

Enhancing the student experience through the use of NILE (Blackboard) templates

Where is Wally?



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sinsiwinsi/2055036353/>

Rob Howe - 4th May 2018

What is a Wally ?

wally

Pronunciation: [/wali/](#)

Definition of wally

noun (plural wallies)

British informal a silly or inept person: *I must have looked a total Wally but I didn't care*

Origin:

1960s: perhaps a shortened form of the given name Walter. There are many theories of the origin: one story tells of a *Wally* who became separated from companions at a 1960s pop festival; the name, announced many times over a loudspeaker, was taken up as a chant by the crowd

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/wally>



Wally's Top Ten guide to creating Blackboard sites

Key principles:

- Students have it too easy
- They like a challenge
- Don't make it too easy to find Wally

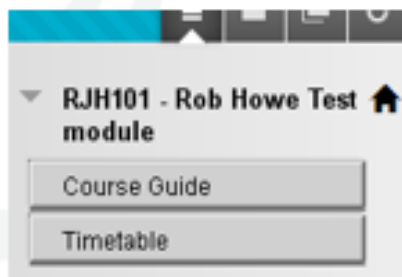
#10 - The Escher Site

Key principles:

Students are sent round and round
without actually getting anywhere
Wally is never found !



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/willamcromar/5230835657/>



Timetable



Timetable

Please refer to the Course Guide for details

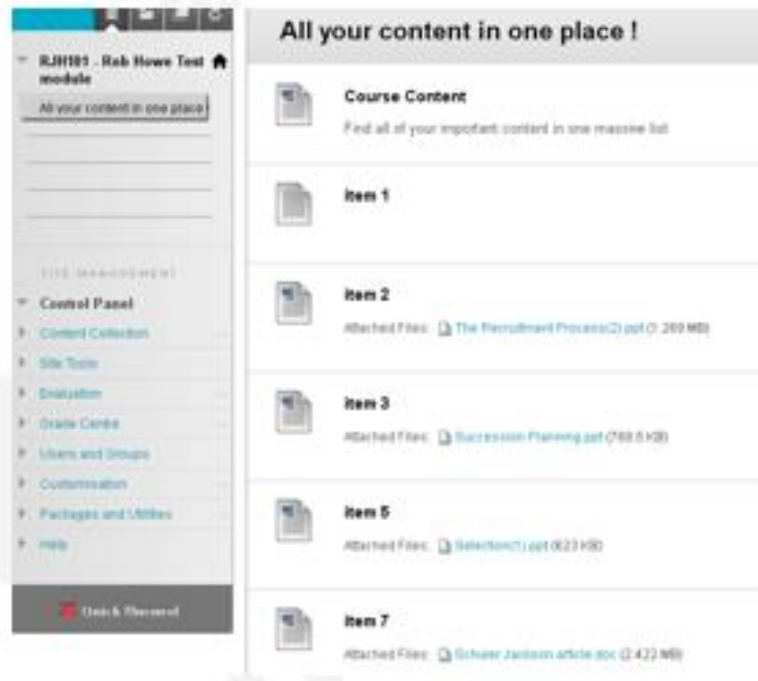
#9 – The one click site

Key principles:

Everything on one page

Poor labelling of content

Wally will be the 300th item on the last page



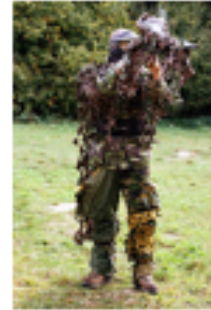
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/verbatim/295643966/>

#8 – The camouflage site

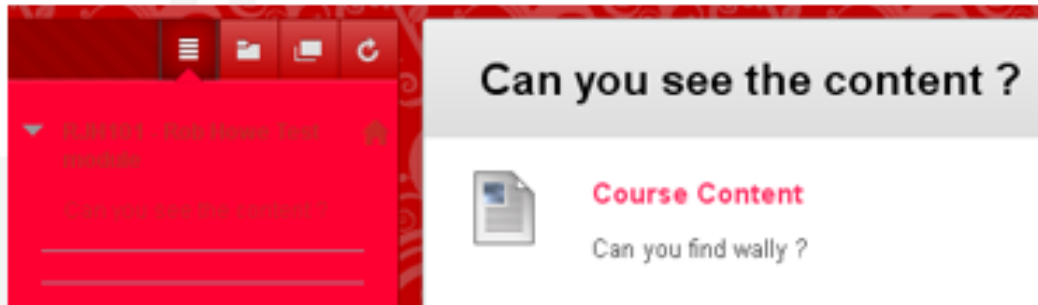
Key principles:

Poor colour combinations

Wally is well hidden in the content



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/razvanradu/3960121586/>



The screenshot shows a course content page with a red overlay. The overlay contains a navigation menu with a dropdown arrow next to "201011 - Web Hows Text module". Below the menu, the text "Can you see the content?" is visible. To the right of the overlay, the text "Can you see the content?" is displayed in a grey box. Below this, a document icon is followed by the text "Course Content" and "Can you find wally?".

Wally Tip: Use red / green combinations for maximum effect with colour blindness.

#7 – The Russian doll site

Key principles:

Content within content

Wally will be found in the 15th embedded folder

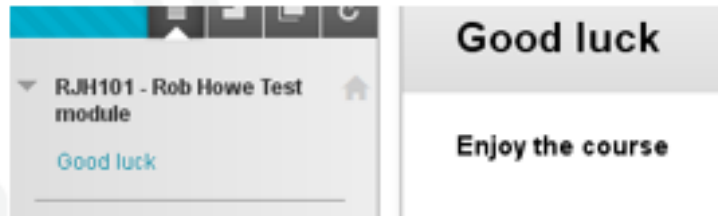


#6 – The minimalistic site

Key principles:

No content (or at least none of any value)

Wally is not going to be found anywhere



#4 – The Las Vegas site

Key principles:

Gaudy graphics (exploring course themes ?)

Poorly resized graphics

Students are distracted whilst looking for Wally



#3 – The Spaghetti Junction site

Key principles:

Many routes – badly signposted

Not all routes will lead to Wally



Use this link

No use this link

This is really the link you need

Essential content

Very essential content

Wally Tip: Ensure that you show links even if there is no content

#2 – The Outer Mongolian site

Key principles:
Obscure file types
You won't have the right program to
access Wally



Use this link

Essential Wally document

Attached Files:  [R&TM module guide \(FT\).docx](#) (866.488 KB)

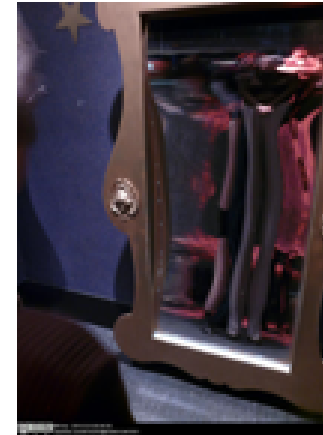
You will need to have Mongolian Office 2020 (obscure release 1.3) in order to open this essential file.
Please note you WILL be tested on the content of this file in the final exam !!!!

Wally Tip: Raise stress levels by
testing students on the content

#1 – The Crazy Mirror site

Key principles:

There are reflections of documents that
are all slightly different versions
Which Wally is the right one ?



The screenshot shows a Moodle course page. The left sidebar contains navigation links for 'R.H101 - Rob Howe Test module', 'SITE MANAGEMENT', 'Control Panel', 'Content Collection', 'Site Tools', 'Evaluation', 'Grade Centre', 'Users and Groups', and 'Customisation'. The main content area is titled 'Which document is the right one?' and lists four documents:

- Module Guide -Bob
- Module Guide - Final
- Module Guide Final - Bob
- Module Guide

The Northampton approach....

- 2011 – Consulted on standard items to include in a Blackboard site
- 2012 – First implementation of new site template for modules and courses
- 2013 – 2018 Audit, review and redesign of template

Student Experience Committee (v1.2)

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Designing for Active Blended Learning

NILE design standards, expectations and guidance for an excellent student experience through Active Blended Learning.

1. Background

Active Blended Learning (ABL) is Northampton's new normal. It is our standard approach to learning and teaching. An ABL programme or module is taught through student-centred activities that support the development of subject knowledge and understanding, independent learning and digital fluency. The teaching is primarily delivered face-to-face, facilitated in a practical and collaborative manner, clearly linked to learning outside the classroom with some integrated on-line teaching, which is also delivered in a comparable interactive manner. Opportunities are provided for students to develop autonomy, Changemaker attributes and employability skills.

This paper is intended to replace the original *Design for effective Learning*, to better reflect our institutional focus on Active Blended Learning. The former was originally created in 2012 to establish a framework covering minimum standards expected on a NILE site.

2. NILE design standards, expectations and guidance for an excellent student experience through ABL

Standards have been split into whether they are 'required' (i.e. audited) or 'advised'. Advised standards may add extra value to the student experience and further enhance the site. These standards have been developed to ensure a consistent student user experience. Where site content currently exists outside of these menu bar items, we ask tutors to consider rationalising them into these areas.

A1) Minimum standards and guidance in all NILE module sites

NILE menu bar item	Information provided within each item (right hand-side frame of NILE)
1 About this module [Entry Point]	Required This area will be used to welcome students to the module and outline the key content. Important information relating to the module, not covered elsewhere in the site, should be in this area (e.g. learning outcomes, timetables and deadlines).



1819 Course Copy template WIP

Your Programme

Announcements

Contacts

Discussion Areas

Your Learning

Your Voice

Your Wellbeing

Your Career

Your Personal Tutor

External Examiner Report



Results of NILE audit 2017

The audit revealed a generally improving situation for NILE sites with many meeting the basic level of the quality criteria for which the tutors involved should be commended.

There were a number of sites in all faculties which shared areas which could be enhanced or improved:

- Tutors should make use of the guidance for content and site material in the suggested areas to assist students with finding content.
- Where module guides were included in sites then these need to be updated and should be consistent with other content within the site.
- The contacts area should ideally include staff photos and all contact details for staff.
- Reading lists should make use of ASPIRE to ensure students can quickly access the relevant resources.
- Whilst colour schemes / themes were generally well used then subject areas may consider consistency if they vary from the NILE standard.



Benefits of a consistent template

Tutors have clear guidance on what to include
Tutors have contextual help
Better use of institutional tools (e.g. Talis Aspire)

Students will know how to find content
Less time spent searching – more time being efficiently used
Less confusion over content

Accessibility benefits

Students notice the difference.

“An effort has been made to present transparent readable material/s and attractive layouts.”

“easy to navigate and search for the information needed for my assignment..”

“The new NILE is very stream lined and a massive improvement from earlier "models". Very user friendly and has all the info needed- including grades-on this single page. Brilliant!”

Wally's Top 5 Tips



- 1) **W**ork through your sites as a student would
- 2) **A**lign the site with standard designs
- 3) **L**ayout your site with a logical structure
- 4) **L**ist only the items which students really need
- 5) **Y**ou have control – don't waste the opportunity

Don't be a Wally (unless your name is Walter)

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