Mashup tool

Overview

This tool lets you easily search and directly embed/link out from your module to content from external sources. Currently this tool enables you to add:
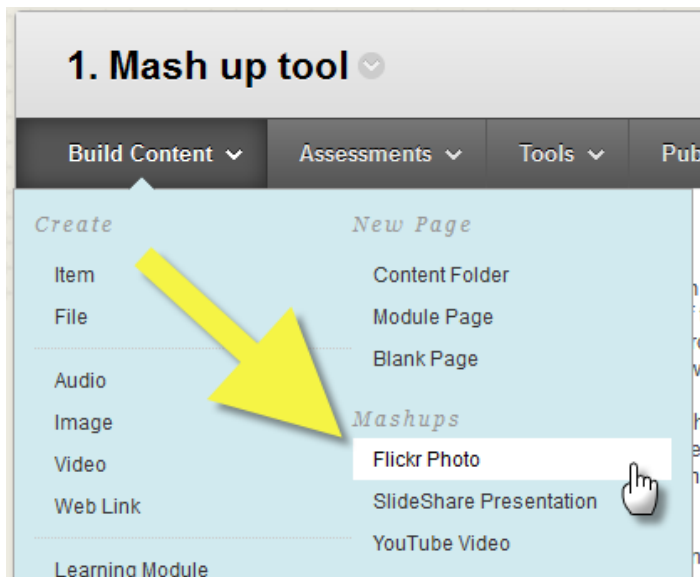
- YouTube videos
- SlideShare presentations
- Flickr photo images.

'Mashup' is a bit of IT jargon which in this context just means content from another system. It also has more technical meanings such as combining information from 2 databases to produce a new resource. An example of this would be combining a database of houses for sale in an area with Google Maps and Streetview.

You can add mashups directly from the **Build Content** menu (best if you simply want to embed a YouTube clip on a page for example) or via the Text Editor when creating a more complex content item.

To add a YouTube video

1. Go to any **content area** (E.g. Sessions/ Resources) and make sure the Edit Mode is set to '**On**'.

2. Hover the mouse pointer over the **Build Content** button and on the pop-up menu that appears, click on the **YouTube Video** link in the **Mashups** section (right-hand column) as below.

3. This will open the following YouTube search box.(If you already know the video clip you want to use, you can paste the title into the search box from YouTube and specify a search of "All of the words" or "Exact Phrase". Click **Go** and follow step 6 onwards below).
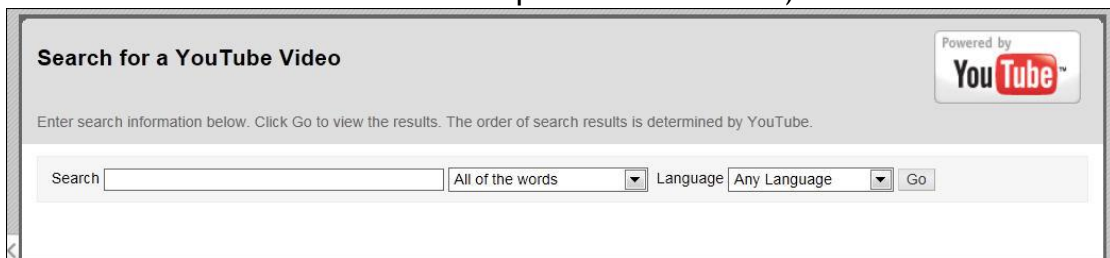
Otherwise, you can use this search box to enter keywords and phrases to find the video resources you are looking for.

4. There are two dropdown menus next to the search box. The first, shown below, will help to narrow or expand the range of returns you get from YouTube searches on your keyword(s).
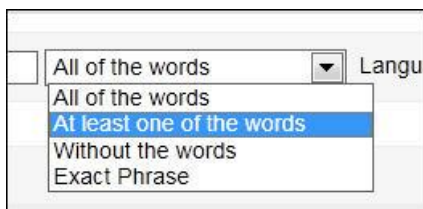
5. Once you have entered your search terms and set the dropdowns (there is a language-specific results dropdown as well), click the **Go** button. This will bring up a list of videos which match your search terms and filters, as in the example below.

6. Scroll down the list of videos (and there may be many pages of them) and you can use the **Preview** button to watch one and check if it will be suitable, and/or click on the **Select** link to add it to your module.

Notice at the top of the page that there are options to sort the list of videos by relevance to your search term/date they where uploaded/YouTube Rating/View Count and also how recently they were uploaded.

7. Once you have selected the video you want to add, the **Create Mash-up Item** page will open.

On this page you can:
- Change the title of the video.
- Add additional information or description about the video.
- Specify how the video will be displayed on the page (step 8).
- Other options to control the availability/track views etc. which are standard to content items in VITAL.

8. Select from the **Mash-up Options** section how you want the video to be displayed and any additional information from YouTube you want students to see. 'Embed Video' will show the YouTube video directly on the page as it appears in YouTube and play on the page itself, and this will suit when you have only one or a small number of videos to show on the page. 'Thumbnail' will be more suitable for when you have lots of content on the page or want to display a number of YouTube clips on the one page. Thumbnails open up in a new window when clicked.

9. Scroll to the base of the page and click on the **Preview** button to check how the video will appear to students – this is an important step as it is easier to change settings at this stage rather than the normal process of using 'edit' once the video has been added. Once the settings are the way you want, click on the **Submit** button.
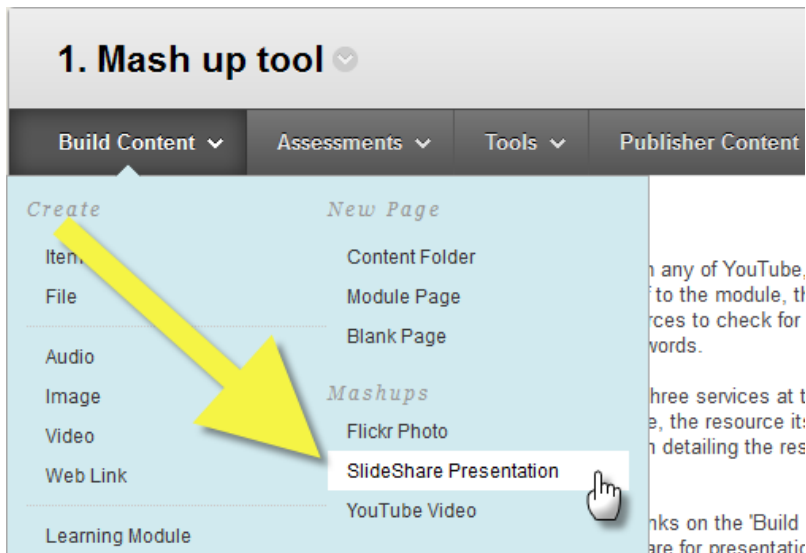

10. Switch the Edit Mode button to '**Off**' to check how the video will appear to students.
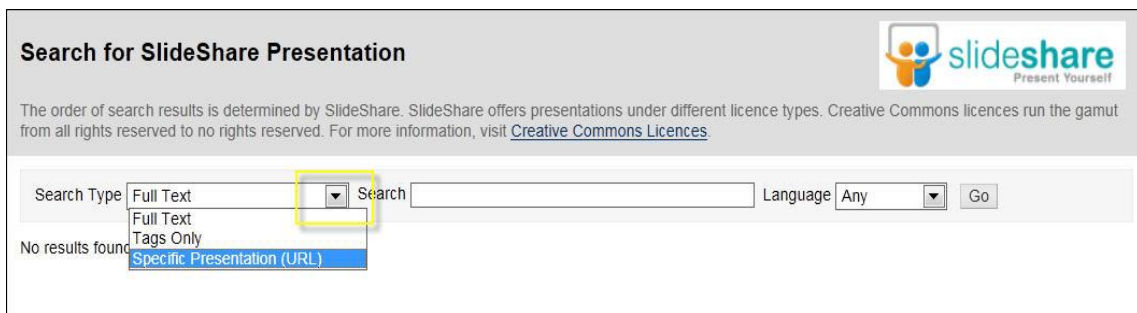
To add a SlideShare presentation

This Mashup process works in a similar way to the process described above for adding a YouTube video.

11. From the **Build Content** button, click on the **SlideShare Presentation** link.

12. This will open the following search page. You can search by text within the presentation, only by tags associated with the resource or if you know the presentation's URL you can paste this here.


13. Add your search terms and type and click the **Go** button.

14. Scroll the list that appears and find the presentation you want to add. Click on the **Preview** button and the presentation will open in SlideShare in a new window.

15. Click on the **Select** button to add the presentation. This will open the **Create Mashup Item** for SlideShare, where you can change the title and add any description you want to appear with the resource.

16. You can also choose how the SlideShare resource will appear to your students. Scroll to the section "2. Mash-up Options" down the page and check the **View** settings in the dropdown menu (as below).

The **View** settings are the same as those described in step 8 above.
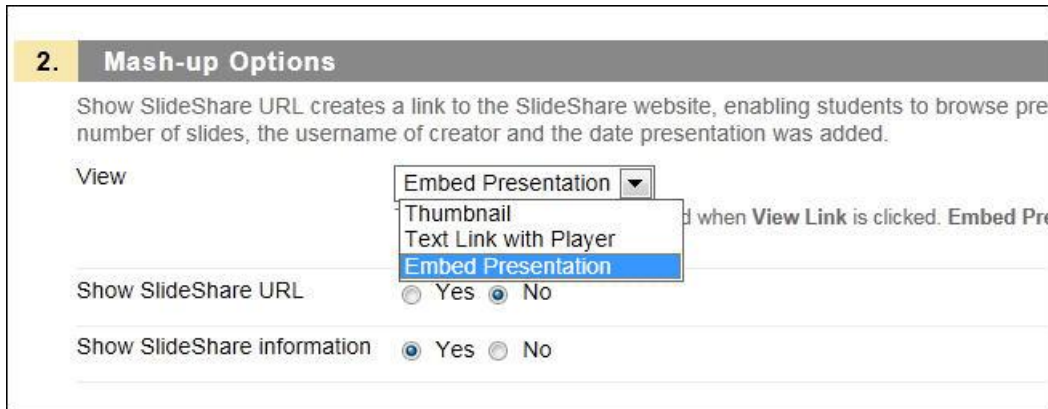
17. Click on the **Preview** button at the base of the page to check how the presentation will appear – make any adjustments before clicking on the **Submit** button.

18. Switch the Edit Mode to 'Off' if you would like to check how the presentation will display to students.

To add a Flickr photo

This Mashup process works in a similar way to the process described above for adding a YouTube video.

19. From the **Build Content** button, click on the **Flickr Photo** link.
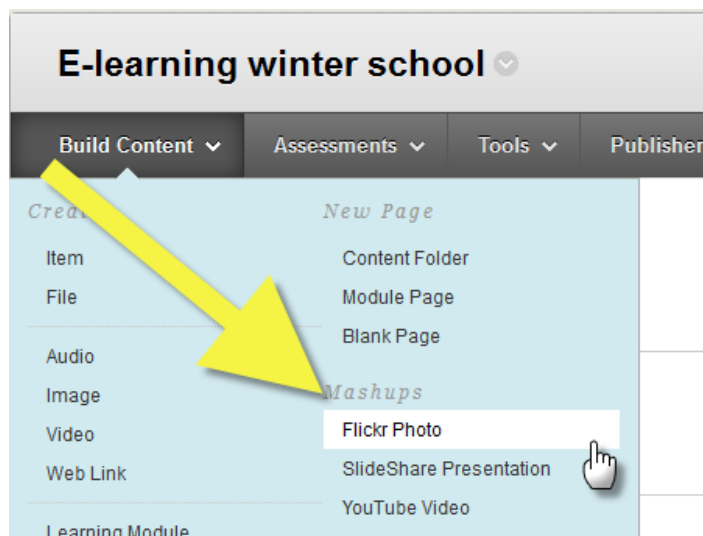
20. A search window opens, as in the first image below. The **Search** box is a dropdown list which lets you search for photos either by full text, tags or the exact URL if you know this. There is a **More Options** button which will give you further search filters, for example to find photos added to Flickr between defined dates, those that are free to use under a Creative Commons licence (second screenshot below).

More options dialogue.

21. Enter your search terms and click the **Go** button.

22. Scroll through the list of photos, there may be pages of images to view. Click on either the **Preview** button to see the full image and/or the **Select** button if this is the image you want to use in your module.
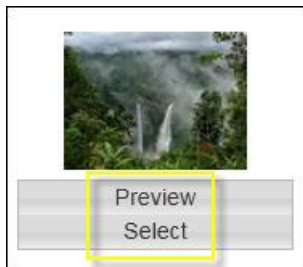
23. Once you **Select** an image you can give it a new title, add any descriptive information and specify the display of the photo in your module pages.

24. In the **Mash-up Options** section you can set whether the image is to display directly on the page (embedded) or as a thumbnail link (students click on it to open the image in a new window full size).

25. With some Flickr photos you may not want to display information imported from Flickr such as a list of its tags etc. Click on the **No** option for the **Show Flickr Information** option if this is the case.
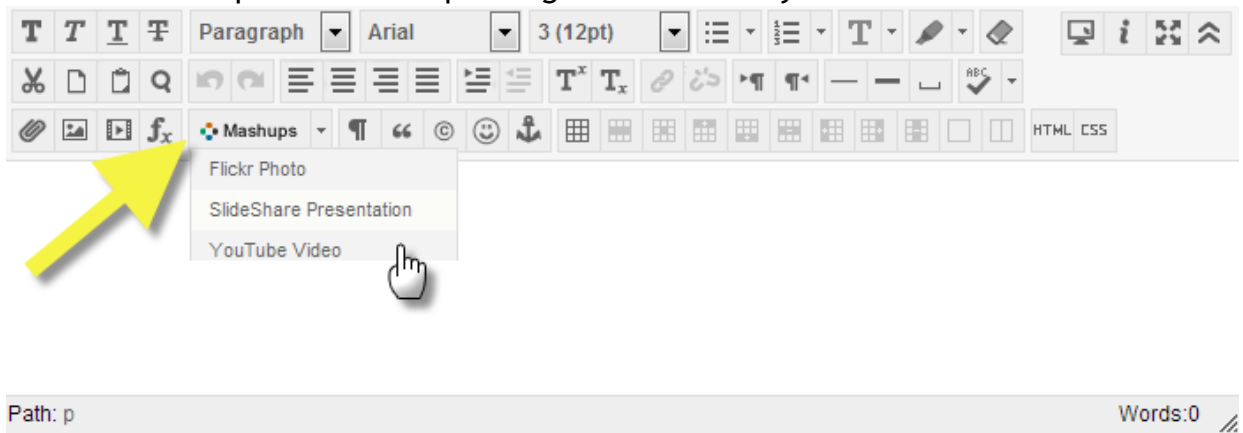

26. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the **Preview** button to check how the photo will displayed. Adjust any settings as necessary and then click on the **Submit** button.

27. Click on the **Edit Mode** button to '**Off**' to view how the photo will appear to students.

Text Editor Mashup facility

28. You can access the same embed facility within content you make in the text editor anytime. Click on the **Mashup** link as shown here and follow the same steps as above depending on the service you choose.