

## Release 9.1 - Our Next Generation Teaching and Learning Platform

As a way of helping you address the real issues you're facing today, we asked for feedback on improving our products. The result is *Blackboard Learn*<sup>™</sup>, Release 9.1.

It's the release shaped by a global community of practice that closely serves millions of learners. Its capabilities reflect the quality you've been demanding and features a full complement of resources designed to address the challenges typically associated with upgrading.

We're leveraging the effective practices we've learned by working with education institutions like yours on literally thousands of installations and upgrades. What does that mean to you? It's expertise that can help you avoid pitfalls, ensure more effective use of your technology investment, and grow in a cost-effective, scalable way.

### The Blackboard Upgrade Center

We've compiled all the customized resources you'll need for a personalized upgrade experience. It's your go-to resource for making the move to Release 9.1 as simple as possible.

<http://www.blackboard.com/upgradecenter>



# Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1 – New Capabilities

## Fostering Student Engagement

Release 9.1 features exciting new social learning and teaching tools that foster more logical, visually impactful, and active learning opportunities for students. You'll transform your closed-door classrooms into communities where students remain connected to their educational experience 24 hours a day.

### Promote active collaboration and social learning

- Course Wikis\* enable active collaboration around course content and group projects.



wikis

- Blogs and Journals promote conversation and reflection.
- Group Tools simplify group communication and collaboration.

### Engage students with a new user interface

- Web 2.0 User Experience creates and delivers effective content with an intuitive, easy-to-use interface.

### Integrate visually engaging content

- Mash-ups\* integrate Web 2.0 resources from youtube.com, slideshare.com and flickr.com.



youtube mashups

### Keep students connected

- The Blackboard Connect™ platform\*\* is fully integrated and provides students the alerts and notifications they need to better manage academic priorities and course deadlines.
- Blackboard Mobile Learn™ application\*\* brings interactive teaching and learning to mobile devices, creating an engaging mobile learning experience for students and teachers on the go.

### Increase accessibility

- Advanced Accessibility Options that are Gold Level certified by the National Federation of the Blind for Non-Visual Accessibility.



\* New capabilities for Release 9.1 \*\* Blackboard Connect and Blackboard Mobile Learn are separate Blackboard offerings.

## Supporting Educator Efficiency

Our new instructional productivity tools give your faculty the freedom to focus on teaching and learning techniques. By continually improving the course workflow, you'll enable educators to spend less time on administrative details and more time on student success, achievement, and retention.

### Manage content at the course level

- **Course Files\*** eliminate redundancy and simplify the management of content updates.



course files

### Grade in context with more options

- **Improved Grading\*** enables flexible and consistent grading to be done in parallel with the review process.

### Create assessments in less time

- **Assessment Manager\*** reduces the amount of time needed to create assessments with improved search functionality.

### Provide intuitive online structure

- **Learning Modules - Table of Contents\*** guide students through a structured learning experience.



learning modules

### Ease management of learning content

- **Content Management module enhancements\*** easily upload and manage content across courses and organizations.

### Enhance communication

- **The Blackboard Connect™ platform integration\*\*** delivers a simple and proven tool that enables the creation of personalized and customizable messages.

### Monitor Activity and Progress

- **Instructor Dashboard** monitors activity and progress by aggregating and filtering key course information so students and educators can see what's new and what needs attention through the lens of fresh activity.

## Delivering Open & Extensible Learning

Release 9.1 offers free access to partner technologies, expanded content partnerships and hundreds of Blackboard Building Blocks™ to choose from.

### Powerful and relevant search

- **The Blackboard Learn Toolbar\*** enhances the browsing experience for learners with Internet Explorer and Firefox through instant access educational updates and one-click access to *Blackboard Learn* course materials.

### Bring real events into course instruction

- **NBC News Archives** enable educators to easily locate educational multimedia content that is instructionally sound and relevant to course curricula.

### Deliver educational materials using personal lecture capture

- **Echo360®** provides a lecture capture solution for educators to record and publish lectures right into their courses so students can view them on-demand.

### Instant messaging

- **Wimba** provides an instant messaging solution designed for education while enriching collaboration amongst educators and students.

### Ensure academic integrity

- **Acxiom® Identify-X™** enables institutions requiring advanced student identity verification mechanisms to ensure student privacy and academic integrity.

# Connecting student instruction with institutional improvement

In Release 9.1, Blackboard institutions with the Outcomes Assessment module can align their course objectives and learning goals to program and institutional goals so that assessment professionals can leverage the work already being done by educators.

## Make outcomes assessment easy for educators

- Outcomes Assessment module enhancements\* leverage the work your educators are doing in the classroom by easily linking course objectives to institutional goals. You'll identify gaps in course content and recognize objectives that are not being met.

## Gain insight into standards

- Outcomes Assessment module\* contains new coverage reports to help identify program gaps at the course and program level. You'll gain visibility into the application of institutional goals and standards to learning practice.



outcomes report

\* New capabilities for Release 9.1

\*\* Blackboard Connect and Blackboard Mobile Learn are separate Blackboard offerings.

## The Resources You Need

We've enhanced Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1 with a comprehensive set of resources and services built specifically with your upgrade path in mind.

**Upgrade Center** – A centralized collection of all the relevant resources related to your upgrade. Quickly put your fingers on resources that are customized by version and hosting situation for a personalized upgrade experience. Please visit: <http://www.blackboard.com/UpgradeCenter>

**Blackboard Managed Hosting<sup>SM</sup> 99.9% Uptime SLA** – To demonstrate our commitment to service and quality of your Blackboard environment, we are pleased to offer a 99.9% uptime Service Level Agreement (SLA) for clients upgrading to Release 9.1. Please visit: [www.blackboard.com/managedhosting](http://www.blackboard.com/managedhosting)

**Upgrade Programs** – Blackboard offers essential upgrade services and tools to our clients to ensure that your institution's specific needs are met throughout your transition. Please visit:

[www.blackboard.com/UpgradeCenter](http://www.blackboard.com/UpgradeCenter)

**On-Demand Learning Center** – Home to dozens of video tutorials, getting started guides and other resources to help faculty get acclimated to the new features of Release 9.1. Please visit: <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/>

**Preview Accounts** – Experience Blackboard Learn software – from both a student and an educator perspective – on a hosted evaluation server for thirty days. Please visit: <http://bb.blackboard.com/bblearnpreview>

**Release 9.1 Communications Toolkit** – Communications tools designed to generate excitement about Release 9.1 with all your stakeholders. Please visit: <http://www.blackboard.com/UpgradeCenter>