

Release 9.1 - Our Next Generation Online Learning Platform

As a way of helping you address the issues you're facing in adult learning today, we asked for feedback on improving our products. The result is *Blackboard Learn*[™], Release 9.1.

It's the release shaped by a global community of practice that closely serves millions of learners. Release 9.1 reflects the quality you've been asking for and comes with 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 organizations like yours on literally thousands of installations and upgrades. What does that mean to you? It means you can count on our expertise to avoid pitfalls, ensure more effective use of your technology investment, and grow in a cost-effective, scalable way.

For Current Blackboard Clients:

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>

Not Currently a Blackboard Client?

Preview Accounts

You can experience Blackboard Learn software - from both a learner and trainer perspective - on a hosted evaluation server for thirty days.

<http://bb.blackboard.com/bblearnpreview>



Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1 – New Capabilities

Engagement and Knowledge Retention

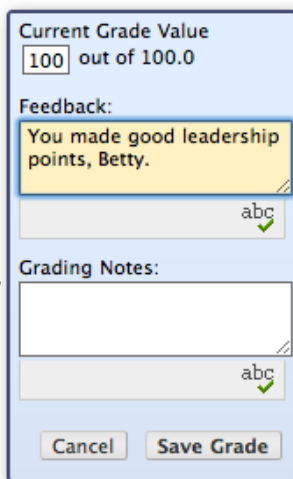
Release 9.1 features a collection of new capabilities that drive engagement through ease-of-use coupled with new social and informal learning opportunities. Recognizing the importance of harnessing the knowledge development from within your organization, Release 9.1 gives you the ability to capture and assess informal learning in a centralized and secure Blackboard Learn environment.

Promote and harness informal and social learning

- Wikis* enable active sharing and collaboration around learning content and team projects.
- Blogs and Journals promote conversation, feedback and reflection.
- Group Tools simplify team communication and collaboration.
- Grading in Context* captures and assesses informal learning with Wikis, Blogs, Journals and Discussions.



wiki



grading in context

Engage learners with a new user interface

- Web 2.0 User Experience fosters simplicity and user engagement through an intuitive, easy to use, and accessible interface.

Integrate external content

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



youtube mashup

Keep learners connected

- Learner Notifications give instructors the ability to send e-mail notifications to learners and are accessible from a central learner notification dashboard.
- Preferred Notifications** (available through integration with the *Blackboard Connect*™ platform) provide learners the option to receive notifications in the way they prefer - via e-mail, text or voice.
- Blackboard Mobile Learn™ application** brings interactive teaching and learning to mobile devices, creating an engaging mobile learning experience for learners on the go.



BlackBerry® connect message

Increase accessibility

- Advanced Accessibility Options that have been 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 Evaluation and Effectiveness

Leverage integrated evaluation and knowledge management tools that support organizational effectiveness. Evaluation tools help ensure the alignment of learning programs to organizational objectives while organization-wide content management supports easier management of knowledge for your entire learning community.

Increase learning program effectiveness

- Measurement and Performance Testing* in the Grade Center eliminates redundancy and efficiently tracks learner performance that best aligns to learning objectives.



grade center

Share and manage learning content

- Organization-Wide Content Management* manages knowledge for the learning community through efficient content management tools.

Check knowledge in less time

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



assessment manager

Align learning program with organizational objectives

- Training Plans* ensure consistency in training and knowledge development through a customizable template for training or talent management plans.



training plan

Delivering Powerful, Cost-Effective Learning Program

Support the shared effort across organizations of all sizes to cost-effectively deliver an impactful learning program. Release 9.1 provides organizations with the opportunity to do more with less on a dependable platform.

Easily manage learning content

- Course Files* easily manage and deliver dynamic learning content through an in-course file storage system.
- Customizable Roles* control content delivery through customization of role based permissions.



course files

Ensure a secure and dependable learning environment

- Support for the latest Server Operating Systems* and Database Software
 - Windows Server® 2008 (64-bit)
 - Oracle® 11g (64-bit)
- Support for the latest Web Browsers*
 - Safari® 4
 - Internet Explorer® 8
 - Firefox® 3.6
- Support for Client-Side Operating Systems*
 - Windows® 7
 - Mac® 10.6 (Snow Leopard®)



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 HostingSM 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

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

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>