



Blackboard

Blackboard Academic Suite™

Release Notes

Application Pack 3 (Release 6.3), Service Pack 1
Blackboard Learning System™
Blackboard Community System™
Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition

(Release 2.3), Service Pack 1
Blackboard Content System™

NEW FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

Overview

Application Packs introduce new features to the *Blackboard Academic Suite* without drastically changing the architecture of the platform. This allows Administrators to implement important new features without risking stability.

This section reviews the new features in Application Pack 3, explains their default availability upon installation, and specifies Blackboard license requirements.

New features and enhancements fall into the following categories:

- [Internationalization](#)
- [Content](#)
- [Assessments and Gradebook](#)
- [Course and Organization Enhancements](#)
- [Blackboard Community System](#)
- [e-Commerce](#)
- [Content Subsystem Changes in Application Pack 3](#)
- [Default Setting Changes](#)

Multi-Language Support by Institution, Course and User

Institutions can run multiple languages (or locales) on the same system. Institutions can offer the *Blackboard Academic Suite* in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Dutch, and Portuguese. The entire system can be set in a specific language, or a language may be offered as a preference for users. To support cross-border education, as well as foreign language courses, Instructors can set the language of the course independently from the language setting of the overall system.

Default Availability: The English locale is enabled by default and cannot be disabled. If you wish to enable additional locales:

- 1 Select **Manage Locales** on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Modify** next to a locale.
- 3 Modify the settings and select **Submit**.

Product Requirements: *Blackboard Learning System* - Basic Edition installations can have the English locale plus one additional language. There are no restrictions on the number of languages that can be made available for the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

CONTENT

Overview

Content refers to all items and links to items that are added to Content Areas in a course or organization. Application Pack 3 introduces advanced flexibility for adding content, as well as a number of new features to manage content.

Adaptive Release

Course content does not always apply to all users in the course. Using Adaptive Release, Instructors can display content to certain users for a limited period of time, or only after users meet (or fail to meet) predetermined requirements. Some content might be applicable to all users in the course, while other content should be audience-specific.

Adaptive Release allows an Instructor to create custom learning paths through course content and activities. Content items, discussions, assessments, assignments, or other activities can be released to Students based on a set of criteria including: date and time, specific users, group membership, grades or attempts on a particular test or assignment, or Review Status of another item in the course.

Instructors create and modify Adaptive Release rules from the new Manage page available on all content items.

Default Availability: This collection of features is enabled by default in the *Blackboard Learning System*. Follow the steps below to disable Adaptive Release for courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Course Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Yes** next to **Available** and click **Submit**.

Follow the steps below to disable Adaptive Release for organizations:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Organization Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Yes** next to **Available** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Adaptive Release is not available in the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition*.

Review Status

Outcomes-based tracking is an important feature to most Blackboard clients. Today, Instructors can track item hits on a user-by-user basis, but Students have no automated way of explicitly notifying Instructors when they review an item.

If Review is enabled for a content item, users see a **Mark Reviewed** icon from the course view. When users have completed their review of the item, they click the **Mark Reviewed** button. The item then displays a **Reviewed** icon. The Instructor can view progress from the Performance Dashboard or the User Progress page in the Control Panel.

Instructors enable and disable review from the new Manage page available on all content items.

Default Availability: This feature is enabled by default in both courses and organizations. Follow the steps below to disable Review Status for courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Manage Tools**.
- 3 Select **Modify** next to Review Status (Course Tool).
- 4 Select **Yes** next to **Available** and click **Submit**.

Follow the steps below to disable Review Status for organizations:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Community System - Organizations*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Manage Tools**.
- 3 Select **Modify** next to Review Status (Organization Tool).
- 4 Select **Yes** next to **Available** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Review Status is not available in the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition*.

Syllabus Builder

The Syllabus Builder is an easy-to-use content item that makes Syllabus creation—the most basic element of any course—simple for Instructors of all levels, with a feature that allows them to easily apply designs to their work. Syllabi can contain general class information such as dates and times as well as an overview of each lesson.

Instructors create a syllabus by selecting **Syllabus** from the action bar dropdown menu on a Content Area page.

Default Availability: The Syllabus Builder is available by default. To make it not available in courses:

- 1 Select **Manage Tools** on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Properties** next to **Syllabus**.
- 3 Select **No** and select **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Syllabus Builder is available in both the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

SCORM 2004

A number of changes to the Content Player have been implemented in response to key developments in the marketplace and client requests. These changes include:

- Support for SCORM 2004, the newest specification for SCORM packages
- Continued support for SCORM 1.2
- Name Change: The Blackboard Content Player is now the Open Standards Content Player
- Updated Gradebook Item functionality to allow Instructors to view user attempt data (such as response to questions and time spent) from the Modify Grade page
- Users may select a package stored in the *Blackboard Content System* if **Copy file from Content Collection** (also new in Application Pack 3) is available
- Updated look and feel to the Content Player
- Faster load times for the content

Application Pack 3 also includes a new feature called simple sequencing that branches to content based on user interaction. In addition, Application Pack 3 includes improvements in Gradebook interaction and user Tracking Data related to SCORM. Instructors can view tracked user information such as completion status and length of time an item was viewed.

Instructors add open standards content by selecting **SCORM**, **NLN** or **IMS** from the action bar drop-down menu on a Content Area page.

Default Availability: The Content Player is designed as a Building Block; it is available in the system upon install. To turn it off:

- 1 Select **Manage Building Blocks** on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Unavailable** next to **Open Standards Content Player**.

If the Blackboard Content Player is already available on a system with Application Pack 2 installed, the Open Standards Content Player will retain the availability setting when upgrading to Application Pack 3.

Product Requirements: The Open Standards Content Player is not available in the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition*.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADEBOOK

Overview

New features in Assessment and the Gradebook include advancements that track user activity in courses and organizations and a larger number of Question Types that Instructors may choose from when creating Assessments. Enhancements have also been made to existing question types and Assessment Creation Options.

Performance Dashboard

The Performance Dashboard is a course tool that allows Instructors to see key information and outcomes for all course users. It displays the last time users logged in, their course role, content availability by user based on Adaptive Release criteria, Review Status for content items, and a direct link to the Gradebook: User Grade List page for individual users.

Default Availability: This feature is enabled by default in both courses and organizations. Follow the steps below to disable the Performance Dashboard for courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Course Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Performance Dashboard** and click **Submit**.

Follow the steps below to disable the Performance Dashboard for organizations:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Community System - Organizations*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Organization Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Performance Dashboard** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: The Performance Dashboard is not available in the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition*.

Advanced Assessment Questions

When creating Assessments in the *Blackboard Learning System*, Instructors may choose from ten additional question types, including: Calculated Questions, Numeric Response Questions, File Response Questions, Hot Spot Questions, Multiple Fill-in-the-Blank Questions, Jumbled Sentence Questions, Opinion Scale Questions, Short Response Questions, Either / Or Questions, and Quiz Bowl Questions.

Default Availability: All new question types are automatically enabled for use in assessments. They cannot be disabled.

Product Requirements: The additional question types are available in the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

Gradebook Null Option

Current Gradebook calculations for Total and Weighted Total include items that have not been taken or graded. A new option to exclude untaken or ungraded items when calculating the Total and Weighted Total appears in Application Pack 3. The Running Total and Running Weighted Total columns display Student performance only on completed items.

Default Availability: The Total and Weighted Total columns in existing courses are not changed by default. Instructors that wish to replace these columns with Running Total and Running Weighted Total must:

- 1 Select **Gradebook** from the Control Panel of the Course or Organization.
- 2 Select the **Total** column
- 3 Select **Item Information**.
- 4 Select **Yes** next to **Exempt items that have not been graded**, and select **Submit**.
- 5 Repeat for the **Weighted Total** column.

Administrators may specify that the Running Total and Running Weighted Total columns appear in the Gradebook of all new courses by default. This setting does not affect existing courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Set Gradebook Defaults**.
- 3 Select **Yes** next to **Make Total Running Total** and **Make Weighted Total Running Total** and select **Submit**.

Product Requirements: The Gradebook Null Option is available in both the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

Download Assessment Attempts that Include All Questions

Instructors can download Survey or Test attempts as a .CSV file. Most often, this feature is used to perform statistical analysis in a spreadsheet application, such as Microsoft Excel. Downloaded Assessment attempts now include all questions in the Assessment. In earlier versions, only certain question types, such as Multiple Choice, were included in the downloaded attempt.

Assessment Question Completion Status

Students may skip questions that they may wish to come back to in a question-by-question assessment. This feature allows Students to clearly identify which questions they have actually completed from the ones that they have skipped as they progress through the assessment.

Default Availability: This feature is automatically enabled.

Product Requirements: The Assessment Question Completion Status feature is available in both the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

Randomize Multiple Choice Answers

Instructors have the option to randomize the answers in multiple choice questions. The answers are randomized for each assessment attempt, which helps prevent Student cheating.

Default Availability: This feature is automatically available to Instructors to choose when deploying an Assessment.

Product Requirements: Randomization of multiple choice answers is available in both the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

Assessment Creation Metadata Options

When creating an Assessment, Instructors have additional Creation Settings to set up metadata for questions. Metadata options include category and key words, degree of difficulty, and associations with learning objectives.

Default Availability: All assessment creation options are available to Instructors by default, except Add images, files, and URLs to questions; Add images, files, and URLs to answers; and Provide feedback for individual answers. The Instructor can turn off these creation settings if desired in the **Creation Settings** area of an Assessment.

Product Requirements: The assessment creation options are available in both the *Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition* and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

COURSE AND ORGANIZATION ENHANCEMENTS

Overview

The re-design of the Course Menu allows users to navigate within a course or organization according to their preferred method; it also offers easy access to course tools. Additional integration between the *Blackboard Content System* and the *Blackboard Learning System* allows users to take advantage of the sharing capabilities in the Content Collection.

Advanced Course Menu and New Course Map

Two views of the Course Menu are now available to users; the Quick View (the original menu design) and the Detail View. The Detail View is the full Course Map, letting users expand and collapse the Course Menu, and displays a clickable link to each item in the course. If allowed by the Instructor, users may toggle between these two views.

In addition, commonly used tools are separated from the Course Menu to make them easier to find and use.

To support the advanced Course Menu, the Course Map has been completely redesigned for Application Pack 3. It displays new icons based on the item or tool, shows only the content available to the current user (based on Adaptive Release criteria), and loads very quickly even in large, content-rich courses. The map is cached for even faster rendering in subsequent views and has a 20 minute automatic refresh.

Default Availability: By default the Administrator setting is **Quick View by default with Detail View available**. This setting will be applied to courses and organizations upon first access of the Course Menu by any user in the course or automatically when any new courses or organizations are created. If this setting is not desirable, it must be changed before users access the system. To change this setting:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Set Default Course Menu Display Options**.

If both views are made available by the Administrator, the Instructor may select a preference in a course or leave both available to users. Any Administrator changes to these settings impact only new courses.

Product Requirements: The two views of the Course Menu are available in both the *Blackboard Learning System* - Basic Edition and the *Blackboard Learning System*.

Additional Blackboard Content System Integration

This release includes new functionality to allow instructors, content developers, and students to use the storage, search, and sharing capabilities of the *Blackboard Content System*. When uploading Assignments, SCORM, IMS and NLN content, file response (a new question type in Assessments), and Question Pools, users have the option of selecting a file from the *Blackboard Content System* or their local computer.

To enable this integration for new installations and upgrades that had *Blackboard Content System* links disabled:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Content System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Feature and Tool Availability**.
- 3 Select **Yes** next to **Content System Item Available** and select **Submit**.

Product Requirements: This set of features is only available on installations of the *Blackboard Content System*.

Changes in file attachments

The following explains changes that have been made to uploading files and related features in Content Areas:

Manual file path entry

In file upload fields where users can enter the file location directly, there is now consistent error handling when the file path is invalid (either because the file does not exist in that location or, if it is a *Blackboard Content System* item, Read permission does not exist). Users receive a message on the receipt page telling them why their file cannot be uploaded.

Missing image detection

Missing Image Detection is standardized across the Add/Modify Item, Add/Modify Folder, Add/Modify External Link, Add/Modify Course Link, and Add/Modify Learning Unit pages.

Detection occurs when a user:

- uploads an HTML file that contains a reference to an image via the **Attach local file** field in Step 2 of the Add Item page
- pastes HTML with a broken image into the HTML view of the Visual Text Box Editor
- pastes HTML with a broken image into the classic Text Box Editor and selects **Smart Text** or **HTML**

Missing image detection functionality does not apply when a user:

- pastes HTML with a broken image into the classic Text Box Editor and selects **Plain Text**
- pastes HTML with a broken image into the main text box via the Visual Text Box Editor
- uploads an HTML file with a broken image from Row 3 of the Visual Text Box Editor
- links to an HTML file in the *Blackboard Content System* with a broken image

Embedded media files

When a user embeds media from Row 3 of the Visual Text Box Editor or as a special action from Step 2 of the Add Item page, the user is presented with a page of options specific to that media type, such as QuickTime files or MPEG files. The pages presented to users from Row 3 of the Text Box Editor are now identical to those accessed when files are uploaded from Step 2. The only exception to this is that items uploaded from Step 2 have placement and alignment options that are not necessary in the Text Box Editor.

Behavior when Special Actions are selected in error

When a user selects a Special Action (such as embed or unpackage a media file) from Step 2 of the Add Item page and it does not apply to the type of file they have uploaded, the system will ignore the erroneous request and create a standard link to the file.

Usability enhancements

A number of changes have been made to Content Area pages to enhance usability:

Modify files

A **Modify** button is displayed next to the **Remove** button when a file is uploaded. This allows the link name of uploaded items to be modified. This functionality includes options to change the entry point and launch package files in new windows.

Quick Edit

Quick Edit is always on for all courses and organizations on the system. Quick Edit cannot be disabled.

Manage button

The **Manage** button now appears on all items (including Building Block content types) in a Content Area. The Manage item page, accessed by selecting the **Manage** button, has been enhanced to include all tools related to managing content. This includes existing tools as well as new tools, such as Adaptive Release and Review Status links. Tools are displayed on the Manage page if they have been enabled.

Prior to Application Pack 3, Instructors could turn on Metadata and Tracking only from a content item creation or modification page. After these features were enabled, extra buttons (**Describe** and **Tracking**) appeared on the content page.

To expand the options available to Instructors, these features have been moved to the Manage page. The Manage page lists **Statistics Tracking** and **Metadata** at all times. Instructors can enable or disable Tracking and view statistics for their course users from the **Statistics Tracking** link. Metadata can be created or modified from the Metadata link.

Metadata is no longer displayed on item creation or modification pages. Tracking can be enabled or disabled from the creation or modification pages and also from the Manage page. Updates made from either entry point are reflected on the other entry point page.

Links to removed or unavailable content items and areas

There are some minor changes in the way links to unavailable or removed content and content areas behave in Application Pack 3. These are summarized below:

COURSE AREA	PRIOR TO APPLICATION PACK 3	APPLICATION PACK 3
Course Menu items that link to removed or unavailable content items	Course Menu items do not display	Items display. When a user selects the link an appropriate error message appears
Course Menu items that link to removed or unavailable content areas	Course Menu items do not display	Items display. When a user selects the link an appropriate error message appears
Announcements with links to unavailable content items or tools	Announcements appear but links to item or tool do not display	Announcements and links display. When a user selects the link an appropriate error message appears
Course Links from content areas to unavailable content items	Course Links do not display	Links display. When a user selects the link an appropriate error message appears

DEFAULT SETTING CHANGES

Overview

In *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 6.3) a number of features introduced in Application Pack 1 or Application Pack 2 are automatically enabled. This means that after the update these features are automatically turned on in the system. This section includes instructions on how to disable each of these features.

Spell Check

The Spell Check feature is available wherever users can enter blocks of text. The Spell Check feature supports a full English dictionary, a supplemental word list configured by the System Administrator, and custom word lists that are stored as a cookie on a user's local machine. Spell Check is enabled for the English locale only.

If Spell Check is disabled it may not be used anywhere on the system, including in courses and organizations. Follow the steps below to disable Spell Check:

- 1 Select **Text Box Editor** on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Uncheck the **Spell Check Available** option and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Spell Check is available with all products in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

Quick Edit

Quick Edit allows Instructors to make changes to content from within the course view instead of navigating through the Control Panel to edit content. Quick Edit is enabled by default for courses and organizations. This feature cannot be turned off.

Product Requirements: Quick Edit is available with all products in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

Glossary

Each course has its own Glossary of terms. Each entry consists of the term and an accompanying definition. The Glossary must be enabled by the Instructor before Students can view it.

Glossary is disabled separately for courses and organizations. Follow the steps below to disable Glossary for courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Course Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Glossary** and click **Submit**.

Follow the steps below to disable Glossary for organizations:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Community System - Organizations*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Organization Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Glossary** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: The Glossary is available with all products in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

Bb Messages

Bb Messages gives each course a private and secure system for communication that functions similar to email. Messages cannot be sent or received outside of the users in the course.

Bb Messages is disabled separately for courses and organizations. Follow the steps below to disable Bb Messages for courses:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Learning System*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Course Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Messages** and click **Submit**.

Follow the steps below to disable Bb Messages for organizations:

- 1 Select **Settings** (under *Blackboard Community System - Organizations*) on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Organization Tools**.
- 3 Uncheck **Available** next to **Messages** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Bb Messages is available with the *Blackboard Learning System*. It is not available with the *Blackboard Learning System—Basic Edition*.

Quick Tool Linking

Tool Linking allows tools to be placed anywhere in a course that content can. For example, Discussion Board forums and Virtual Classroom sessions can exist in the same Content Area as content such as Learning Unit slideshows, files, and Assessments.

Follow the steps below to disable Quick Tool Linking:

- 1 Select **Manage Tools** on the Administrator Panel.
- 2 Select **Modify** next to **Tool Content Type**.
- 3 Set **Available** to **No** and click **Submit**.

Product Requirements: Quick Tool Linking is available with all products in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

WHAT HAS CHANGED

Overview

This section details the changes that appear in Application Pack 3 that are not a part of major feature enhancements.

Important Information about User Properties

Unlike earlier versions, the Email field is not required in Application Pack 3. Users may be created with a null value for the Email address. This change allows smooth interaction between the *Blackboard Academic Suite* and other systems that store information about users.

Displaying Characters outside of the Supported ISO-8859-1 Character Set

CP1252 characters displayed correctly in earlier versions even though they are not part of the ISO-8859-1 character set. These characters include ~€f„...†‡^%Š=ŒŽ™š=œžŸ. In Application Pack 3, these characters will appear as question marks in content areas. Please note that this only affects clients running the *Blackboard Academic Suite* on Windows operating systems.

Search Pages

The **A-Z,0-9** tab on search pages is renamed **Starts with**.

Export and Archive

The Export Course page and the Archive Course page now have a single view. The page contains a button to Export the Course and a button to Archive the Course. Any previously created Export or Archive packages appear in a list on the page. Packages are downloaded from this list after creation.

Course Menu Changes During a Copy Into Operation

When copying a course into an existing course, all Course Menu items that do not exist in the target course will be added to the bottom of the Course Menu in the order they appear in the source course.

Assessment User Interface Changes

In Assessments, the following changes appear:

- Partial credit can now be assigned to any question, not just ordering and multiple answer questions.
- Question types are listed in alphabetical order in drop-down lists. For example, when creating a question, the list to select the question type is in alphabetical order.
- The Question Type no longer appears when a user attempts an Assessment or when grading an Assessment.
- Individual feedback for Essay questions can be provided through the View/Grade Assessment page.

Blackboard Community System User Interface Changes

The following changes associated with *Blackboard Community System* features appear:

- A description column now appears on the Manage Modules page.
- The Admin Panel area designated as *Blackboard Community System* has been renamed Community System.
- The Preview buttons no longer appears on the Manage Modules page. Click on the Module to display a preview window.
- The Remove buttons no longer appear on the Manage Modules page. Select Modules using the check boxes and click Remove Selected in the action bar to remove Modules.
- It is now possible to customize the theme of the left menu column on Module Tabs, such as the My Institution Tab.

Course Design

Course Design features are now accessible directly from the Course Control Panel instead of appearing under Settings.

Blackboard Content System Workflows

Workflow activities have been condensed on the Content List page drop-down to one item. Once selected, the type of Workflow is selected from the Add Workflow page. In addition, on the Sent Activities page, the Workflow items have been condensed into a single button.

User Privileges

The User Privileges page now displays the name of roles instead of the letter code.

Availability of Content System Content Type in Courses and Organizations

The Content System content type is not available by default. This setting allows users to select a file from the Content System when adding content to a course. To make this content type available, enable it from the Manage Tools feature on the Admin Panel.

Blackboard Content System integration

Users have been able to create links from Row 3 of the Visual Text Box Editor since *Blackboard Content System* (Release 1.0). Users who did not use the Visual Text Box Editor had a separate content type called **Content System Content** allowing them to create links to Content System items.

Application Pack 3 includes a new setting on the Feature and Tool Availability page of the *Blackboard Content System* section of the Administrator Panel that allows Administrators to determine whether integration with the *Blackboard Content System* is enabled. If integration is enabled, Step 2 of the Add Item page allows users to link to the *Blackboard Content System* and embed Content System media files. The Content System Content type has been removed. All items of this type that were created before this release will now appear as standard course items with no loss of data or functionality.

Update links to content

Instructors who created course links will need to recreate these links. This affects links to Content Areas, such as a course link to the Course Documents page and also links to sub pages, such as a link to a folder within Course Documents.



Blackboard

Blackboard Academic Suite™

Release Notes

(Release 7)
Blackboard Learning System™
Blackboard Community System™
Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition
Blackboard Content System™

NEW FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

Overview

Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 7) introduces a number of architectural changes to the application. This work completes the internationalization of the application through the support of multibyte characters and creates new installers and updaters. This release also includes a number of new features and enhancements to the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

With the support of multibyte languages, Blackboard provides an upgrade path for clients using *Blackboard Learning System* ML to move to *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7). This process uses a tool designed to batch convert user and course data.

This section reviews the new features in Release 7, explains their default availability upon installation, and specifies Blackboard license requirements.

New features and enhancements fall into the following categories:

- [Internationalization](#)
- [Installers and Updaters](#)
- [Language Packs](#)
- [Quick Tutorials](#)
- [Blackboard Backpack](#)
- [Blackboard Community System](#)
- [Store, Retrieve, and Copy Course Content](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Blackboard Content System](#)
- [Virtual Installations](#)
- [Release 7 Changes](#)

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Multibyte character support

Multibyte support involves behind-the-scenes changes to the database and files throughout the system. These changes happen automatically during the update process. Clients in countries around the world can now use the *Blackboard Academic Suite* in their native languages. Multibyte characters support languages that use characters other than the Western European characters supported by the ISO-8859 standard supported in Release 6.3. For example, Japanese and Chinese language packs are available with Release 7. Multibyte support allows all clients to teach language programs and incorporate content from multibyte languages selectively throughout the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

Additional Information

The following are some additional notes about multi byte support in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*:

- Character mapping is not exact because there are different (and sometimes competing) character encoding standards. For example, Windows applications use a proprietary character set called CP1252. Users might include these characters in their Blackboard data, for example by cutting and pasting from a Microsoft Word document into a Blackboard text field. Therefore when the system is updated to *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7), the database will be scanned for characters that would not be mapped correctly in the new multibyte database, and if found, these characters will automatically be remapped. Please note that CP1252 characters that appear in Assessments are handled differently and will only appear correctly if they are HTML escaped.
- Sorting is handled differently by UNIX systems and Windows systems. In UNIX, characters that are not A-Z sort after A-Z (for example., ándre will be after Z). In Windows, similar characters sort together (for example, ándre will be with the other A's). In both UNIX and Windows, multibyte characters sort to the bottom of the list. Multibyte characters that were entered in the system prior to *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7) (before these characters were supported) sort to the top of the list, before A-Z, because in prior releases multibyte characters were “translated” to a non-multibyte strings.
- Search fields throughout the *Blackboard Academic Suite* handle multibyte characters in *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7). However, multibyte characters that were entered in the system prior to *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7) cannot be searched for in *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7). A search for these characters in a prior release worked because the page encoding and the database encoding both “translated” the characters into a non-multibyte string. But in *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7), multibyte is correctly handled as multibyte and therefore the “translated” character stored in the database will not come up as a search match with the multibyte character that is entered in the search field.
- File names for files stored in the *Blackboard Academic Suite* can contain multibyte characters. In some extreme cases, the file name will be too large for the system to store, in which case the file name will be converted to a shorter string for behind-the-scenes storage. This change is invisible to the user, who will always see the correct, full-length file name. However, in these cases Administrators will not see the correct file name if they directly access the file server. This occurs only on file names over approximately 100 characters—the size varies depending on how many multibyte characters the file name includes.

Default Availability: This feature is transparent to users. For those who already use multibyte characters and files, they will be able to seamlessly use multibyte data in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*. For those who do not use multibyte, the system will appear to be no different than it was in earlier releases.

Product Requirements: Multibyte characters are supported throughout the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

Blackboard Learning System ML to Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 7) Conversion Tool

The Conversion Tool is designed exclusively for *Blackboard Learning System ML* clients as an easy method to batch convert user and course data from their current system to *Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 7)*. This tool is only used when the client is ready to populate a new *Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 7)* installation with data from their existing *Blackboard Learning System ML*.

Default Availability: The Conversion Tool is available as a separate download from Blackboard .

Product Requirements: The Conversion Tool is used to transfer Course and User data from the *Blackboard Learning System ML*. The Conversion Tool requires a separate server as both systems must be running during the conversion process.

Glossary and Gradebook File Downloads

Exported Glossary and Gradebook files are now encoded using Unicode to allow for multibyte characters. This requires that the default file type for download is now a tab-delimited .xls file that can be opened and edited directly in Microsoft Excel. Files may also be downloaded as a comma-delimited .csv file. Please keep in mind that .csv files must be imported into Microsoft Excel or another appropriate application before editing.

Batch File Uploads

Batch files are delimited flat files containing user, course, or enrollment data that conform to IMS standards. To accept multibyte information, files must be in Unicode format. All Unicode formatted files must include the Byte Order Mark (BOM). If a BOM is not specified, the system reads it as ISO-8859-1.

The supported formats are as follows:

- UTF-8
- UTF-16LE
- UTF-16BE
- ISO-8859-1

ASCII is also still a supported format.

QUICK TUTORIALS

Embedded Quick Tutorials

Quick Tutorials consist of a set of modules and links that direct Blackboard users to a series of self-guided multimedia tutorials. The following three modules have been added to the *Blackboard Academic Suite*:

- Quick Tutorials – Key Capabilities
- Quick Tutorials Catalog
- Quick Tutorials – New Product Enhancements

Links to Quick Tutorials appear on the Control Panel and the Administrator Panel and as a module for users. Make the module unavailable to turn off access to Quick Tutorials through a tab. Administrators and Instructors may still access the tutorials through the Admin Panel and the Control Panel.

Default Availability: All three modules appear by default on the My Institution page. Administrators may disable these modules from **Manage Modules** on the Administrator Panel or place them on a different tab.

Product Requirements: Embedded Quick Tutorials are supported throughout the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

BLACKBOARD BACKPACK

Blackboard Backpack

Blackboard Backpack™ is a software application that enables users to synchronize their Blackboard materials for offline use. Using this powerful learning tool, Students can access their learning materials from anywhere at anytime, without having to have an Internet connection.

The following items are synchronized from Courses and Organizations:

- Course and Organization Content
- Announcements
- Calendar items
- Tasks



NOTE: Content stored in the *Blackboard Content System* is not synchronized.

Users access this software through Download buttons and links in the *Blackboard Academic Suite*. Administrators can control the availability of the Download buttons and links, as well as the availability of the tool itself. Backpack includes Download Controls so Administrators can create settings for synchronization.

Default Availability: The ability to use the Blackboard Backpack tool is available by default. Blackboard Backpack options and Download Controls may be modified through **Blackboard Backpack** on the Administrator Panel.

Product Requirements: The Blackboard Backpack is available at an additional cost to all clients with the *Blackboard Learning System*. The Blackboard Backpack client application works with Microsoft Windows XP.

STORE, RETRIEVE, AND COPY COURSE CONTENT

Changes to Import, Export, Archive and Restore

In *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 7) the import, export, archive and restore processes are asynchronous. This means that users do not have to wait in the browser window while the operation takes place. This is more efficient for users because the operations are queued and managed in the background. When one of these tasks is executed, the system completes it in the background and sends the user an email upon completion. The new process for Export and Archive matches the process for Course Copy.

The new Export / Archive Manager, available on both the Administrator Panel and the Control Panel for individual courses and organizations, makes it easier for users to manage these operations. This page lists all of the packages that have been created for the course, including detailed logs for the package processes. The user can export and archive the course multiple times and keep multiple backups of the course. The user may also remove packages that are no longer needed.

Course Copy changes for Course Cartridges

The Copy Course Materials into a New Course and Copy Course Materials into an Existing Course features now include an option to include protected Course Cartridge content. Instructors and Administrators can choose whether or not they would like to include cartridge content in the copy operation. If this option is selected, the content may be accessed in the copied course by users with a valid Student Access Key.

When copying course materials into an existing course, the system will check to confirm that both courses contain the same Course Cartridge. If they do, the selected course sections will be copied including any protected Course Cartridge content. If the courses contain different Course Cartridges, only non-Cartridge materials will be copied and the user will be given a message stating there was a Course Cartridge conflict.

EMAIL

Changes to Send Email

A number of enhancements have been made to the Send Email feature:

- Email logs, not included in the *Blackboard Academic Suite* (Release 6.2 and Release 6.3), returns in Release (7). The log, available through the Logs feature on the Admin Panel, will save a record of all successful and failed emails sent by the system.
- Improvements have been made to the handling of users and attachments in emails. In email forms where users may select email recipients from a list of users, options to select multiple users are now available. An improved file selector is now used on all email forms where attachments may be added from outside of the *Blackboard Content System*. The new field allows users to attach multiple files to an email without redirecting the user to another page.
- The Email tool is applied consistently using the same interface and options throughout the application. The only difference between implementations of the Email tool across the system is the recipients the sender can target. Email tool performance is testing faster than previous releases and the Email tool includes more robust error reporting.
- A new property enables JIS encoding for clients using the Japanese Language Pack. Administrators can specify the type of encoding that should be used by Blackboard email: UTF-8 or JIS. The encoding method specified will then be used by any email sent from a location where Japanese is the dominant locale. For example, if the System Administrator specifies that JIS encoding should be used for Japanese emails, then all emails sent from a course where Japanese is the forced language pack will be encoded with JIS, even if all other parts of Blackboard are using a different language pack for which UTF-8 encoding would be used.
- The Email log has moved to `/blackboard/logs/bb-email-log.txt`.

BLACKBOARD ACADEMIC SUITE RELEASE 7 CHANGES

Overview

Blackboard Academic Suite (Release 7) includes a number of minor changes to the *Blackboard Academic Suite*.

List of Changes

- The Resource Center has been removed from the Blackboard Learning Center.
- Passport Authentication is no longer supported.
- Netscape 4.7 is no longer a supported end-user browser.



Blackboard

Blackboard Academic Suite™

Release Notes

Application Pack 1 (Release 7.1)
Blackboard Learning System™
Blackboard Community System™
Blackboard Learning System - Basic Edition
Blackboard Content System™

NEW FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

Overview

Blackboard Academic Suite Application Pack 1 (Release 7.1) introduces a number of new features and enhancements to the existing features in response to user feedback.

This section reviews the new features in Application Pack 1 (Release 7.1), explains their default availability upon installation, and specifies Blackboard license requirements.

New features and enhancements fall into the following categories:

- [Discussion Board](#)
- [Domain Management](#)
- [Flexible Roles and Privileges](#)
- [Course and Organization Catalogs by Role](#)
- [Visual Text Box Editor](#)
- [Assessments and Gradebook](#)
- [SIF \(Schools Interoperability Framework\)](#)
- [Blackboard Academic Suite](#) Changes including the *Blackboard Learning System*, the *Blackboard Community System* and the *Blackboard Content System*

DISCUSSION BOARD

Forum and Thread Grading

Several new features have been added to the Discussion Board expanding it beyond its primary use as a communication medium and transforming it into a comprehensive and interactive teaching tool that fosters academic exchange and debate.

Grading settings are now available when creating or modifying a forum in a Course or Organization. When grading is enabled for a forum, Instructors, Teaching Assistants, and users with the Grader or Manager forum roles will be able to access the Grade Forum Users page. Instructors may choose to grade the forum or to enable thread grading within the forum. If thread grading is enabled for the forum, Instructors have the option to turn grading on or off for each new thread.

Grading Discussion Board forums and threads is not available with the Blackboard Learning System – Basic Edition.

Discussion Board Statistics

Discussion Board statistics are now a part of the Performance Dashboard. The total number of forums in which the user has participated is displayed for each user in this column. Clicking on the number in this column directs the instructor to a user detail page that displays links to all forums in which the user has participated and usage statistics for the user in each forum. Statistics displayed include:

- Total Posts
- Date of Last Post
- Average Post Length
- Minimum and Maximum Post Lengths
- Average Post Position

Additionally, the instructor can grade discussion board participation from this page.

Discussion Board statistics is not available with the Blackboard Learning System – Basic Edition.

Forum Moderation and User Management

By default, Discussion Board users are given forum roles based on their course, organization, or system role. Instructors and Leaders are given the Manager role by default. Managers control user privileges within the Discussion Board through the use of roles. For example, the Manager may delegate responsibility for reviewing posts to a Moderator.

When creating a forum or modifying a forum's settings, instructors have the option of forcing moderation. If moderation is enabled, when a user other than a Moderator or Manager submits a post, the post is saved to the Moderation Queue. New posts are displayed in the queue for review and publication. If a post is returned, a return message can be attached to the post allowing the Moderator to inform the user why the post was not accepted for publication.

By default, Discussion Board users that are assigned to a group are allowed to create threads in the Group Discussion Board forum. This means that group users can now begin using the Discussion Board immediately and do not have to wait for the instructor to create a forum and begin a thread.

Rate Posting

Post rating allows users to rate posts in the forum on a scale of one to five stars. When enabled, post rating is a simple yet effective tool for peer review.

Thread Subscriptions

The Subscribe to Thread notifies users each time a new post is added to the thread. The notification is enabled by the user and sent to the email address stored in the user's Personal Information. Users will not be able to enter a different email address to which notifications will be sent to prevent spam from being generated from the Discussion Board. This feature is available to all users with a forum role other than "blocked" if the feature is enabled for the forum.

Enhancements of Existing Features

The following enhancements improve the user experience in the Discussion Board:

- Instructors can copy Discussion Board forums to the same Discussion Board or to another Discussion Board in the course
- Users can save posts as drafts, allowing them to work on a post over more than one Blackboard session until the post is ready for publishing.
- Instructors now have an availability option for all forums on the Add/Modify Forum page. The availability option replaces the functionality of archiving forums. Forums that were archived before an update to 7.0 Application pack 1 will become Unavailable after the update process.
- The Discussion Board uses Adaptive Release rules and other availability rules such as Date set on any tool links to the Discussion Board.
- Searches can be limited or expanded to include current forum, current thread, or all forums in the course.
- Users can group posts into Collections. Collections can be sorted and filtered to customize the Collection for easy viewing and printing.
- Instructors can now "lock" a forum to prevent additional posts, but allow users to read existing threads. This feature replaces "archive" forum

VISUAL TEXT BOX EDITOR

Cross-Browser, Cross Platform Support

The Visual Text Box Editor is now available to users running any supported browser.

The Visual Text Box Editor is compatible with the following browsers on Windows Operating Systems:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0
- Mozilla Firefox 1.0
- Netscape 8.0

The Visual Text Box Editor will not work with older versions of these browsers. Instead, the standard options for entering text will appear.

The Visual Text Box Editor is compatible with the following browsers on Macintosh Operating Systems:

- Safari 2.0
- Mozilla Firefox 1.0

When run on Safari, the Visual Text Box Editor Lite Version appears. The Lite Version does not include the button controls for several features because Safari does not yet support those rich-text editing features. Some features that are not accessible from a button in the Lite Version may still be activated using keyboard shortcuts. For example, the cut, copy, and paste functions may still be used through the keyboard shortcuts. Macintosh users may also download and use the free Mozilla Firefox 1.0 (or higher) Web Browser to use all the features of the Text Box Editor.

Firefox users, on all operating systems, must perform an extra step to enable the cut, copy, and paste functions. This is a function of the Firefox browser, and not Blackboard applications. The first time an attempt is made to cut, copy, or paste text in the Visual Text Box Editor, a message from Firefox will appear explaining that the action is not allowed. A link is provided for information on how to enable the cut, copy, and paste functions by editing a Firefox configuration file. The link currently points to <http://www.mozilla.org/editor/midasdemo/securityprefs.html>. Please check with Firefox for the most up-to-date information on using rich-text tools for cut, copy, and paste. Macintosh users may find that this does not fully resolve the problem, particularly because Firefox does not permit pasting text from Microsoft Office files on Mac. To accomplish this task, paste the text into a basic text editor, such as TextEdit or Notepad and then paste the text into the Visual Text Box Editor.

Additional Locations for the Visual Text Box editor

The Visual Text Box Editor has been added to many pages in the application. The following table lists all locations:

VISUAL TEXT BOX EDITOR						
Area	File Upload Possible without VTBE?	Upload Files from Desktop via VTBE	VTBE Rows Displayed (without Content System)	VTBE Rows Displayed (with Content System)	Content System Links Row 3	URL Links Row 3
Announcement: Course/Org	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Announcement: System	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes

VISUAL TEXT BOX EDITOR						
Area	File Upload Possible without VTBE?	Upload Files from Desktop via VTBE	VTBE Rows Displayed (without Content System)	VTBE Rows Displayed (with Content System)	Content System Links Row 3	URL Links Row 3
Assessment: Add/Modify Test Question	Yes	No	1*	1*	Yes	No
Assessment: Pool Description and Instructions	No	No	1*	1**	Yes	No
Assessment: Survey Description and Instructions	No	No	1*	1**	Yes	No
Assessment: Test Description and Instructions	No	No	1*	1**	Yes	No
Assignment (Instructions)	Yes	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Calendar Event: Course/Org	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Calendar Event: Personal	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Calendar Event: System	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Content: Chat Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Course Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: DB Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: External Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Folder	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Group Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Item	Yes	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Learning Unit Shell	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Offline Content	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Syllabus Builder	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Tool [Select Tool] Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Content: Virtual Classroom Link	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
CS Workflow Instructions	No	No	n/a	3	Yes	No
CS Workflow Comments	No	No	n/a	3	Yes	No
CS Workflow Response	No	No	n/a	3	Yes	No
Discussion Board Forum: Community	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes

VISUAL TEXT BOX EDITOR						
Area	File Upload Possible without VTBE?	Upload Files from Desktop via VTBE	VTBE Rows Displayed (without Content System)	VTBE Rows Displayed (with Content System)	Content System Links Row 3	URL Links Row 3
Discussion Board Forum: Course/Org	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Discussion Board Forum: Group	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Discussion Board Message: Community	Yes	Yes	3***	3	Yes	Yes
Discussion Board Message: Course/Org	Yes	Yes	3***	3	Yes	Yes
Discussion Board Message: Group	Yes	Yes	3***	3	Yes	Yes
eMarketplace: Category	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
eMarketplace: Product	Yes (images only)	No	2	3	Yes	No
eMarketplace: Settings	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Group Description	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Messages	Yes	No	2	3	Yes	No
Modules: ALL > Description	No	No	2	2	No	No
Modules: HTML Module Type	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Modules: Multi-Section Module Type	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Modules: Guest Deposit Type	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Modules: Transaction Account Module Type	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Portfolios: Administrator Template Creation	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes
Portfolios: Comments	No	No	n/a	3	Yes	No
Portfolios: User Add Item (Blank or Template)	No	No	n/a	3	Yes	Yes
Staff Information: Folder	No	Yes	3	3	Yes	Yes
Tabs: Manage Hot Link Content > Add External Link	No	No	2	3	Yes	Yes

VISUAL TEXT BOX EDITOR						
Area	File Upload Possible without VTBE?	Upload Files from Desktop via VTBE	VTBE Rows Displayed (without Content System)	VTBE Rows Displayed (with Content System)	Content System Links Row 3	URL Links Row 3
Task: Course/Org	No	No	2	3	Yes	No
Task: Personal	No	No	2	3	Yes	No

* = 1 row displayed, 2nd row is collapsed by default but can be expanded

** = 1 row displayed, 2nd and 3rd rows are collapsed by default but can be expanded

***= 3rd row allows file upload from desktop only if that option has been enabled (applies to DB and Messages only)

Opt-In Setting for the Visual Text Box Editor

Administrators can allow users to opt-in to the Visual Text Box Editor instead of opting out. Enabling the Visual Text Box Editor for the system is still accomplished through the Administrator Panel under Text Box Editor. A checkbox for requiring users to opt-in now appears on the page. If this is checked, enabling the Visual Text Box Editor for the system does not automatically turn on the Visual Text Box Editor for all users; each user can enable the Visual Text Box Editor individually by using the Visual Text Box Editor setting found in Personal Information.

WebEQ and MathML

The WebEQ and MathML tools on the Visual Text Box Editor have been enhanced. When a WebEQ equation is inserted using the new Visual Text Box Editor, a place holder will appear in the body of the editor. Clicking Preview will display the equation, and the equation will render in Display View, including equations that contain left angle brackets (<). The spacing around the equation has been enlarged and the text size has been decreased so that the entire equation is clearly visible by default. The equation may be modified by selecting the place holder and clicking the WebEQ icon on the Visual Text Box Editor.

Users may receive a pop-up box when launching WebEQ that asks the user to trust an applet provided by Design Science, the maker of WebEQ. If users click Always, the pop-up will no longer appear on that computer when launching WebEQ.

MathML may now include whitespace in the editor without affecting the equation.

Building Blocks Compatibility

The new Visual Text Box Editor may be included on pages created by Building Blocks developers using the publicly available Beta versions of the following APIs:

- <bbUI:textbox>
- WysiwygText
- FileLocation (interface)
- FileLocationImpl
- Plus several FileLocation implementations (such as ContentFileLocation and TempFileLocation)

More information is provided in the API specification.

ASSESSMENTS AND GRADEBOOK

Multiple Attempts

Assessments may now be set to allow unlimited attempts or a specific number of attempts. The Gradebook displays all of the attempts. The Gradebook item is scored based on grading option: last attempt, first attempt, highest score, lowest score, or average of scores. Additionally, an Override field has been included so that the instructor can override the score independent of any attempts.

Now that all attempts are visible in the Gradebook, the clearing options have been enhanced as well. The instructor may choose to clear (or delete) the last attempt, first attempt, highest attempt, lowest attempt, or all attempts within a specified date range. This action may be performed by item (for all students at once) or by user (for a specific user).

Self-Assessment Options

The deployment of tests has been enhanced to permit Self-Assessment in two forms: allow the instructor and student to view the grade, or only allow the student to view the grade. In each case, the grade is not included in the final score for the student.

When deploying a test in a course, the instructor should uncheck the option called *Include this test in Gradebook score calculations* to allow students to take the test without affecting their overall score. Both the instructor and the student will still be able to review the results of the test. This option was previously only available through the Gradebook but is now also available in the course content area when deploying a test.

The second self-assessment option, called *Hide the score of this test from the Gradebook* will allow the student to take the test without displaying the results to the instructor.

Test and Survey Import/Export

The Test and Survey Managers have been enhanced to allow for importing and exporting, much like the Pool Manager in Release 6. Users can export the test or survey package to their local computers and, if Content Collection integration is on, can also select to export to their Content Collection in the Blackboard Content System.

The ability to export and import tests and surveys assists with content reuse and collaboration. When a test (or survey) is created, creation settings are determined, questions and answers are developed, and metadata is associated. Now, all of that information can be reused simply by exporting the entire test to the local computer or to the Content Collection, and then importing it into another course's Test or Survey Manager. Once the test or survey has been imported, any modifications may be made to customize it for the other course.

Additionally, users can export to Content Collection, further facilitating collaboration. Storing the Test or Survey package in the Content Collection allows the user to share the package with others or make the package discoverable in both the Content Collection Search and the Learning Objects Catalog.

Extra Credit

When creating a test, questions may now be marked as extra credit only. This means that the points possible for the entire test will not include the points possible for that question. If the question is answered correctly, the question points will be added to the points correct, but if the question is answered incorrectly, there is no score penalty.

Customized Feedback

Feedback options were previously organized into four groups: score only, score + detailed results, all of the above + correct answers, and all of the above + detailed results, all of the above + feedback. These options have been ungrouped so that users may select any combination of the score, submitted answers, correct answers and feedback to be displayed to the student at the end of an assessment.

Enhanced Submission Reports

The submission report for assessments now includes the following user information: First Name, Last Name, Course Name, Username, Course ID, name of the Assessment, and date/time of submission. This may be used as verification by the student that they have indeed submitted the assessment. Some instructors may require students to print this as a permanent record of the activity.