

Blackboard®

News Release

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Blackboard Delivers Updates to its Flagship LMS

Company brings new features and usability enhancements to Blackboard Learn

WASHINGTON, 9 May 2017 - [Blackboard Inc.](#), a leading education technology company for teaching, learning and student engagement, today announced new updates to Blackboard Learn, its flagship Learning Management System (LMS). These updates bring new features and usability enhancements to both the Original experience (also known as Blackboard Learn 9.1) and the Ultra experience.

"The market-leading Blackboard Learn continues to evolve to meet the varied needs of students and instructors globally," said Phillip Miller, Vice President of Teaching and Learning at Blackboard. "We continue to invest in the underlying technology and foundation of the Original experience to ensure that it will successfully support millions of educators and learners for many years to come, while simultaneously bringing new features and functionality to both the Original and Ultra experiences – ultimately giving clients more choice."

Highlights of the latest release for the Original experience, which is available via self-hosted, managed-hosted and SaaS (Software as a Service) deployment options, include:

- **Blackboard Ally Integration for Content Accessibility:** The new solution automatically runs course materials through an accessibility checklist that looks for common accessibility issues and generates a range of more accessible alternatives for the instructor's original content including Semantic HTML, audio, ePub, and electronic Braille.
- **Theme Improvements for Mobile Optimization:** Blackboard is continuing its commitment to enhance the mobile experience for students and educators by improving web responsiveness for mobile devices.
- **Additional Drag-and-Drop Locations:** Blackboard continues to improve user efficiency by adding the ability to drag-and-drop files and folders for upload in more locations.
- **Outcomes Assessment (sampling by demographics):** Assessment managers can now sample student assignments by demographic information. For example, they can sample graduating seniors in a specific program for a secondary program evaluation process.
- **LTI Enhancements:** LTI course links created by partners' and institutionally created solutions through Building Block APIs can now leverage LTI Outcomes 1.0 for grade/score return.

- **Additional REST APIs:** New REST web services for SIS integration enable administrators to check on job status and retrieve error records, so they can set up processes for monitoring and record correction.

Blackboard also continues to deliver monthly updates for the Ultra experience, which is deployed via SaaS. Key enhancements this year have included:

- **Goal Alignment Capabilities:** Instructors can gain deeper insight into student performance by aligning goals to objects, including test questions, rubrics, content, LTI links, discussions, and more.
- **Localization for Global Markets:** All the left-to-right languages supported in the Original experience are now supported in the Ultra experience as well. Administrators and users can select a locale that changes the user interface.
- **Incorporating Client Feedback from Pilots:** Enhancements and new capabilities in the areas of assessment, content creation, and discussions have been added based on client feedback from recent pilots.

For a complete overview of the Blackboard Learn updates, please visit:

<http://blog.blackboard.com/our-latest-investment-blackboard-learn/>.

About Blackboard Inc.

Our mission is to partner with the global education community to enable learner and institutional success, leveraging innovative technologies and services. With an unmatched understanding of the world of the learner, the most comprehensive student-success solutions, and the greatest capacity for innovation, Blackboard is education's partner in change.