WHAT’S NEW
IN BLACKBOARD 9.1 SP 11

2013
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Introduction

The purpose of this brief guide is simply to present some of the most notable new features and enhancements within Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack (SP) 11. This is not a training manual. Please refer to the training manuals and tutorials for step-by-step instructions.

Blackboard 9.1 SP 11 offers several new features and enhancements, such as **New Global Navigation Menu (My Blackboard), New Content Editor**, (Pre-built course menu structures that focus on specific aspects of a course and they re-align the course menu to match the pedagogical needs of the course), **Item Analysis, File Picker Enhancement, Inline Assignment Grading, Retention Center, New Discussions Thread Detail page, and a New Calendar**.

Most of the new and revised features do not greatly affect the navigation or the steps needed to accomplish a particular task. There are a few exceptions: Course **Files** (previously named **Content Collection**) is one of them. Course **Files** has been substantially redesigned. For more information, please refer to page 23.

*Note: Usually text below an image refers to the image above it.*
The new “My Blackboard” feature

When you first log in to eCampus you will see a welcome message, as seen below. The purpose of the welcome message is to show all users (faculty and students) one of the new features added in Blackboard Learn 9.1 service pack (SP) 11.

The new feature is called “My Blackboard”. My Blackboard allows faculty and students to navigate to multiple places (in eCampus) to stay up-to-date on what’s going on in all their courses and organizations in eCampus.

The entry point to “My Blackboard” is a new Global Navigation Menu. This new menu is available all the time in the top right corner of the new Blackboard Learn interface and provides one-click access to your Courses, Organizations, Settings, Blackboard Help, and the new My Blackboard tools.
Global Navigation Menu (the entry point to My Blackboard)

You can see the new **My Blackboard** tools going down the left-hand side of the **Global Navigation Menu** in the screenshot below. The numbers in red tell you if there's something that's new or needs your attention. With this new **Global Navigation Menu**, you can access your courses and tools you need quickly and easily, from wherever you are in the Blackboard Learn environment.

The tools that make up the "**My Blackboard**" feature are:

- Post
- Updates
- Retention Center
- Calendar

To access the **Global Navigation Menu**, select the **Action** link next to your name (in the upper right hand corner, next to the log out button) to access the “My Blackboard” feature tools.
My Blackboard: Post tool

The **Posts tool** in My Blackboard keeps faculty and students up-to-date and engaged with all the conversations going on across eCampus. The Posts tool displays posts from all of a user’s courses and organizations. (i.e., posts from Discussion Boards, Journals, Wikis, and Blogs) Users will also see the comments and replies to those posts.

**Note:** the posts are presented in a chronological order and there are filter options. With the different filters, you can look at **All** posts, just those that directly involve you (**@me**), or look at posts from one particular Course or Organization (**Custom**). With Journal, Wiki, and Blog posts, you can comment right from within the Posts interface or you can click to see the full context of the post in the course environment. With Discussion Board posts, you can click right into the interface in the course environment where you can type your reply.
The **Updates tool** in My Blackboard consolidates all of your Notifications from across all your Courses and Organizations. This tool updates you on course announcements, when new content or assignments are added to a course, when an assignment or assessment is due, and much more. Faculty can also see when assignments and assessments need grading.

There are filters so you can look at all Notifications at once, only those from one particular Course or Organization, or just all Course Announcements. You can also change your notification preferences and pick exactly what you want to show up in this tool.
The Retention Center provides an easy-to-use data visualization and pre-configured rules for identifying at-risk students in a course. The Retention Center requires no set up on the part of the instructor, it automatically identifies students who may need help and allows the instructor to see their specific areas of difficulty. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.

Note: The Retention Center replaces the Early Warning System feature with easy workflows, while retaining all existing Early Warning System data and rules.
Accessing the Retention Center

The **Retention Center** is automatically on and immediately visible in your **My Blackboard** menu, and also accessible in the **Evaluation** section of a course's Control Panel. The information in the Retention Center is for instructors only and is not seen by your students.

**My Blackboard Menu**

- Courses
  - RECENTLY VISITED
    - 2013 _SP_eCampus101_NS
    - (2014SP New Ecampus SP11)
    - 2012BlackboardCollabaraorateV1:
      (2012 Blackboard
      Collaborate V12)
    - TrainingV9.1_Podcasting_Basics_Nate
      (TrainingV9.1 Podcasting Basics Nate)
    - 2012SP_eCampusContentCollection
      (2012SP eCampus Content)

**The Control Panel**

- Control Panel
- Files
- Course Tools
- Evaluation
  - Course Reports
  - Performance Dashboard
  - Retention Center

You can tracking individual courses from My Blackboard. On the **Retention Center** page, click a course link in the left panel and use the tracking link in the right panel following the course name.
The **Calendar** tool in eCampus has been significantly enhanced:

- When accessed from **My Blackboard** or the **Tools** menu on the My DCCCD tab, the calendar displays a consolidated view of all institution, course, organization, and personal calendar events for a user. Calendar events are color coded by course.

- When accessed from a course, instructors and students see the course calendar from the course menu on the Tools page. Instructors can use the calendar course tool as a primary way of managing and communicating the schedule of events and assignments in the course. Calendar supports due dates, if set, for gradable items. Clicking on calendar items allows an instructor to view or edit the item, or grade attempts on the associated item.

- Students can use filtering options to selectively view only course level items. They can then click on an item to view item details, and if supported, create an attempt against the item.
The Calendar Interface

A. View events by day, week, or month.
B. Navigate between months.
C. Click the plus (+) to create a new event. You can also click inside a date to create an event. Assign the event to the appropriate calendar, select the date and time, and add a description.
D. Click an event to manage it. You can also drag and drop an event to change the date.
E. Select the calendars you want to show, such as institution, personal, or course. By default, all calendars are visible.
F. Once the Learn iCal URL is set up in an external calendar, it is updated dynamically with new Learn calendar events. For example, log in to Google Calendar and access the Other Calendar drop-down list. Select Add by URL and paste the iCal URL generated by Blackboard Learn.

Note: You cannot import external calendars into this calendar.
**Accessing the Calendar**

You can access the calendar from your course, from the **Tools** panel on the **My DCCCD** tab, or from the **My Blackboard** menu.
New Content Editor

The new and improved **Content Editor** allows you to add and format text, insert equations and hyperlinks, tables, and attach different types of files to content. The editor appears throughout the system as the default editor.

The editor reads, writes and renders modern HTML as well as offering the ability to resize images, find/replace, and allows the ability to record a video and directly upload it to YouTube. Another great feature of the new Content Editor is that you can expand it for full-frame editing, giving you a lot more real estate to build rich content.

The content editor has two view modes: simple mode and advanced mode.

**Simple Mode**

The simple mode contains a minimal set of the most used text formatting functions. Click the show more (движение вниз) function—represented by two down pointing arrows—to access more editor functions.

**Advanced Mode**

The advanced mode includes every available formatting and object attachment function. Click the show less (движение вверх) function—represented by two up pointing arrows—to view only one row of functions.
**New Math Editor (located in the Content Editor)**

Located in the new Content Editor, is a new math editor that simplifies creation and delivery of equations by enabling editing directly from the Content Editor. The new math editor supports saving and copy/paste of equations using mathML.
New File Picker Enhancement

The new **File Picker feature** is available wherever you see the **Browse Course** button (used to attach a file located in the Course Files area).

![File Picker Interface](image)

The new **File Picker** will be available for both direct file attaching, as in Assignments, or attaching files via the **Content Editor**.
Inline Assignment Grading

When an Instructor views a document submitted through an Assignment, that document is converted to a format that is viewable inside the web browser.

A. Review and comment directly in the document.
B. From the inline viewer toolbar you can zoom the contents of the document in or out, open the annotation tools menu to comment in the document, download the document and move from page to page.
C. Grade the submission from the inline grading sidebar. From here you can view the assignment details, the grading rubric and each attempt. You can type an overall grade and grades for each attempt as well as provide feedback to your students without leaving the page.

Note: The converted document is displayed in a viewer on the View Grade Details page. Formatting and embedded images of the original document are preserved in the conversion.
Inline Annotations

Click Comment in the inline viewer toolbar to expand the annotation tools. Select an annotation tool and comment, edit, highlight and draw in the document.

Note: Assignment submissions created with the content editor are not compatible with inline grading. Submissions of this type show in the window, but annotation is not available.
Faculty can now take advantage of using "contains" and "pattern match" logic when grading **Fill in the Blank** questions. That means you no longer have to rely upon an exact match for Blackboard Learn to automatically grade these questions. So you no longer have to enter multiple answer choices when creating a Fill in the Blank question in order for Blackboard to grade the question for you.

**Note:** Files that are attached to test questions must be uploaded using the content editor. This will store the files in Course Files.
Video Everywhere tool

Video Everywhere is a feature of the content editor. By accessing your webcam, this new feature provides the ability for instructors and students to:

- Record a video on the fly using a webcam and have it seamlessly embedded in course materials, interactions, and feedback through the content editor.
- Reuse previously recorded videos by choosing from one’s own “library” of videos.

You can record video from the content editor and upload it directly to YouTube. You must have a Google account that is registered on YouTube. A YouTube channel is required to process and save your webcam videos.

Note: Video everywhere is not available when the content editor only allows limited text formatting, such as when sending email or creating groups.
Item Analysis

The new Item Analysis feature helps you easily refine your tests and quizzes by evaluating the quality and validity of each question and that question’s ability to discriminate between students who understand the material and those who do not. Ineffective questions can be easily identified and then you can quickly correct them with the Automatic Re-grade feature.

As faculty, you will be able to access an at-a-glance summary of your assessments (see below). This summary provides insight into student performance on that assessment and how the question items performed.
From this summary page, when you scroll down, you can see a list of questions sorted in order of discrimination – with the most ineffective listed on top. A simple red dot next to a question tells you if the question requires review.

![Question Discrimination Table]

After examining the question, you can see whether it was poor wording, vague answer choices or some other factor. If you decide to change or update that question, you can immediately take action right from this page by clicking the “Edit Test” button. You will be taken directly to the assessment where you can use the automatic regarding feature to either update or delete the question and regrade it – even if students have already completed the assessment. And the updates flow automatically into the Grade Center.
New Discussions “Thread Detail page”

The **Thread Detail** page has been redesigned but it still maintains all of its existing functions.

![Thread Detail Page Screenshot]

Highlights include:

- **All posts on one page**: All of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page.
- **Role highlighting**: Posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user’s course role and forum role.
- **Inline replies**: When replying to a post, the content editor used to write a response appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.
- **Post First setting**: Instructors can use a new forum setting to require students to post to a forum before they can see other students’ posts.
**New Course Files area**

**Course Files** is a central file storage area for a single course. Instructors have the ability to manage, organize, and view those files as needed.

The course files area which used to be known as the **Content Collection** has a new name. The new name is **Files**.

In **Course Files**, when you select your course’s name, you will see the content belonging to the course you are in. You can only link to files in the Course Files belonging to the course you are in.