradually reduce designs that rely on flash player. Wen introduced the flexible layout (template) for mobile devices in October. You will need to re-publish any old courses for this to take effect. You can see how the template affects the page when you shrink the window size the side navigation will jump to the bottom. This is already applied to [the Academic Intergrity course](#).
- Use HTML5 audio/video element so that the media will play back on iPad. Any old Flash Player-based media needs to be migrated to the new format.
- **Online chat function**– CB showed a number of students were 'online' around due dates and exam time. Does online mean they are actually chatting or have just logged in to CB? Is it possible to

archive chat messages? Also, if a student sends an instant message to their tutor, but the tutor is offline, will the message appear when the tutor does eventually go online?

- Students are not necessarily actively chatting at those times. The CB chat is just another channel for students to help/communicate/social with whoever is on that course website at that time. We think it is un-ethical to archive personal chat message. But Craig would add the feature to email message to people who is offline or not getting these messages.
- It would be useful to have a directory of all sites with owners' names (for those who wouldn't mind sharing their sites) so developers can contact owners to either adapt or share information and not have to reinvent the wheel.
- We haven't have a way to allow people to opt-in/out of viewing the course list. Maybe Library can nominate an sharing EPR account for all cb users to see the site list and owners.
- Use of Question/Student Comment box on CourseBuilder was under-utilised. If a student posts a question, will all other students be able to see the question when they log in to CB?
- When students visit that page with that comment element, they could see others' posts. If you provide class UPIs in the Course preferences > Page comment watch list, then all posts will be sent to the whole class and teachers.