

The following new features and enhancements were made available in December 2020.

Efficiency and Engagement

• Enhanced Content Editor

The Power of Plus - One easy menu for adding content from your computer, cloud storage, or integrated tool. The Content Editor will automatically recognize the kinds of files you add.

Better for All Devices - The editor is better suited for all devices—small screen or big. Pop-ups are gone for a better mobile experience.



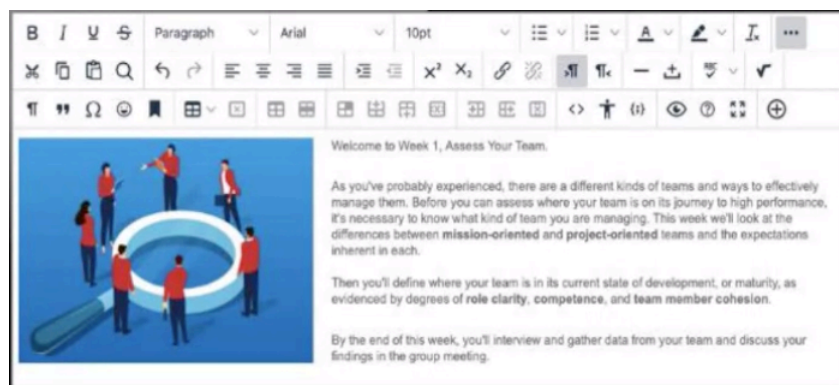
Improved Accessibility - The editor is more accessible, and a new accessibility checker helps authors make content more accessible. Ally not required, but compliments Ally use.

Better Copy and Paste - Pasting content from Word, Excel, and websites is even better. You can choose to remove extra HTML but retain basic formatting.

Simple Embed - When pasting links to websites such as YouTube, Vimeo, and Dailymotion, the videos are automatically embedded for inline playback. Similar to social media sites or collaborative services like Slack and Yammer, website links that express a meta description will display a summary preview card.

Display Computer Code - Authors can now share formatted computer code snippets, super handy for computer science classes and coding clubs.

Easy Text Wrapping - Flow text next to images by selecting an image and choosing left or right justification. Text will wrap next to the image using the float style which is both mobile responsive and accessible.



• Open file upload warning for Edge browser users

If you or your students are Microsoft Edge browser users, you might have encountered problems attaching and submitting open Microsoft Office files. To compensate for this known Microsoft Edge issue, we have created a prompt in Learn reminding users to close files before uploading them.



Blackboard

What's New for 2021

The following new features and enhancements were made available in December 2020.

- **Calendar items and due date notifications for additional content types**

You and your students will have a more comprehensive view of all class requirements and activities as the Calendar and To Do modules now include the due dates from additional content types: manual columns, SCORM, and third-party solutions.



- **Content Collection updates**

To improve the performance and usability of the Content Collection, files uploaded as part of a SCORM package are now shown in the Content Collection folder. When versioned files are imported/restored, the version number is indicated in the file name.

- **Updated email announcements**

Course email announcements have been updated to include the title and course name in the email subject making it easier to setup rules to organize class emails.

- **Discussion forum manager icon**

The manager icon for course and system level Discussion has been updated. Users will now see a new green rosette icon symbolizing the manager status of the forum. This replaces a badge icon that was used previously.

- **To do modules - due week segmentation**

Different global regions have different calendar conventions, including which day displays as the first day of the week. With this release, calendars will not only display based on this convention as it has previously, but week segmentation is handled in the To Do module. Upcoming due dates are properly categorized into today, tomorrow, this week, and the future beyond this week based on the user's locale.

Assessment and Grading

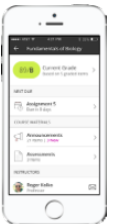


- **Grade Center improvements on desktop**

For institutions using the Learn 2016 Theme, the cell padding in the Grade Center for desktop users has been decreased so that more Grade Center data will display.

- **Grade Center improvements on mobile devices**

To increase your efficiency on mobile devices, the behavior, display, and actions of the Grade Center's mobile card view are now more consistent with the grid view for institutions using the Learn 2016 Theme.



- **Needs Grading filter selection is remembered**

Your "Show attempts that don't contribute to user's grade" filter preference on the Needs Grading page will now be remembered across all your sessions and courses.

- **Warning when grading with complex schemas**

When grading schemas are complex and use smaller points possible values that aren't whole, results can be unexpected since numbers are not rounded and explicitly use 5 decimals. The warning message is meant to help users understand they should review the results.





Blackboard

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Standards and Interoperability

To ensure you're able to integrate your portfolio of solutions with Blackboard Learn in a deep, rich, and consistent way, we continue to invest significantly in building more REST APIs and supporting IMS standards, including Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) and Questions and Test Interoperability (QTI).

- **LTI Advantage certified and in production**

Blackboard Learn is the first major LMS to make LTI Advantage available. LTI Advantage is the latest in interoperability standards for integrating tools into a learning environment. It allows for deeper, richer, and more consistent and secure integrations than previous LTI versions.

- **LTI Assignment and Grades Services**

When a tool implements the LTI grading and submission state, you'll now be able to see which students have submitted, including in the Needs Grading workflow, and whether grading has started. Your students will have more accurate due and overdue notifications because their submissions will register with Blackboard Learn even if the submission requires grading before a score is sent to the grade book.

- **LTI Context Membership Service**

For some time, tools using the Names and Roles Provisioning Service have been able to request a list of students in a class. Now using this extension, tools can also request group definition and group membership data so you won't have to set up your groups again.

- **Support for IMS Global's Questions and Test Interoperability (QTI) specification**

To simplify your online management of assessment, you are now able to add and export Learn question pools as QTI packages.

Quality and Maintenance

Blackboard continues to make changes to technologies and processes to further improve quality. This includes improvements to security frameworks and processes to achieve various security certifications, performance improvements, changes to address compliance with ever-evolving global regulations, and updating technologies and libraries used within the application.