

In anonymous or delegated grading scenarios where it can be difficult to determine which attempts are associated with students and therefore require grading. A new filter is now available both in the **Needs Grading** workflow as well as within the Grade Center to show or hide these attempts. Attempts that won't calculate towards the assessment grade are now indicated with an icon.

Accommodating Special Characters

In previous releases, when submitting a file with a special character in the filename (e.g. / \ : ? * " < > |), the file might appear corrupted to end users and become inaccessible.

The new release contains an automated function that replaces disallowed special characters in file names with an underscore character (_) for improved error handling.

Reply-to Header (email)

In some cases students who received email from their instructors via Blackboard would be unable to reply, or the header would cause confusion when it appeared to be sent from do-not-reply@bu.blackboard.com.

The new release will populate the instructor's email address in the reply-to field, which enables students to directly reply to the instructor.


The instructor will receive the email in the account that is registered in Blackboard.


Reach us at askedtech@bu.edu

Course Reporting Enhancements

REPORT SPECIFICATIONS

All report types will open in a new browser window upon Subm...

* Select a Start Date 
Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy

* Select an End Date 
Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy

Select Groups
Dropped Students
Facilitator Group
Group 1 facilitated by Mary L
Group 2 facilitated by Arman
Group 3 facilitated by Jim Gib

The Course Activity Overview report has been updated to improve the experience for larger enrollment courses. Instructors can filter the report and break down the calculations of student activity by course groups.

New Mobile App for Students

Blackboard will retire the Blackboard Mobile app and replace it with a series of apps based on the user role in the course. The new Bb Student app allows students to:

- View Activity Stream to show a prioritized list of events & actions
- View, complete, & submit assignments and tests
- Access Grades - check progress in real time
- Participate in discussions
- Attach assignments from cloud storage such as Google Drive & Dropbox

The Bb Student app is available for Apple (iOS), Android, and Windows devices and is free.

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Blackboard New Features

VERSION 1.0
AVAILABLE AFTER JULY 1, 2017



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Blackboard Update: Summer '17

Features & Fixes

BU's Blackboard Learn instance was updated during the summer 2017 to bring the environment up to date with Blackboard's Q4 2016 release.

The updated version, Blackboard Learn 9.1 2016 includes multiple new and enhanced features, improved workflows, and technology updates. Enhancements for this release generally fall into the following five categories:

- Technology infrastructure improvement to improve performance and security
- Improved experience for mobile users and updating the look-and-feel of the interface
- Improvements to save time and effort including file drag-and-drop in key workflows
- Assessment enhancements in the core teaching and learning tools
- Reporting improvements

Blackboard can be accessed at the following addresses:

<https://learn.bu.edu/> (new theme)

<https://lms.bu.edu/> (previous look)

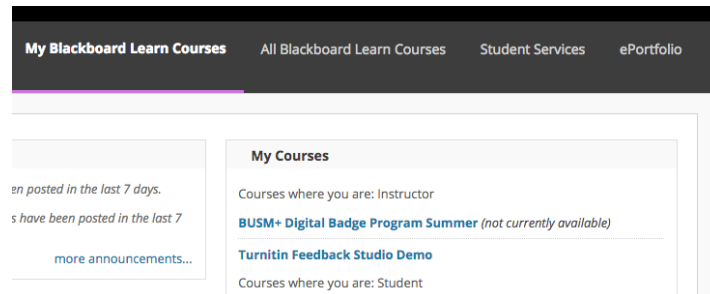
Distance Education:

<https://onlinecampus.bu.edu/> (DE specific theme)

Visit digital.bu.edu/educational-technology

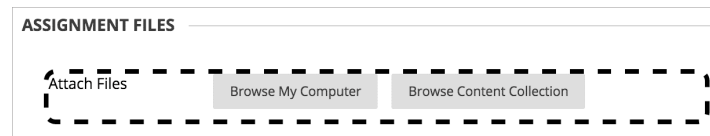
Theme (look & feel)

This release includes a new theme that provides a more modern look and feel. The theme incorporates elements from the new Blackboard design language including color, fonts, and spacing, for greater consistency between Blackboard Learn and the Bb Mobile applications. Better responsive behavior of the web version on mobile devices is also part of this upgrade.



Drag & Drop

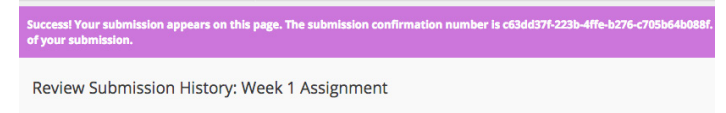
When instructors create content items, assignments, and web links, they can drag files from their computers to the "hot spot" in the Attach Files area. Students can also drag files to upload when they submit assignments.



Submission receipts

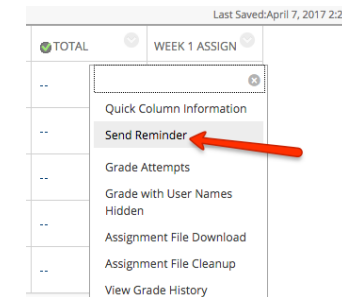
Administrators and instructors can keep track of all student submissions, regardless of whether the attempt or assignment is deleted or the submission history is changed. A submission receipt is captured at the time of submission and includes information such as attached file information, date, time, etc. This feature provides evidence for academic disputes, giving students assurance about their work.

A receipt is generated for each group member when a student submits on behalf of the group, and the anonymous state of an assignment is respected. For assignments with multiple attempts, students receive a different number for each submission.



Reminders

Instructors can send email reminders from Grade Center columns to students and members of groups who have missing coursework. Students receive a system-generated email that lists the course, coursework, and the due date if included.



Instructors can also send reminders for assignments with anonymous or delegated grading enabled.

To protect the students' anonymity, names and attempt statuses are not revealed to the instructor.

Fewer Needs Grading items

When multiple-attempt assessments are set to calculate using the first or last attempt, there are potentially numerous other attempts that will never be used for the grade calculation. This can be particularly problematic

