Uppsala University will upgrade the Ping Pong-server to Ping Pong 6.1 on Friday June 16, 2006. One of the objectives with the new version has been high usability, i.e., easier for the user to find various functions in a course with a fewer numbers of mouse click. This means also that the environment is disability tailored on various ways. The main difference compared to the old version of Ping Pong is the appearance and layout. All functions are there, but some of them under new names.

The first you meet in Ping Pong is your individual Start page (instead of the old entrance), which you can adapt after your own needs or wishes. You can upload a picture and choose which side elements you want to have visible, for example future events (put together from your calendar), latest news (e.g., unread threads in discussion forum), your personal contact list etc.

Ping Pong now works as an ordinary website in which you use the normal functions of the web browser, for example the backward and forward pointers, bookmarks and favorites. Through a right mouse click\(^1\) on the event links (marked blue), you can open your events in new windows.

Thereby, you can work in several Ping Pong activities at the same time. This applies to most functions as well.

In the uppermost part of the Ping Pong window you will find the top navigation bar from which you can reach all parts of Ping Pong, marked by red in the picture above. Hold your mouse pointer over the headlines in the top navigation to see each headline content to find out which choices can be made.

\(^1\) In Windows systems you use the right click to open a new web page. Of course it works in a corresponding way, using other systems, such as Mac etc.
Your ongoing courses can be reached by the button **Events** in the top navigation. Here you can find **My events, Catalogue**, and shortcuts to the events you were recently logged in to. Click at the name to open a specific event (course).

Under **Personal** you can edit your **personal information** and settings and find your collection of personal documents and links. For example, you can add phone number and a photo of yourself here. In **Preferences** you can customize your start page in Ping Pong with respect to content and layout. The start page might contain different page elements. Some of them are optional, i.e., you can decide what you want and where they should be placed. You can also add a picture to this personalized start page.

Under **Communication** you can find **PIM** (Ping Pong Instant Message), **What’s new, Information**, and **Contact List**.

**Tools** in Ping Pong include **Notepad, Calendar, and Calculator**.

Under **Support** you will find the answers to your questions in Ping Pong, **Help** gives you content related information. The **Guide** gives you a tour of the system (as a movie) from a participant’s perspective, giving information about functions etc. When you click on **Check your computer**, Ping Pong automatically checks your system and web browser and gives you a report.

At any time you can reach the **Start page** by clicking on the logo in the top left corner or by clicking on the start page “breadcrumb” on the navigation trail below the top navigation bar (marked red).

From a student perspective, a course can look like the picture to the left. In the left part of the Ping Pong window you will find the functions used in the course (marked blue). Which functions visible depends on what the teacher has chosen.

**Overview** gives you a short description of what you will find in the course, with links to the different parts in Ping Pong.

In **Documents** you will find links and documents belonging to the course.

**Contents** contains all web pages, i.e., course surveys, tests etc.

All tests, surveys, and assignments can also be published here in a collected manner, viewed together.

**Communication:** In the lowermost left part of the window you will find the communication functions for the course, for example discussion forum and message board.