What is New?

Blackboard SP9

By Izabella Bagdasarova
As fall semester comes to an end, we are in preparation to upgrade Blackboard Learn 9.1 from the service pack 5 (SP5) to the service pack 9 (SP9).

This update includes changes to the look, feel, and functionality of the Blackboard system made in SP6, SP7, SP8, and SP9.
The redesigned user interface in Blackboard SP9 is new, yet familiar. The new default **2012 Theme** provides a clean and uncluttered experience. Users will find it easier to navigate and complete tasks.

- Most apparent will be the missing action (“chevron”) buttons and “drag-and-drop” icons that allow users to edit, hide, delete, and move items.
- Most controls are now hidden and appear only when needed.
  - Hiding the controls until they are needed gives the interface a clean, uncluttered appearance.
New Login Page

• Although the login page has a new feel and look, your **Username** and **Password** have NOT been changed.

• The login page has links to Blackboard Help information for CSI faculty and students.
New User Interface

• Most apparent will be the missing action ("chevron") buttons and "drag-and-drop" icons that allow users to edit, hide, delete, and move items.

• In the current environment, most controls are now hidden and appear only when needed.
  • Hiding the controls until they are needed gives the interface a clean, uncluttered appearance.
  • To make them appear, hover the cursor over the item.

Course Menu OLD

Course Menu NEW
New User Interface

• **Action Bar** buttons in Content Area Have Been Renamed (SP8)

OLD

Build Content  Create Assessment  Add Interactive Tool  Assign Textbook

NEW

Build Content  Assessments  Tools  Publisher Content
In response to user confusion around the collapsing course menu behavior, the course menu has been modified to only retain its collapsed state for the duration of the user session and on a per-course basis.

- If the user collapses the menu, it will stay collapsed for that course only, until either the user expands the menu again, or until the user's session ends.
Instead of adding tool links from the **Build Content** action button in a **Course Content area**, you have to use a newly renamed **Tools** button.

- The **Tools** drop-down list has become much longer and more tools are available in the list.
In the **Add Item** menu, the action link **Create External Link** has been renamed to **Web Link**.
Course Themes

• In addition to the new Default Theme, there are over 50 other professionally designed themes.
• Within a course, instructors can apply a Course Theme to match their design preferences and teaching methods.
• Applying a theme does not affect course content, and users can change the theme again at any time.

  – **NOTE:** Please keep your users in mind, especially those that may be color blind or have difficulties with low contrast displays.
Task-Based Navigation lets you jump from one course to another, retaining the context of the page, so you can perform the same task across multiple courses, saving you time and reducing the frustration.

• For example, if you are viewing the Announcements page in one course and select another course from the contextual menu, you are taken to that course's Announcements page.
  – If you switch to a course that does not contain the same tool or task, the page set as the course entry point appears instead.
Quick Setup Guide

• The Blackboard Learn platform supports all pedagogical methods. Since different courses require different structures and designs, the new **Quick Setup Guide** makes it easy for you to choose an appropriate **theme** and **structure** for your course so you spend less time designing and more time on the real work of teaching and learning.

  – Over 30 different course structures are offered, as well as the ability to change the theme, course name, and description right at the start.

  – The guide can be accessed from the **Control Panel** under **Customizations**.
The wizard will guide you through the steps and help you to structure and design your course.
Quick Setup Guide - Steps

1. Quick Setup Guide
2. Choose a Course Structure
   - Activity
   - Existing Menu
   - Case Study
   - Conference Session
   - Constructivism
   - Expedition-Based
3. Use This Structure
4. Include content examples for Activity
5. Apply Changes

Activity
In activity-based courses, students engage in hands-on activities and field work, research and experiments, and problem-solving.
Students interact online in Conversations and Live Chat to reflect and connect with classmates.

Learn more about course structures.
Course Structures Templates

- **Course Structures** are templates that arrange the content in your course to align with a particular pedagogical approach.

- They include predefined course materials such as menu links, instructions, and content examples that can jump-start your course organization.

- **Important:** The selected course structure's content is added to your course and does **not** replace existing menu items and content. You can delete unnecessary items.
  - Export or archive your course before adding a course structure to be sure you have a backup version.
Blackboard offers **five** categories of course structures you can use as a launching pad to create your course, organize content, share knowledge, and build communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus on Activity</th>
<th>Focus on Communication</th>
<th>Focus on Content</th>
<th>Focus on Systems</th>
<th>Focus on Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Cooperative Learning</td>
<td>By Chapter</td>
<td>ANGEL</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Guided Discussion</td>
<td>By Lecture</td>
<td>Blackboard Classic</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Session</td>
<td>Social Learning</td>
<td>By Lesson</td>
<td>Blackboard Learn - Default</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructivism</td>
<td>Web 2.0</td>
<td>By Module</td>
<td>CourseInfo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition-Based</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Subject</td>
<td>eCollegial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Topic</td>
<td>Open Source 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Format</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Unit</td>
<td>Open Source 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Format</td>
<td></td>
<td>Science-Focused</td>
<td>WebCT 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>WebCT 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can include **content examples** for selected structure.

Content Examples add to the course:
- Pedagogical information
- Step-by-step instructions
- Teaching tips
- Links to video tutorials
- Blackboard Help topics
- Course material: content items, tools, assignments, tests, surveys, announcements, Web Links, and Mashups
When you add a course structure to your course, a folder named "sample_content" is added to your course's storage repository.

If you add multiple course structures to the same course, additional "ImportedContent" folders appear.
Automated Re-grading:

• Instructors can now fix problematic questions by simply editing the invalid question directly and having all necessary updates flow automatically to the Grade Center.
  
  – Instructors can drop, give full credit, change point value, or change which answer is marked correct.
  
  – Blackboard recalculates the score of all submitted assessments that included the updated question, reflects the updates in the Grade Center, and provides notification to both the instructor and optionally to the student for all impacted submissions.

  • **Note:** Instructors have the option of saving as new when editing a question in a pool.
Negative Marking

• Allows instructors to apply negative point values for wrong answers on test questions.
  – Negative points can be used to prevent (by penalty) guessing or the selection of egregiously wrong answers.
  – Negative points can be assigned to multiple choice, matching, and multiple answer questions.
  – When building an assessment, check "Specify negative points options for answers" in the Question Settings page.
Negative Marking (SP8)

Partial Credit %

Indicate percentage of points possible that should be assigned when this option is chosen. A negative percentage in this field will reduce the student's overall grade for the test in which this question is used.
You will find significant improvements to the Rubrics that were made in Blackboard SP6 -SP9. Blackboard rubrics are now interactive, allowing for dynamic entry of feedback and ratings.

- Rubrics can be imported and exported for use across courses.
- Instructors can associate Rubrics with gradable items including Assignments, Discussion Boards, Blogs, Wikis, Tests, etc.
- Students now can view rubrics associated with the assignment.
- Multiple rubrics can be associated with the item.
Improved Rubrics

• In SP9, Rubrics include **Percentage Range** along with **Points Range**.
  – “**Percentage Range** option allows a single rubric to work with any assignment as the achievement scores are calculated as a percentage of the item being graded” (*BB SP9 Release Notes*).
# Course Reports

Four more course reports are available to instructors in Blackboard SP9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All User Activity inside Content Areas</strong></td>
<td>This report displays a summary of all user activity inside Content Areas for the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW!</strong> Course Activity Overview</td>
<td>Course Activity Overview displays overall activity within a single course, sorted by student and date. Data includes the total and average time spent per user and the total amount of activity the user had in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW!</strong> Course Coverage Report</td>
<td>This report displays goals coverage information for a single Blackboard Learn course. Data includes both covered and gap values for all curricular areas that the course is associated with, as well as a breakdown of course items that have been aligned to goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW!</strong> Course Performance</td>
<td>This report displays information showing how a single Blackboard Learn Course performs against a selected set of goals. Performance targets and a range of acceptable performance for the course can be determined when running the report. Data includes averages for the entire course as well as breakdowns for individual students and goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Summary of User Activity</strong></td>
<td>The report displays user activity for all areas of the course, as well as activity dates, times and days of the week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW!</strong> Student Overview for Single Course</td>
<td>Student Overview for Single Course displays an individual student’s activity within a course, sorted by date. Data includes the total overall time the student spent in the course as well as detailed information about the student's activity, such as which items and Content Areas the student accessed and the time spent on each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Activity in Forums</strong></td>
<td>This report displays a summary of user activity in Discussion Board Forums for the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>User Activity in Groups</strong></td>
<td>This report displays a summary of user activity in Groups for the course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A new **View Grade History** option is available now in the contextual menu for a specific column in the Grade Center.

- It shows changes that occur to grades within a grade column, and displays all the data for grade submissions within a set date range.
- It is possible to manipulate the view and export the information.
The information about the grades change is presented in a tabular format and can be sorted within columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Last Edited by</th>
<th>User</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Attempt Submitted</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16, 2012 5:07:12 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attempt Grade 40</td>
<td>Feb 16, 2012 5:07:12 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13, 2012 2:36:07 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attempt Grade 105</td>
<td>Feb 13, 2012 2:36:07 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9, 2012 6:15:13 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attempt Grade 85</td>
<td>Feb 9, 2012 6:15:13 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9, 2012 5:29:45 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attempt Grade 105</td>
<td>Feb 9, 2012 5:29:45 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 7, 2012 5:18:35 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attempt Grade 60</td>
<td>Feb 7, 2012 5:18:35 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Microsoft Office products use a proprietary form of mark up (code) that, for the most part, only MS Office understands and, when pasted into the Text Editor on Blackboard, creates all kinds of formatting problems.

- See examples below:

Microsoft Word sure does like to create bloated code.
• **Paste From Word** - new feature will reduce the number of formatting issue and alleviate the extra work that goes into fixing pasted text into the Text Editor.

• When used to **Paste From Word**, Microsoft markup is stripped out so the text does not become corrupted and appears as it did in the original Word document.
When copying the course, instead of selecting the items one-by-one to copy, you can now use two newly added buttons: **Select All** and **Unselect All**, that place or remove check boxes in the **Select Copy Options** area.

OLD

NEW
Blackboard Support Site

For Blackboard support, please call CSI Help Desk at 6311.

- Blackboard CSI Faculty support resources can be found at:
  http://itc.csi.edu/bb_support/index.asp

- Information on new features in Blackboard SP9 can be found at:
  http://itc.csi.edu/bb_support/SP9.asp

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**Blackboard Support**

**Building Your Course**

**Communicating & Collaborating Tools**

**Assessing Learners & Evaluating Student Performance**

**Blackboard COLLABORATE**

**Blackboard Mobile**

**What’s New in Blackboard Service Pack 9**

As fall semester comes to an end, we are in preparation to upgrade Blackboard Learn 9.1 from the service pack 5 (SP5) to the service pack 9 (SP9). This update includes changes to the look and feel of the Blackboard system, as well as offer enhanced functionality for instructors.

Below, you will find an information about new and some old improved features of Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP9. In addition to the documentation in PDF format you will find short interactive video tutorials from Blackboard. To watch the video, you will need the Flash Player that can be downloaded from http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
How to Navigate to CSI Blackboard Support Site

Quick Links
- Program Websites
- Offices & Services
- Alert @ CSI
- Sustainability
- Athletics
- CSI Foundation
- Community Education

Information For:
- Future Students
- Current Students
- Distance Learners
- International Students
- Faculty and Staff
- Alumni and Friends
- Community

Information Technology
- My Help Desk
We will provide the hands-on training *What is new in Blackboard Service Pack 9?*

Four sessions are scheduled as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 28</td>
<td>2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Thursday, Nov. 29</td>
<td>2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tuesday, Dec. 4</td>
<td>9:30 - 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Library 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Friday, Dec. 7</td>
<td>9:30 – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Canyon 113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*You can attend any of those sessions.*