



# What's New in Blackboard

## New features in Blackboard coming Summer 2013!

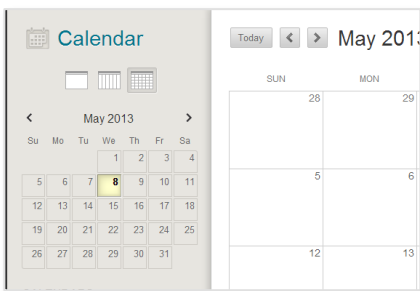
We will soon be migrating to the newest update for Blackboard, v9.1, sp11. There are many new exciting features and **improvements** that we want you to be aware of before the patch comes this summer.

*Click on any of the headers below for more information.*



## Brand New Calendar

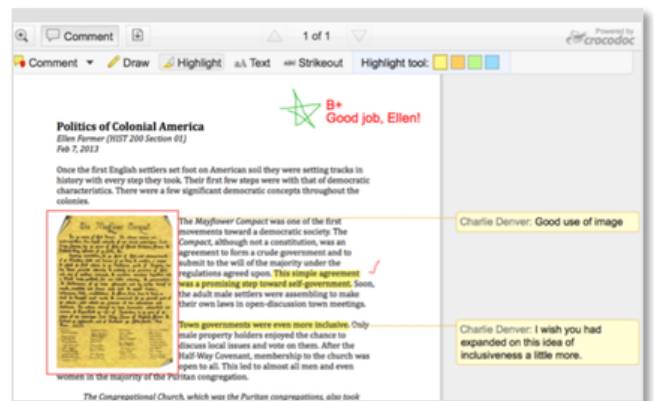
Blackboard has completely rebuilt their calendar from the ground-up. Both students and instructors have access to the new, much more robust calendar system to help them keep track of what's happening in their courses. The calendar has a modern "web2.0" feel to it, allowing for **drag-and-drop** of events, different colors for different courses, and more.



For instructors, the most important part about the calendar is that all of your assignment and test due dates will appear automatically on the calendar. To change the due date of any assignment or test, simply drag the item on your calendar to its new date and time. The changes will be **automatically reflected** on the students' calendars. The calendar data can be exported so that you can import them into your Outlook calendar, if you so choose.

## Inline Grading

Ever get tired of downloading Word files or PDFs to read, annotate, grade, and then re-upload to Blackboard so your students can see your comments and grades? Those days are gone, thanks to the new Inline Grading system. This system lets you view your students' file submissions—including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and PDFs—**right in the browser**. Annotate, comment, and more right in the browser and when you save the student's grade, the student can similarly view their submission with your notes without having to download the file again (but the **option** to download is always available to both instructors and students). If the student submits a file that is not one of those supported (listed above), instructors will simply be prompted to download the file, just like before.



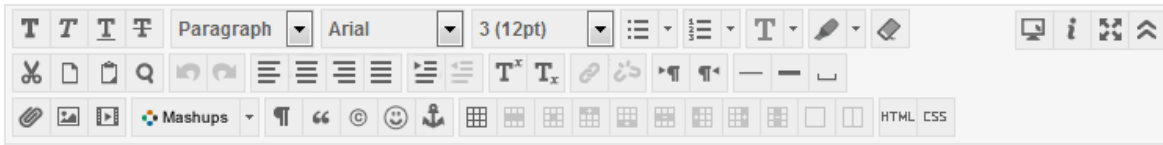
## Retention Center



The Retention Center is a replacement of the old "Early Warning System," which will alert the instructor of any potential issues with **student engagement and activity**. There are many preconfigured rules that you can use, or you can create your own, based on your specific needs. All of your existing rules from the Early Warning System will be carried over, but be sure to check out the Retention Center for all of the new options, views, and workflows.

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## New Content / Text Editor



The text editor (WYSIWYG editor) has been greatly enhanced and updated. While it will still look and feel familiar, the editor has many great new functions, including a **full-screen editor**, a preview mode, and improved table building, and **improved pasting from Word**. Power users will also applaud the addition of the CSS styles editor.

## Personal Avatar

Each user now has the ability to upload a picture of him/herself to use as an “avatar” while in Blackboard. That avatar will appear not only at the top of the Blackboard page, but also in discussion boards, blogs, journals, class roster, and more. This avatar will help to make the online **learning experience more personal**, allowing students to see the people that they are regularly interacting with, especially their instructor!



## Discussion Board

The discussion board feature has also been updated with very nice enhancements. Now, you can view **all of the posts on one page** easily, and collapse the ones you’ve already read. You can reply and comment right there on the same page without having to go to a different page, allowing you to always keep the context in which you’re replying in view.

The discussion board also features the new **“Post First” mode**, meaning that students cannot read other students’ posts until after they have submitted their own post. This means that the student will be forced to contribute their own ideas instead of simply reading others’ posts and making a derivation of those.

## Course Layout Wizard

You will be greeted with the Course Layout Wizard when entering your course for the first time. Select the structure and **organization, theme and colors**. You can choose to hide the wizard and return again later through the Control Panel.

## All this and much more!

This is just a quick look at some of the key improvements in the coming update to Blackboard. There are many other features and improvements that were not covered here, such as **Assessment Item Analysis**, improved global navigation, an improved course file browser, institution-wide surveys, mobile support for Mashups, and a fresh, updated look and feel!

### **For More Information:**

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