

# What's new...

# Blackboard Collaborate 11

## THE ONLY COLLABORATION PLATFORM BUILT FOR EDUCATION

Build a better education experience with Blackboard Collaborate™ 11. Now you can deliver highly effective and engaging live, online instruction, meetings, and help—anywhere, anytime.

- ▶ New collaboration solutions that provide a **wide spectrum of collaboration**
- ▶ Customer-driven development that **improves the user experience**
- ▶ An education platform **built for the enterprise**

Blackboard Collaborate 11 web conferencing, enterprise instant messaging, and voice authoring capabilities facilitate effective and efficient instruction, meetings, and help that support instructors and IT, engage participants, and ensure institutional strategic goals are met.

With Blackboard Collaborate 11, you get more collaboration choices to support both the pedagogical and operational efficiency goals of your institution. With more collaboration choices, you get more widespread use, so you realize greater cost savings and higher return on your technology investment. And perhaps most important, your students will benefit from the personalized learning experience, expanded reach, and real-time help made available.

Built for education, and designed from the ground up to meet the accessibility imperative, our open, education-focused solutions enhance learning, reduce costs, and improve outcomes. Reach your academic, administrative, and financial goals through more engaging, interactive, and cost-effective collaboration—with Blackboard Collaborate 11.

## Wide Spectrum of Collaboration

### More collaboration choices for everyone.

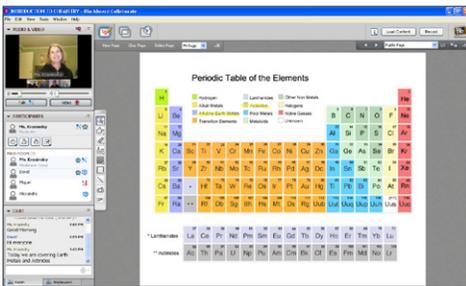
At a time when educational institutions are scaling back IT budgets, cobbling together disparate systems can be an inefficient and expensive endeavor. Blackboard Collaborate 11 provides a single platform that supports a wide spectrum of collaboration, enabling a variety of ways for students, faculty, and administrators to communicate and interact with one another and providing pathways between formal and informal instruction and learning.

Beyond web conferencing, Blackboard Collaborate 11 delivers the greatest choice of collaboration methods for formal virtual classes, informal chat, face-to-face video conferencing, collaborative meetings, mobile learning, and voice capture and authoring.



To let instructors truly engage with students, online learning technology has to stretch far beyond the capabilities needed to run a business meeting or conduct a presentation.

Lee McMinn  
Instructional Development  
Coordinator Greenville  
Technical College



## Instant Collaboration

Blackboard Collaborate 11 introduces enterprise instant messaging capabilities—for informal collaboration at a moment’s need. Users can see who’s online and invite them to chat, talk, or share applications with a single click. Your academic institution can create a learning network to support office hours, school services, meetings, and desktop video conferencing.

Enterprise instant messaging works with web conferencing—enabling users to easily shift ad-hoc, informal discussions to a more formal meeting or help session as interactions evolve.

## Enhanced Communication

Improved live video experience. Now all users can enjoy high quality, multi-point, follow-the-speaker video. You can use a simple desktop setup or integrate with your existing video conferencing equipment.

Shared content. Effective collaboration means sharing content. Use the Web Tour feature in an instant messaging session to allow instructors, help desk staffers, and students to share web content. Embed rich media, like videos or other HTML-enabled content, directly into the chat window to provide additional context. Create and reuse whiteboard content.

Asynchronous voice authoring and recording. With Blackboard Collaborate 11 voice authoring capabilities, you can personalize your asynchronous online programs by creating:

- Podcasts
- Voice email
- Vocal feedback to students
- Foreign language assignments

For learners, adding a voice to their online programs creates a richer and more personalized learning experience. For teachers, voice authoring and recording improves instruction and saves time by enhancing instructor presence, enabling the explanation of complex material, and facilitating the creation of engaging and reusable course content.

## Multiple Languages

Blackboard Collaborate 11 will be available in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. We plan to make additional languages available in future releases.

## Improving the User Experience—Together

*Make simple things easy, advanced things possible.*

## Customer-driven Development

In direct response to customer feedback and guided by a Product Advisory Council composed of professional educators and students, this release showcases an improved, modern, highly accessible user

interface. This helps ensure end-user adoption by all participants, from novice to experienced. For IT administrators this means increased system adoption and greater Return on Investment. For students, instructors, and school administrators, an intuitive interface means making simple things easy and advanced things possible.

## Accessibility

At Blackboard, we take accessibility to a whole new level, encompassing real user-driven development. Our Accessibility Taskforce includes a cross-functional Blackboard Collaborate team, along with members of the educational accessibility community and educators and students with disabilities, who serve as our valued advisors and product testers.

For this release, we have also partnered with leading accessibility consultant SSB BART Group to help ensure Blackboard Collaborate 11 meets or exceeds accessibility standards. The result is a richer, more interactive experience for everyone, regardless of geography, economy, or ability.

For Blackboard Collaborate 11 enterprise instant messaging, we've enhanced keyboard accessibility of the audio and video components and revised keyboard navigation and menus for consistency.

## Consistent User Experience

Blackboard Collaborate 11 offers a consistent experience across the entire platform, unifying collaborative online experiences. Use the same whiteboard content and have the same video experience across the methods/styles of collaboration. With a single click, elevate from simple chat to a richer more interactive web conferencing experience. Save time and money normally spent to train users on disparate, non-integrated applications.

## Built for the Enterprise

*Scalable. Reliable. Flexible.*

Combining the architecture and interfaces of former Elluminate and Wimba products, Blackboard Collaborate 11 is built for the academic enterprise, making it an ideal solution for even the largest institutional systems and maximizing your technology dollars.



*I feel I speak for many of my peers when I say that I respect how deeply Blackboard Collaborate engages its customers during its product development cycle.*

Lee McMinn  
Instructional Development Coordinator  
Greenville Technical College



## Multiple Uses

Not just for virtual classroom/distance learning, Blackboard Collaborate 11 supports both administrative and ad-hoc collaborative uses, like district meetings, faculty professional development, student-to-student instant messaging, large auditorium events, student services, office hours, and much more.

## Open

We know that a key requirement for enterprise deployment is how well the solution integrates with your learning management systems. Blackboard Collaborate 11 supports standards that enable interoperability and technology choice, regardless of your LMS strategy.

Blackboard Collaborate 11 supports Blackboard Learn/Vista/CE/ANGEL, Desire2Learn, Moodle, Plateau, Pearson LearningStudio, and Sakai. Plus, there's an API for custom integrations.

## Reliable and Dependable

Built and deployed in a highly scalable, fully redundant Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) architecture, Blackboard Collaborate 11 scales easily with low administrative costs. And you choose when to update, so your institution can stay current with the latest capabilities. Then when your capacity requirements increase, we can accommodate your growth.

## Resources, Experience, Expertise

Blackboard Collaborate Professional Services stands ready to assist you with upgrades, implementation initiatives, learning workshops, and customer integrations.

# Blackboard Collaborate 11 at a Glance

Why Blackboard Collaborate 11	New Features	Benefits
New solutions that provide a wide spectrum of collaboration	Single-click launch of web conference session from instant messaging session	Choice of collaboration environment accommodates different learning styles or instructional needs
	Dynamic whiteboard content reusable across the platform	Saves time
	Consistent live video (follow-the-speaker, multipoint) and chat (tabbed chat in web conferencing)	Ease of use and higher quality collaboration experience
	Shared content improvements (embedded HTML content in chat area/web tour)	Richer interaction and contextual learning
Customer-driven development that improves the user experience	Redesigned user experience	Ease of use, quicker ramp-up time for greater adoption and rapid ROI. Effective, engaging learning sessions and personalized learning delivery.
	Simple things made easy: access to common tools, audio/video combined, drag & drop content loading	
	Advanced things made possible: breakouts management, Screen Explorer, text chat utility, new academic whiteboard backgrounds	
	Simplified console windows (web conferencing and enterprise instant messaging)	Ease of use, streamlined workflows, one-click access to common functions, greater choice of collaboration modes
	Improved keyboard navigation and screen reader support for instant messaging	Improved access for users with disabilities. Meets needs of learners with blindness or low vision or mobility challenges. Meets accessibility guidelines.
	Voice authoring and recording	Effective teacher/student feedback mechanism personalizes learning experience and saves time
An education platform built for the enterprise	Multi-use platform	Support multiple uses beyond the classroom: student and library services, help desk, office hours, ad-hoc meetings, professional development
	SaaS-hosted architecture	Low administrative overhead, hassle-free upgrade, limited downtime
	Integrations available to major EDU learning and content management systems	Leverages investment in existing learning management systems. Aids in planning for future integrations
	More granular permissioning	Greater in-session moderator control

Blackboard Collaborate 11 will be available mid-year 2011, with enterprise, department, and room-based licensing options for new customers. For more information, visit [blackboardcollaborate.com](http://blackboardcollaborate.com) or contact us at [collaboratesales@blackboard.com](mailto:collaboratesales@blackboard.com).

Statements regarding our product development initiatives, including new products and future product upgrades, updates or enhancements represent our current intentions, but may be modified, delayed or abandoned without prior notice. There is no assurance that such offering, upgrades, updates or functionality will become available unless and until they have been made generally available to customers.

