Blackboard has been upgraded from Blackboard Service Pack 11 (SP 11) to Service Pack 14 (SP 14). It has the functionality and navigation that students and faculty are familiar with, while providing new great features, enhancements, and bug fixes. Watch Video of the SP 14 new features.

### New Features

**Date Management** is a new tool in Blackboard Learn that allows instructors to have the system automatically "shift" content and tool dates in a course in a highly efficient way. After the system makes this shift, the instructor is able to see all the dates in one place, and further validate and tweak dates in a single user interface, which greatly streamlines the process. It’s never been easier to move from semester to semester or year to year.

Watch the [Data Management video from Blackboard Learn](#).

**Test Availability Exceptions** - allow instructors to select one or more groups of students and make a number of exceptions to the already established availability settings. Instructors can use exceptions to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences.

**Show Test Results and Feedback to Students** - after they complete a test, test results and feedback are available to students. By setting up rules, you can set the release of progressive feedback to keep test results secure and prevent cheating.

**Multiple Attempts - Score Attempts Using Option** - when you allow multiple attempts for a test, you can also select which attempt to use in the Grade Center from the Score attempts using drop-down list.
**Restrict a Test by Location** - you can require students to take the test in a specific location based on Computer IP address range. Students outside of this location will not be able to take the test.

**Test Access Log** - a source of frustration for students, instructors, and test proctors is the inability to confirm whether students began a test or ran into problems during a test. Teachers and proctors have no way to verify student activity or lack of activity during a test. Students have no way to prove that they did begin a test and when. If students reported problems occurring during a test, they were either given the benefit of the doubt and the test was reset, or they were penalized for circumstances beyond their control. SP 14 addresses this issue by providing information about student interactions with a test attempt. Instructors and other users who are granted permission can view the Access Log for a test from the Attempts page of the test.

The access log shows a list of every interaction a student engaged in when taking a test. If a student claims to have started a test, the log will show the time the test was started. If a network or internet disruption occurred during the test for example, the log would show an unusual gap in the time.

**Inline Assignment Grading** - enhances the grading experience for faculty and teachers in Blackboard Learn. Instead of requiring instructors to download student-submitted files to view or edit those submissions, instructors can now see those files "inline," i.e. in the web browser. Annotation tools also enable instructors to provide feedback -- comments, highlights, and even drawing -- directly on the inline view of the document.
**Achievements** - allows instructors to designate criteria for issuing rewards to students in the form of both badges and certificates. Students can see which rewards they’ve earned and what is required of them to receive additional rewards, providing insight into learning progression toward defined competencies. Students are able to publish badges to the Mozilla Open Backpack, transporting evidence of their learning outside of Blackboard Learn. You can easily see which students have reached learning milestones.

*Watch* the Achievements video from Blackboard Learn.

**Retention Center** - is an instructor-only tool that enables you to give focused attention to students who need it. It replaces the Early Warning System feature with easy workflows, while retaining all existing Early Warning System data and rules. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement. You can begin using the Retention Center features immediately—no setup required.

*Watch* the Retention Center Video tutorial from Blackboard Learn.

**Course Message Notifications** - course messages are private and secure text-based communication that occurs within a course and among course members. Although similar to email, you must be logged into a course to read and send course messages.

Before SP14, the only way to know if you had any new course messages was to constantly log in to your course and check. In SP14, course messages are part of the notifications framework. Anyone enrolled in a course can receive notification that they have new messages from the Updates area in My Blackboard, in the What’s New module on both institutional and course module pages, and from email. Users can manage their notification settings to include course messages and set preferences.

*Watch* the Message Tutorial from Blackboard Learn.
BLACKBOARD CALENDAR IMPROVEMENTS - the Calendar in Blackboard Learn has been significantly enhanced:

When accessed from My Blackboard or the Tools menu on the My Institution tab, the calendar displays a consolidated view of all of your institution, course, organization, and personal calendar events. Calendar events are color coded by course. When accessed from a course, instructors and students see the course calendar from the course menu on the Tools page. Instructors can use the calendar course tool as a primary way of managing and communicating the schedule of events and assignments in the course. Calendar supports due dates, if set, for gradable items. Clicking on calendar items allows an instructor to view or edit the item, or grade attempts on the associated item. Students can use filtering options to selectively view only course level items. They can then click on an item to view item details, and if supported, create an attempt against the item. Users can create recurring events by selecting the Repeat checkbox.

Watch the Calendar tutorial video from Blackboard.

MY GRADES ORDERING AND DESIGN UPDATE - the order by drop-down list allows students to change order by course, last activity, or due date. By default, items are ordered by course, which displays items in the order the instructor has arranged them in Grade Center. Students can narrow the listed items by selecting All, Graded, Upcoming, and Submitted. For example, Graded only shows rows that have been graded by the instructor. The text size and row spacing have been reduced, resulting in more information being displayed on the page at once. Feedback is included right in-line so that students don’t need to click anything to view it—it just shows up on the page.

TEST TOTAL POINTS ADJUSTMENT - in an earlier release, a change was made to Grade Center columns that were automatically created to show test results. In this release, we have provided a way for you to adjust the total Points
**Possible** for a test while maintaining the integrity of the previous change described above.

**Grading Schemas Greater Than 100%** - instructors can now make the uppermost value in a grading schema greater than 100%. For example, if a student earns 100% or more, an instructor may choose to assign A+ to those scores. To learn more, see About Grading Schemas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades Scored Between</th>
<th>Will Equal</th>
<th>Grades Man. Entered as</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 % and Less Than 120 %</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94 % and Less Than 100%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 % and Less Than 72%</td>
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<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 % and Less Than 65%</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Social Learning Tools** - with the new social learning tools available for Blackboard Learn, you and your students can discover, connect, and collaborate with others from your institution as well as other Blackboard Learn institutions. We have created a Blackboard Learn global learning network to allow users to learn from each other through social, informal means - complementing the more formal classroom and online course experiences.

Watch the Blackboard Learn video on Social Learning Tools.

**Groups Management Building Block Upgrade** - with the Groups Management Building Block provides the ability to see which students are in which groups, including which students are not in any groups. Easily see and modify group memberships. **Avatars** are now available to distinguish among users. Choose and manage membership for group sets with an improved workflow. Import and export groups and group memberships. Sort columns, perform bulk actions for deleting groups, and create **Grade Center Smart Views** for one or more groups on the All Groups page. Optionally, manage tool availability for all groups on the All Groups page.

**Blackboard Collaborate Building Block Upgrade** - Blackboard Collaborate Building Block offers a robust tool set that allows instructors to web conference and connect with one student or an entire class. Instructors and students can collaborate using audio, video, and recording capabilities. Other functions include private and public chat, a whiteboard, application sharing, a clip art library, and the ability to add and edit content at any time.
**WHAT'S NEW WITH THE UPGRADE TO BLACKBOARD 9.1 SP14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New for this upgrade: Default Rooms for Each Course and Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**BLACKBOARD LEARN - QUICK LINKS** - improved navigation experience for all users, especially sighted keyboard-only users through page header and landmark aggregation!

Watch Blackboard Learn video on **Quick Links**.

**COURSE MENU IMPROVEMENTS** - viewing the folder structure of the course now always opens in a new window, to ensure users have the space needed to read the expanded contents. Click an item in the tree to navigate directly to that location.

**EXPORT / IMPORT IMPROVEMENTS**

Added a refresh button to make it easier to find your zip files after you submit your request to the Blackboard servers.

Option to only “Include starter posts for each thread in each forum (anonymized)” or “Include only the forums, with no starter posts” so you do not have to delete all of the old student posts from discussion forum.
**DISCUSSION BOARD IMPROVEMENTS** - the Thread Detail page is thoroughly redesigned yet maintains all of its existing functions. Highlights include:

- **All posts on one page** - all of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page.
- **Role highlighting** - posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user’s course role and forum role.
- **Inline replies** - when replying to a post, the content editor used to write a response appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.
- **Post First Setting** - instructors can use a new forum setting to require students to post to a forum before they can see other students’ posts.
- **Accessibility** - The new experience of reading a thread is simple to consume with screen reader technology. We also removed clutter on the page, so screen reader and keyboard-only users have less to sift through as they navigate the interface.

Watch the Blackboard Learn video on **Discussion Board**.