

Blackboard 9 - Enhancements

The following list describes some of the KEY teaching and learning enhancements that are available in Blackboard 9

New Interface:

Blackboard 9 uses a web 2.0 interface that allows you to:

- Drag-and-drop items to rearrange content
- Select drop-down menus
- Access page-specific help information

New Course Home Page:

Each new course opens to a course home page that contains new modules such as:

- “What’s New”
- “To Do”

This home page automatically updates when changes are made to the course and provides students with information on:

- Content changed in the course since the student last visited
- Items requiring the students’ attention
- Items past due or are due in the near future

Faculty are able to:

- Customize the home page
- Drag-and-drop the modules
- Select their desired course entry point

Improved course management workflow:

Course Content:

- Editing tools are now embedded throughout the course
- Options accessible from any location within the course
- The Control Panel is available on the main course menu

Course Menu:

- Drag-and-drop items to change their order
- Items are visible to the student by default.

Course and Communication Tools:

- Both tools have been combined into a single Tool area.

Confirmation Messages:

- Confirmations now display on the same page where the changes were made.

File Collection and Exchange:

- Digital Drop Box is no longer available
- Groups now have a new file exchange tool

New Blackboard Blogs:

- Individual blogs allow students to collaborate and reflect on course content
- Course blogs allow students in a course to share their thoughts and work in one common area
- Group blogs allow groups of students in a course to work collaboratively. Everyone in the course can view and comment on each group’s entries

New Blackboard Journals:

- Journals can be private between a student and the instructor or shared with everyone in the course
- Group journals allow students to reflect collaboratively and comment on their fellow group members' findings.
- Group journals also allow entries to be added anonymously

Automatic Notification:

- Students and instructors can opt to be notified via email when changes are made to the course/organization.

Easier Group Creation:

- Instructors can now create any number of groups at once
- Students can be assigned randomly to groups
- Students can create and join groups themselves
- Instructors can modify or restrict access to student-created groups

Minor Updates and Enhancements

Announcements:

- Use drag-and-drop to change the display order of the announcements.

Assignments:

- You can now choose to deploy Assignments to individuals or groups

Group Assignments:

- Assign a single grade to all of the students in a group
- Override group grade for individual students

Multiple Attempts:

- Students can now submit multiple attempts for the same assignment
- Instructors can grade and comment on each attempt individually
- Instructors can allow specific students to submit an additional attempt

File Naming Convention:

- When a student submits an assignment, Blackboard will automatically rename the file to include the assignment's name, the student's username, and the filename the student originally submitted. For example, John Smith (smithjo) submitted a paper for the assignment "Final Paper" entitled "paper 3". Blackboard would then rename the file "assignment_Final Paper_smithjo_paper3.docx".

Tests and Surveys:

- You can now reorder questions in a test or survey using drag-and-drop.

Tools

- The "Send Email" link is no longer available to students within their courses and organizations.
- Instructors are able to send emails quickly through the Control Panel.