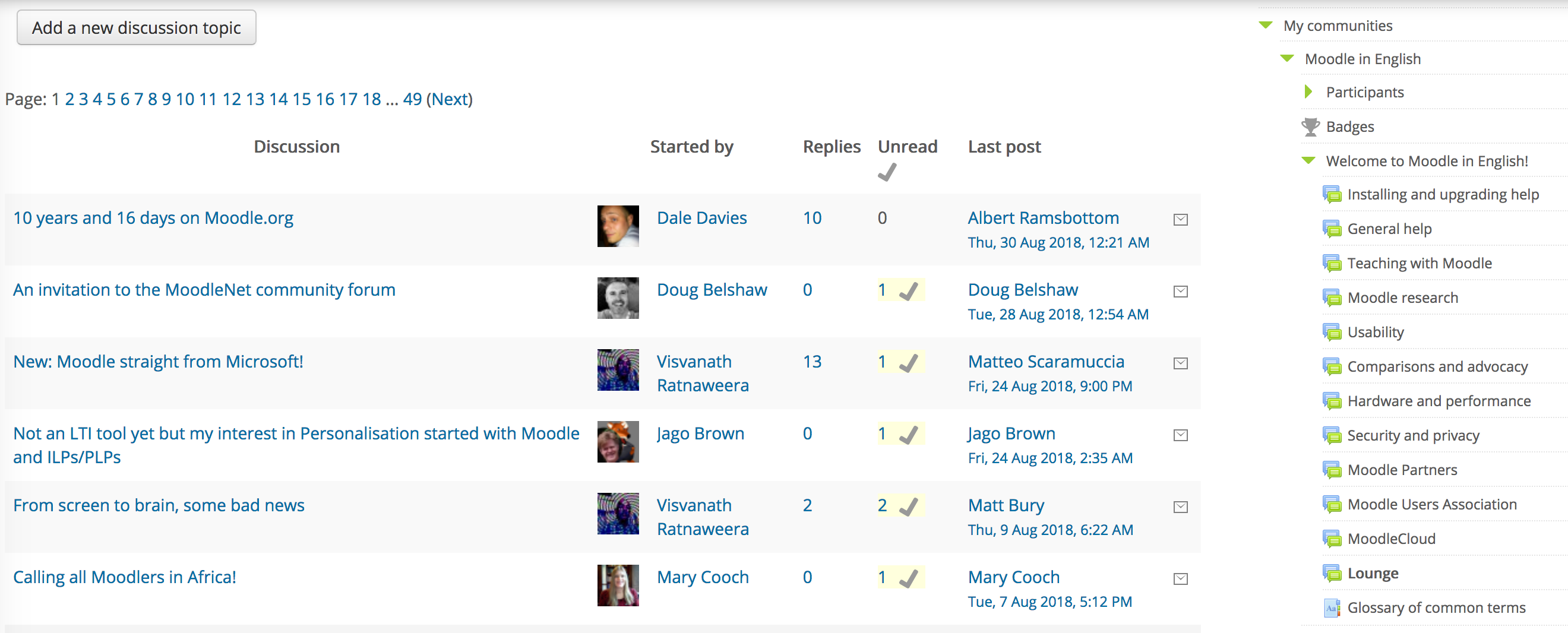
Forum is possibly the first thing that was included in a Moodle course. It has been in every iteration of Moodle since it started. Yet is hasn't changed at all though Moodle itself has become an even more amazing LMS. I believe the forum needs a major facelift to “keep up with the times” and to improve its usability. Presently the interface is not as clear as it could be and there are some functions that could be added that should be.

Firstly, the screen.



As you can see here, the person who started the discussion has their name in the middle of the screen and their name is linked to their profile. I have an international exchange where students from 8 different countries have participated in it. I've randomly asked between 10 and 30 students from those countries whether the above standard interface, or whether the interface with the changes we employed as outlined in the youtube video https://youtu.be/CCivVTgPiLk?t=6s, was easier to understand and navigate. 100% of students said the new interface was easier to navigate and understand. I initially thought it was a cultural thing but, after that short survey, now believe that it is a poor initial interface design.

Matt Cotter has also added a number of additional features via the “React Forum” changes he and the Moodle Association of Japan have funded. As he notes, in a standard forum people can add a new forum discussion and others can reply to it. What if only a quick reaction or opinion is desired by clicking a button as we do it on Facebook. Quickly and effortlessly we can show our agreement, support, opinion or emotion. Basically we can quickly and easily interact. Users click buttons to react. In the addition he and the coder he employed a Counter tallies clicks and users still have the reply option. The buttons can be made using ‘text’ or images.

The code for both these changes already exists in basic form here

https://github.com/nakaharatt/moodle-forum-new\_interface

and here

<https://github.com/sapporomatt/Moodle-ReactForum-Plugin/branches>

It would be ideal to have these included in core Moodle in even better forms.

The forum report would also be a helpful addition.

<https://github.com/nakaharatt/moodle-block_forum_report>

It is outlined here  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqsQ0ZnZC6E&feature=youtu.be