

Service Pack 1

Assessments

Creating and taking Tests have several enhancements to reduce errors and increase efficiency.

- Test-takers are reminded to submit answers before they are allowed to leave a test.
- Random Blocks and Question Sets are both available for instructors to add groups of questions to tests. Random Blocks pull questions into a test from a pool based on certain criteria. They are dynamic and reflect changes to the question pool. Question Sets are static and are made up of specific questions selected to be in the Question Set used in the Test.
- Question and response statistics are displayed for each question on the Assessments Attempts page. For K12 licensed clients, Standards that are aligned to test questions are viewable from this centralized location.

Copying and Moving Items

Move and Copy are now two distinct options for content items. This allows items that cannot be copied such as Tests, Surveys, and Assignments to be moved to another location.

Course Links

When Course Links are created, the link and the location are automatically populated, providing consistency across the link name and location.

Discussion Board

The Discussion Board has two enhancements to streamline grading and create consistency across all collaborative tools.

- Instructors can clearly identify and grade users who are members of Groups participating in group discussions.
- Instructors can enter grades, comments, and feedback when viewing Discussions similar to the experience in Wikis Blogs, and Journals.

Grade Center

The Grade Center has been enhanced to improve grading efficiencies and reduce errors.

- Instructors are prompted to save or delete specific Grade Center columns when deleting a Group with gradable Blogs, Journals, Wikis, or Discussion Forums or Threads.
- Instructors navigating away and then back to the Grade Center in one login session are returned to the last scroll point they viewed or graded in the grid.
- Instructors can color code Grade Center cells that meet certain criteria such as grade threshold, exempted grade and so on. This new feature helps instructors spot trends and action areas in large Grade Centers.

Learning Modules

Items hidden in the table of contents in Learning Modules are made unavailable so they cannot be accessed directly. Additionally, Learning Modules have been enhanced so that when they are copied, links to any tests, assignments, or surveys, are created.

Mashups

Mashup links are now visible when the Text Editor is off.

Standards and Alignments

Standards that have been aligned to test questions can be viewed from the Test Statistics page, providing teachers with a centralized location to view question and response statistics as well as alignments.

Text Editor

The text editor allows users to select right-to-left or left-to-right language orientation of text.

Service Pack 2

none

Service Pack 3

Adaptive Release

Instructors can now set Adaptive Release rules using a calculated column. Categories for each item in the Grade Center appear in the **Select a Grade Center column** drop-down list.

Announcements

New Announcements now appear directly below a repositionable bar. Priority Announcements can be moved above the bar so they always appear first in the list. Students do not see the bar.

Early Warning System

Instructors can now set Early Warning System rules using a calculated column. Categories for each item in the Grade Center appear in the **Select a Grade Center column** drop-down list.

Assessments

Instructors now have the ability to view question numbers while building and editing assessments. Questions can be referenced by number throughout the assessment and can be used to sequence questions in an assessment.

Grade Center

Several features in the Grade Center have been enhanced to improve communication between the instructor and students and make navigation easier.

Feedback and Comments

To augment the existing ability to download columns from the Grade Center and grade offline, Instructors can now include comments in the download. Comments can be added or edited offline, and are associated with the grade when the column information is uploaded to the Grade Center.

The full features of the Text Editor are now available for Feedback to Users and Grading Notes from the Grade Details page and within the Grade Center grid. The Text Editor can also be used for feedback on Tests, Assignments, Group Assignments, Blogs, Wikis, Journals, and posts to the Discussion Board. Incorporating all the features of the Text Editor allows Instructors to leverage the full range of functions for formatting text and adding external links, attachments, images, Mashups, and multimedia to Feedback and Grading Notes.

Students are able to view the Feedback added using the Text Editor on their My Grades page.

Needs Grading Page

Instructors can access assignment and test attempts that need grading from a new Needs Grading page accessed in the Grade Center section of the Control Panel. On the Needs Grading page, instructors can view how many attempts are ready for grading and sort and filter the items. Attempts are placed in a queue for easy navigation among items when grading or reviewing. Once an attempt is graded, it no longer appears on the Needs Grading page.

Smart Views

Smart Views added as Favorites appear as an indented list in the Grade Center section of the Control Panel.

Column Delete Alert

When groups with graded Blogs, Journals, Wikis, or Discussion Boards are deleted, an alert appears prompting the instructor to save or delete the corresponding Grade Center columns. Managing columns for groups becomes part of the same process as deleting groups.

Text Editor

The symbol font is removed from the Text Editor and a symbol picker has been added.

Service Pack 4

Support for Common Cartridge

Common Cartridge 1.0 and 1.1 are integrated into Blackboard Learn. Course content packages saved in this standard can be imported into Blackboard and course content created in Blackboard can be exported as Common Cartridge packages.

Important Note: Cartridges exported from Blackboard are automatically exported in Common Cartridge 1.0 unless the **Export as Common Cartridge 1.1** box is checked. In which case, the export is saved as Common Cartridge 1.1.

Learning Tools Interoperability

The Basic Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) is an IMS derivative of the full Learning Tools Interoperability specification that provides a simple integration for instructors to install external learning tools and applications anywhere within their courses. Users do not have to sign in to multiple tools. External content and tools are added to a course the same way a URL is added. The tool or content is launched by clicking the link. Developers can add Basic Learning Tools Interoperability extensions to their Building Blocks, increasing their market value.

Assessments

Feedback for each answer is now available for Multiple Answer questions.

Course Files Issue Resolution Plan and Best Practices

Service Pack 4 focused on resolving the most critical issues in the areas of Course Copy, Data Migration (Content Exchange), VTBE embedded image handling, and Guest Access.

As a reminder we recommend you discontinue use of the [Move Course Files Utility](#) until Service Pack 5.

Service Pack 5

none