What’s New in Blackboard 9.1 Service Pack 9

New Design and Style

Blackboard Interface
Blackboard’s interface is noticeably cleaner and less cluttered. Most apparent will be the missing editing icons (double down arrows) that allow users to have access to content, make changes and add content to their course. These have been replaced by rollover editing which means that editing icons are visible only when your mouse cursor hovers over certain areas. The result will be a cleaner, less cluttered, and more contemporary interface.

Course Themes
Course themes provide an easy way to add style and visual interest by customizing the look and feel of your course. Course themes are pre-built designs that allow you to change the color of course links, section and page headers, and the background wallpaper of the course.

New Features

Course-to-Course Navigation
When in a course, you no longer need to navigate to Blackboard's main landing page to access your other courses. You are able to move from course to course from within a course by clicking the Action Link/drop-down menu in the upper left corner of the page and select another course from the contextual menu. For example, if you are viewing the Discussion Board in one course and select another course from the contextual menu, you are taken to that course's Discussion Board. In addition, breadcrumbs track the most recently visited pages within a course.

Automated Re-grading
Automated re-grading means that instructors are able to automatically regrade problematic questions in a Blackboard quiz or test. The instructors can simply edit the question and have all necessary updates flow automatically to the Grade Center. After the question has been updated, Blackboard will recalculate the score of all submitted assessments that included the updated question, reflect the update in the Grade Center, and provide notification to both the faculty and optionally to the student for all impacted submissions. In service pack 9, instructors are able to:

- Edit questions
- Edit answers
- Edit point values
- Change multiple point value at one time
- Remove questions

Negative Marking
Negative marking allows for the application of negative point values for wrong answers on test questions. This allows them to prevent (by penalty) guessing or the selection of egregiously wrong answers.
Grade History Report by Grade Columns
A new report format exists for each graded column in the Grade Center. The Grade History report provides details of each grade change made within the selected column. Choose the chevron [double arrows] to the right of the column’s title; next select View Grade History from the menu.

Course Activities Overview Report
Two new course report formats has been added in service pack 9:

- **Course Activity Overview**: Course Activity Overview displays overall activity within a single course sorted by student and date. Data includes the total and average time spent per user and the total amount of activity the user had in the course.
- **Student Overview for Single Course**: Student Overview for Single Course displays an individual student's activity within a course, sorted by date. Data includes the total overall time the student spent in the course as well as detailed information about the student's activity, such as which items and content areas the student accessed and the time spent on each.

Enhanced Features

Add Course Menu Item
Noticeable changes to add a menu item. The word “Create” has been removed and “Create External Link” has been changed to “Web Link”.

Action Bars
The old Tool bars in content areas are organized differently.

- Create Assessment is “Assessments”
- Add Interactive Tool is “Tools”
- Assign Textbook is “Publisher Content”

Build Content
The Tools area has been moved to the Tools menu in service pack 9. “URL” has been replaced with “Web Link” in service pack 9.

Rubric Enhancement
Service Pack 9 updated Rubrics to include Percentage Range along with Points Range. The Percentage Range options allow a single rubric to work with any assignment as the achievement scores are calculated as a percentage of the item being graded. This update to Rubrics makes customers more flexible and able to support any type of graded item.

Course Copy Improvement
Two new buttons have been added to the Course Copy form. “Select All” and “Unselect All” will place or remove check boxes in the Select Copy Options area of the form.