



Office Hours

Weekly product update webinar

August 11, 2026

Accessibility Support for Today's Webinar

Turning on Closed Captions (CC)

More (...) → **Language and speech** → **Turn on live captions**

Captions then appear at the bottom of the screen for the rest of the session.

Sign Language Mode

More actions → **Settings** → **Accessibility** → **toggle on Sign language mode**

Then select Signer or Interpreter role.

Full instructions:

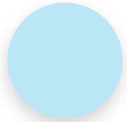
support.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/teams/use-sign-language-mode-in-microsoft-teams-meetings

About Office Hours



Who runs them

Office hours are facilitated by the Product team, Customer Success Managers, Support, and the wider team.



What we cover

Join the Blackboard® team to discuss in detail the latest feature releases, product developments, and emerging current issues.



Why join

An opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions of the Blackboard Product Management team and fellow clients.

Today's Webinar

AI

Recording & notetaking consent

Based on Blackboard's AI Trustworthy Framework, the use of third-party AI generator software for notetaking or recording of this session requires consent from all webinar attendees and prior approval from Blackboard.

Agenda

- Welcome & Announcements
- Update - August 4000.21 Release
- Release Updates (August – 4000.21 & September 4001.0)
- Demo – Move folders in the Learning Object Repository
- Demo – Reorder Learning Object Repository objects with new Move controls
- Update on Duplicate Item feature
- Feedback – Mobile app
- Open Discussion

Institutional Effectiveness Roadmap Webinars

Option 1

Tuesday, August 11 at
10:00 a.m. ET

Option 2

Thursday, August 13 at
3:00 p.m. ET

Registration Open Now!

Blackboard User Group

Led by your peers, with each session featuring a client or guest speaker. Sessions take place every other Thursday, 11:00am EST (4:00pm BST).

Thu Aug 20 – Not a One-Size-Fits-All: The 'Dual Pattern' of AI Engagement Across Academic Disciplines

Dolf Jordan, University of Pretoria

Thu Sept 3 - AI in Every Program: A Scalable Framework for Institution-Wide AI Curriculum Integration

Kimberley Connor & Timothy Smith, Lamar University

Thu Sept 17 - Innovative way to keep students engaged without leaving Blackboard

Saad Saihi, Edge Hill University

[Register](#) for calendar appointments and reminder emails.



Update - August 4000.21 Release



Addressing the August release delay



1. We understand the frustration:

- navigation issues in your LTI Proctoring and Asset Processor integrations hit workflows your faculty and students rely on every day. That matters to us.

2. You found it, and that counts:

- your testing and candid feedback surfaced the problem before it reached your users. We are grateful, and we do not take that partnership for granted.

3. We chose disruption over disappointment:

- the build did not meet our standard, so we stopped the rollout rather than ship it to you.

4. We moved fast:

- critical fixes were completed within 24 hours, then released through test, stage and production.

5. We are not finished:

- remaining medium-severity fixes are ready or in flight for the next patch, and you will have confirmed dates the moment they are validated.

Addressing the August release delay



1. **We should have caught this sooner** — that accountability sits with us, and we are fixing where the process broke down.
 - **Expanding automated test coverage.** We are auditing our integration test environment against the full set of third-party integration scenarios and closing any gaps found — ensuring that this type of issues are caught by our automation pipelines before a release reaches you.
 - **Deeper verification of third-party integrations.** More extensive exploratory testing of third-party tool integrations by our teams, with more intensive, focused verification whenever a release changes navigation or other areas that affect how these tools launch and behave.
 - **Partner Program review.** We'll be considering how the program might better support testing and validation through partner relationship changes.
2. **We are rethinking release cadence with you, not for you:** smaller, more frequent releases, at times that work for APAC as well.
3. **Quality is the bar we ship to,** even when holding a release is disruptive.
4. **Communication is where we must improve most** — official updates via support tickets, the status page and email. We are consolidating channels, so the message stays consistent and close to real time.

Release Updates

Recent Releases: 2026 Blackboard SaaS

4000.21.0 – Blackboard SaaS Production



Fixes in the upcoming 4000.21.0 Release – August 13, 2026

- Autoassign Groups are creating odd groupings - Copy. – Article #[93842](#)

Note: this is a preliminary list; the final list with all fixes will be available in Thursday's article.

August Release — V 4000.21 Production

Test / Stage: July 7
Prod: August 6

Instructional Design

- Early Access: New Content Editor for Blackboard Documents
- Display nested items in the Learning Object Repository Move-to view

Gradebook

- New Gradebook Grid View
- Delete unwanted third-party columns in the Gradebook

Assignments and Tests

- Export question banks
- Display answer-level feedback for selected options only

Blackboard Admin

- ~~Use built-in guest access for course content in Ultra~~
- Restrict discussion, journal, and blog activity in completed Original courses

Blackboard Core

- Navigate courses faster with an improved user interface
- Stay on top of deadlines with your top To Dos
- Navigate between courses faster with the updated Home button

Integrations

- Improved Microsoft Cloud Document experience

Communication and Collaboration

- Manage Group membership with drag and drop
- Create multiple Groups at once
- Make notifications more accurate and reliable
- Add sorting controls for users in Discussions

Mastery and Learning Pathways

- Set release conditions based on journal submissions

Learner Progression & Personalized Experience

- Configure the “From” name for automation messages

Upgrade to Ultra

- Duplicate items on the Course Content page
- Display warning banner in Original courses
- Import external course packages as Ultra courses
- Restrict copy into completed courses

Course Catalog (requires Catalog license)

- Use Mercado Pago to pay for courses

Video Studio (requires Video Studio license)

- Customize your recording background
- Resume video playback

September Release — V 4001.0 Production

Test / Stage: August 11
Prod: September 3

Instructional Design

- Move folders in the Learning Object Repository
- Reorder Learning Object Repository objects with new Move controls
- Improvements to the beta Content Editor in Blackboard Documents

Assignments and Tests

- Restrict accepted file types for assignment submissions

Blackboard Admin

- ~~• Use built-in guest access for course content in Ultra~~

Mastery and Learning Pathways

- View student outcomes mastery in the gradebook

Learner Progression & Personalized Experience

- Centrally manage Automations availability across institutions

Integrations

- Manage Learning Modules with new REST APIs
- Support Respondus LockDown Browser with LTI 1.3 integrations
- SCORM security improvements



Demo 1

Move folders in the Learning Object Repository



Demo 2

Reorder Learning Object Repository objects with new Move controls

Update on Duplicate



Concern

There was some concern that introducing the **Duplicate** feature could cause **Question Banks** and **Tests acting as Question Banks to be duplicated** when a Test is duplicated. This could potentially create unnecessary content bloat without instructors realizing they were creating additional copies of their Question Banks.

Actual Behavior

Tests duplicated using the **Duplicate** feature **do not duplicate Question Banks or Tests acting as Question Banks.**

Instead, the newly created Test continues to reference the existing Question Bank or Test that the original Test references. This prevents unnecessary duplication and content bloat.

We Need Your Voice on Mobile

Help shape how Blackboard Learn works on mobile



WHO

Instructors and students who use Blackboard Learn on a mobile device.



WHAT

A 30-minute conversation about your day-to-day mobile experience.



WHEN

Sessions run over the next few weeks — sign up once and we'll reach out to schedule a time that works.

Sign up

[Blackboard - Mobile App Feedback Sign Up Sheet – Fill out form](#)

Questions?

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Open Discussion



Any additional thoughts on content shared today?



What are you looking forward to?



Any clarifications needed?



Any questions about the release updates?



What are your current challenges?

Idea Exchange



Any other ideas? Post them on the Idea Exchange

anthology-teachingandlearning.ideas.aha.io



Thank you

Blackboard delivers the digital environment for transformational teaching and learning.