



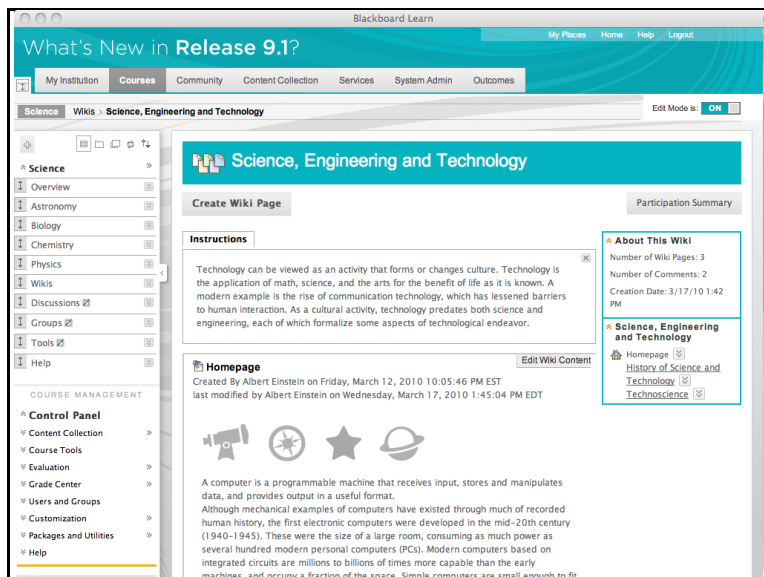
Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1 – New Features

Fostering Student Engagement

In Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1, there are exciting new social learning and teaching tools that foster more logical, visually impactful, and active learning opportunities for students, helping them stay connected to their educational experience 24 hours a day.

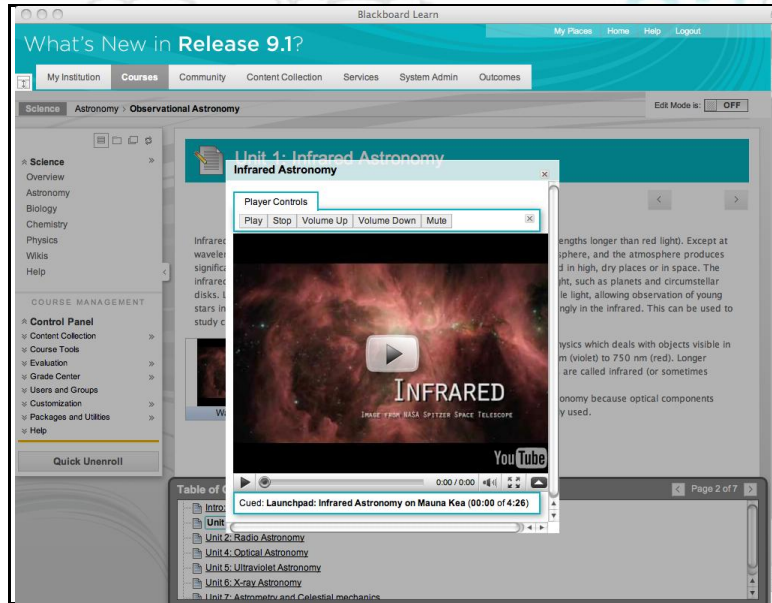
Wikis: Promote Active Collaboration

Wikis enable active collaboration around course content and group projects. Users collaborate on a document using only a web browser. Educators can see the process and evolution of the work and even participate. Furthermore, educators can see each participant's contributions and grade accordingly.



Mashups: Integrate Visually Engaging Content

Easily integrate rich media learning content using Web 2.0 resources from Youtube, Slideshare, and Flickr. Faculty can deliver more engaging course content in a convenient and powerful way by searching, finding, and inserting in a few clicks. Blackboard has added an accessible wrap around the YouTube player to make it accessible to everyone.



Accessibility: Increase Accessibility

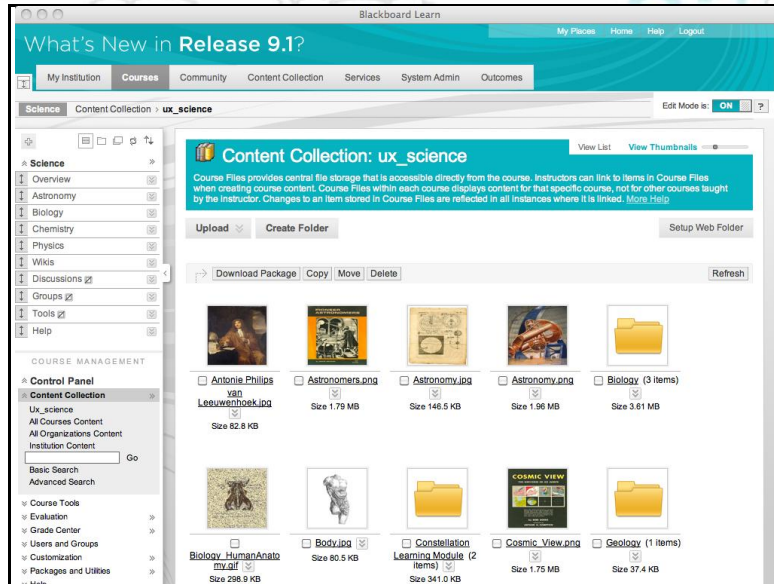
Blackboard is committed to delivering software that is accessible to everyone. Release 9.1 includes advanced accessibility options that are Gold Level certified by the National Federation of the Blind for Non-Visual Accessibility. Blackboard has improved accessibility to enable a blind person to interact more effectively with the application.

Supporting Educator Efficiency

In Release 9.1, Blackboard has made great strides in supporting educator efficiency. By continually improving the course workflow, Blackboard enables educators to minimize the time they spend on course building and delivery tasks, freeing up their time and energy to focus on student success, achievement, and retention.

Course Files: Manage Content at the Course Level

Course files eliminate redundancy and simplify the management of content updates. An in-course file storage structure makes it easier to keep track of documents used in courses, similar to the type of file and folder structure that is used on your PC. The new table of contents allows students to see and navigate the organization of the set of content on the same page as the materials. A new thumb nail view and drag and drop upload applet make it quick and easy to get files into Blackboard and to view the image files.



Improved Grading: Grade in Context with More Options

Grading in Blackboard is more flexible and consistent, enabling grading to be done in line with the review process. You no longer need to go to the grade center to enter the grade. Now you can enter wiki, blog, and journal grades directly in the assignment and grade question by question or anonymously. Overall, Blackboard has enhanced the Grade Center and made the management of grading easier so you can grade the way that works best for you.

Save Grading Preferences: Efficiently Manage Grading

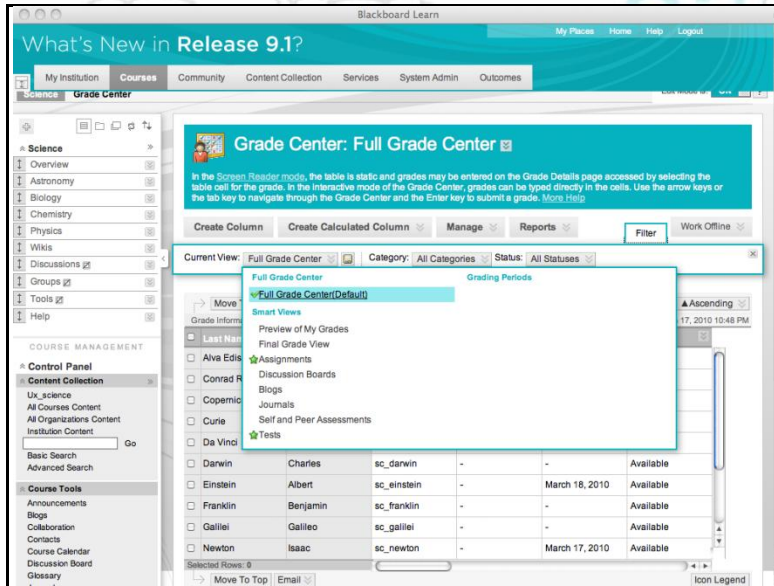
Educators with courses that contain a large numbers of students with many grade item columns in the Grade Center are faced with managing a high volume of data and information. Educators need ways to efficiently manage grading in Blackboard without having to scroll or multi-click their way to the task at hand. In Release 9.1, any Smart View can be designated as a “favorite” which makes it instantly accessible from the class’s front page. Imagine a scenario of an educator creating a Smart View that displays students who are falling under a certain grade threshold. By designating that Smart View as a favorite, the educator can access it from the front page Control Panel and instantly view those students and immediately take the appropriate action.

Customize Your Grading View: Develop a Personalized Workflow

The Grade Center has been enhanced in Release 9.1 to include a dynamic filter that enables an educator to instantly view grade data by selecting a category and status criteria. Using the filters, an educator can easily change the Grade Center view to show all tests that need to be graded, for example. With just a few clicks, the educator can switch to view of all complete assignments. The filters are designed to enable an educator to instantly view the Grade Center data they need.

Learn more about

Blackboard[®] learn+ **release 9.1**



Assessment Manager: Create Assessments in Less Time

The Assessment Manager now includes improved search, which reduces the amount of time needed to create assessments. The Assessment Manager includes new filtering and search features, multi-question selection, and a 'staging area' to easily peruse what questions have already been selected to streamline the assessment creation process. Random blocks have been updated to display all of the questions that can potentially be shown to test takers so that assessment designers can better anticipate the student experience.

Learning Modules: Provide Intuitive Online Structure

Learning Modules offer a simple and intuitive means for instructors to organize and structure course content with hierarchical organization so students can navigate through content in a logical, sequential way. Overall, it is a great tool for both designers and students because it offers new ways to structure and navigate content.

Learn more about

Blackboard[®] learn+ **release 9.1**

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Learn 9.1 interface. The top navigation bar includes 'My Institution', 'Courses', 'Community', 'Content Collection', 'Services', 'System Admin', and 'Outcomes'. The main content area is titled 'What's New in Release 9.1?' and features a 'Table of Contents' for 'Unit 1: Infrared Astronomy'. The table of contents lists several units: 'Intro: Observational Astronomy', 'Unit 1: Infrared Astronomy', 'Unit 2: Radio Astronomy', 'Unit 4: Optical Astronomy', 'Unit 5: Ultraviolet Astronomy', 'Unit 6: X-ray Astronomy', and 'Unit 7: Astronomy and Celestial Objects'. The 'Unit 1: Infrared Astronomy' section is expanded, showing a video player and a 'Watch Video' button. The video player displays a red and orange nebula. The text below the video explains that infrared astronomy deals with the detection and analysis of infrared radiation (wavelengths longer than red light). It notes that infrared radiation is heavily absorbed by the atmosphere, and the atmosphere produces significant infrared emission. Consequently, infrared observatories have to be located in high, dry places or in space. The infrared spectrum is useful for studying objects that are too cold to radiate visible light, such as planets and circumstellar disks. Longer infrared wavelengths can also penetrate clouds of dust that block visible light, allowing observation of young stars in molecular clouds and the cores of galaxies. Some molecules radiate strongly in the infrared. This can be used to study chemistry in space; more specifically it can detect water in comets. The text also mentions that infrared astronomy is the branch of astronomy and astrophysics which deals with objects visible in infrared (IR) radiation. Visible radiation ranges from 380 nm (violet) to 750 nm (red). Longer wavelengths than 750 nm but still shorter than microwaves are called infrared (or sometimes submillimeter waves). Scientists classify infrared astronomy as part of optical astronomy because optical components (mirrors, lenses and solid state digital detectors) are usually used.

Content Management: Ease Management of Learning Content

Release 9.1 includes content management module enhancements that enable you to easily upload and manage content across courses and organizations.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Learn 9.1 interface with the 'Upload Multiple Files and Folders' dialog box open. The dialog box has a title bar with 'Single File' and 'Multiple Files' options. Below the title bar, there is a message: 'After adding files to the list, click Submit to upload the files. If an upload fails, click Undo to remove all uploaded files and return to the parent folder. Uploading multiple files and folders requires the Java plugin, version 1.5 or later. If the plugin is not available, use the Single File option to add files one at a time.' There are 'Browse', 'Remove All', and 'Stop Upload' buttons. Below these buttons is an 'Upload progress' bar showing 84% completion. A table lists the files being uploaded:

Name	Size	Status
CourseBanner.jpg	18.2 KB	✓
CourseOutline.pdf	100.7 KB	100%
Syllabus(Draft).docx	22.5 KB	0%

At the bottom of the table, it shows '141.3 KB Total' and a 'Cancel' button.

Course Roster

A list of all the students enrolled in your course is now available by clicking "Users" in the Control Panel.



Course Copy

The Course Copy feature will allow instructors to copy their previous semester's course content into current semester's course.

Building Content

Clicking the Action Link menu button on the Build Content tab reveals a dropdown list of all the content options available. There are six options under Build Content that are either new, improved, or enhanced.