

Blackboard Office Hours

Europe, Middle East, and Africa

May 2026



About Office Hours

- Office hours are facilitated by the Product team, Customer Success Managers, and the wider team.
- Join the Blackboard team to discuss in detail the latest feature releases, product developments, and emerging current issues.
- Opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions of the Blackboard Learn Product Management team and fellow clients.
- The slide deck and recording will be shared after the meeting.

Today's Webinar

This webinar will be recorded and will be available to all clients on the Blackboard Community.

Closed captioning is available on today's webinar.

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
- Infrastructure Maintenance Update
- Release Updates
- Demo: Improved Rubric Usability when Adding or Adjusting Grades
- Demo: Add Folders and Learning Modules to the Learning Object Repository
- Demo: Choose what Happens to Course Content when Deleting an Object from the Learning Object Repository
- Demo: Answer-Level Feedback for Multiple Choice and Multiple Answer Questions
- Open Discussion

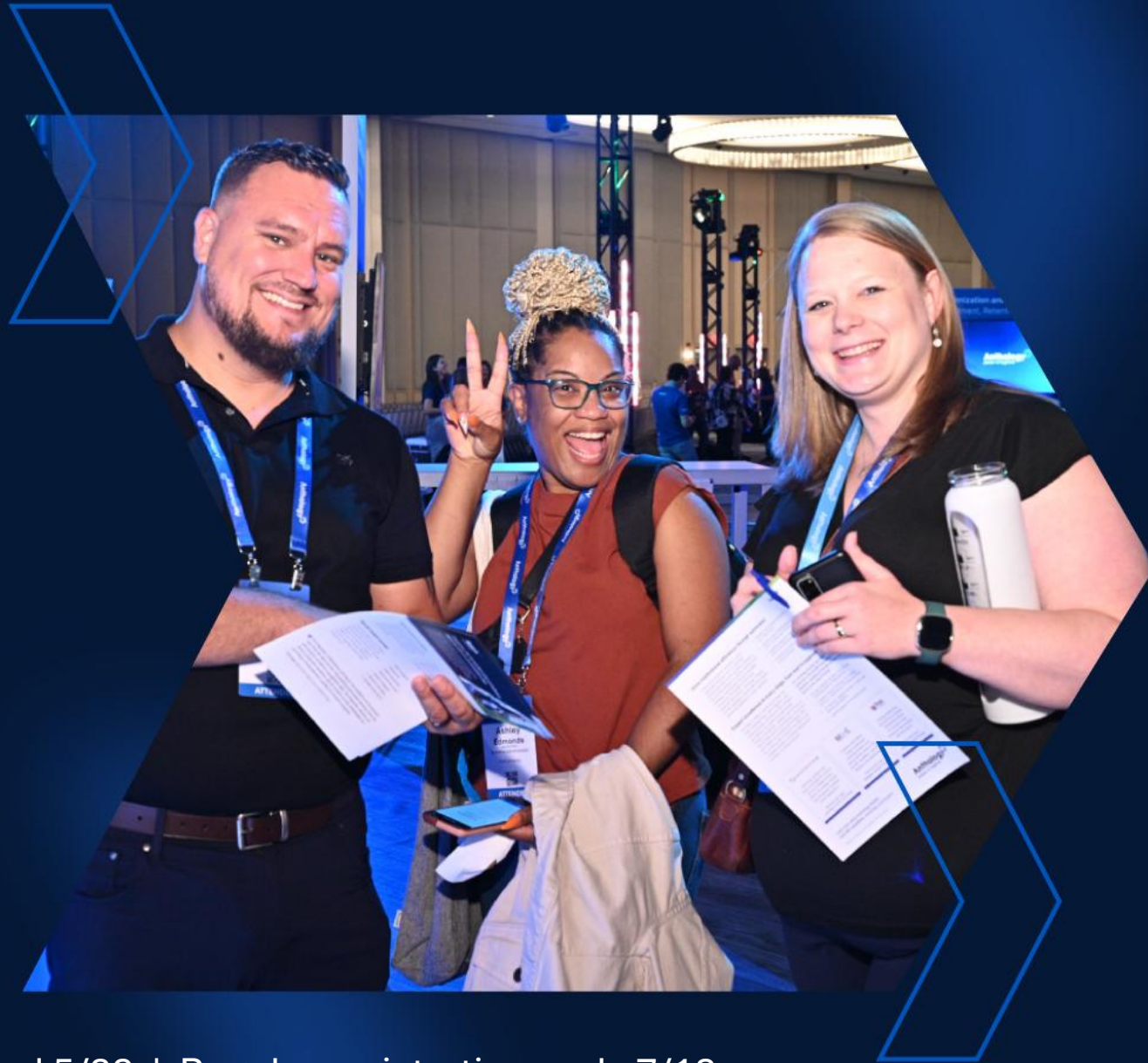
Building Blackboard Together 2026

ALL IN

July 13-15, 2026 | Hilton Anatole | Dallas, Texas

REGISTER NOW!

conference.blackboard.com



Earliest Bird savings end 2/20 | Early Bird savings end 5/22 | Regular registration ends 7/12

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 May 28 **Pick Your Learning Adventure: Scaffolding Student Success Through Choice, Voice & Digital Innovation**
Dr Bevin Rainwater, University of Hartford (USA)
- Thu June 11 **Build an Escape Room using only Blackboard Ultra: Simulations (S), Serious Play (SP), and Gamification (G)**
Dr Rachel Scherer, Sam Houston State University, (USA)

[Register](#) - sign up for calendar appt and reminder emails.

Security Program Overview – Recording

Join Richie Rodriguez, our Chief Information Security Officer, as he provides an overview of Blackboard's Security Program.

The security program overview starts at 5min 5s.

Follow-up Questions?
asksecurity-may2026@blackboard.com

[Watch Recording](#)



Infrastructure Maintenance Update

A blue geometric graphic consisting of a large dark blue triangle on the left side and a lighter blue trapezoidal shape on the right side, meeting at a diagonal line.

Infrastructure Maintenance Update

Blackboard is modernizing the infrastructure that supports Blackboard LMS to improve security, reliability, and long-term scalability. This infrastructure is built on IL4 security standards, and with this upgrade all client environments will operate at higher compliance security standards.

This upgrade requires **approximately two hours of downtime**.

All Administrators will receive a notification with their upgrade date **by the end of May**. If this date is acceptable, no further action is needed. If you wish to change the upgrade window, please use the Downtime Maintenance Scheduler in the admin panel.

Stage : Starting May 25th

Production : Between June 15th and Dec 15, 2026

(scheduled during off hours based on the hosting region.)

Support bulletin - [Upcoming infrastructure upgrade, Blackboard downtime required – All environments](#)

Note: FedRAMP Moderate environments in GovCloud are NOT impacted by this announcement; all environments in GovCloud were upgraded to this infrastructure in 2025.

Release Updates

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Recent Releases: 2026 Blackboard SaaS

4000.15.0 - Blackboard SaaS Production

May 7 – Release of version 4000.15.0
(4000.15.0-rel.22+6d198c4)

May 14 – Release of version 4000.15.0
(4000.15.0-rel.32+8b748f7)

May 10 – Release of version 4000.15.0
(4000.15.0-rel.30+0484367)

May 21 – Release of version 4000.15.0
(TBD)

Fixes in the upcoming 4000.15.0 Release – May 21, 2026

- There are no fixes to report for now. Please check the article on Thursday.

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

May Release - V 4000.15 – Production Update

Test/Stage on April 14
Prod on May 7

Instructional Design

- White space improvements in Documents
- Improved screen reader experience in document view mode

Mastery and Learning Pathways

- Visualize release conditions inherited by items in learning modules and folders
- Sync Program data from SIS
- Sync Term Types from SIS

Gradebook

- Carry group filter into Flexible Grading
- Resized Accommodations icon

Assignments and Tests

- Provide answer-level feedback for multiple choice and multiple answer questions:
- Lock answer options in a fixed position for multiple choice and multiple answer questions

Security

- Strengthen logout behavior for supported SAML SSO configurations

AVA *(Included in your Blackboard license until 30 June 2026)*

- Explore with AI Playground

Communication & Collaboration

- Rebuilding the Groups management experience for instructors
- Make second due date for Discussions visible in Gradebook

Blackboard Core

- Improved search and navigation in Course Switcher
- Remove feature flag for Learning Module Table of Contents

Blackboard Admin

- Use built-in guest access for course content in Ultra
- Cancel queued course copy and delete tasks
- Restrict attempt activity in completed Original courses

Integrations

- Enhanced Institutional Hierarchy control for UEF integrations

Course Catalog *(Requires Course Catalog license)*

- Only show students in Download Certificate search results

Video Studio *(Requires Video Studio license)*

- Add audio descriptions for inclusive videos*

* This feature is available as part of the core product in Announcements and Feedback.

June Release - V 4000.17 – Production Update

Test/Stage on May 12
Prod on June 4

Instructional Design

- Add Folders and Learning Modules to the Learning Object Repository
- Choose what happens to course content when deleting an object from the Learning Object Repository
- Sort objects by type in the Learning Object Repository

Assignments and Tests

- Improved rubric usability when adding or adjusting grades
- Provide answer-level feedback for multiple choice and multiple answer questions
- Lock answer options in a fixed position for multiple choice and multiple answer questions

Upgrade to Ultra

- Preserve activity data for Group Assignment submission through Bulk Copy and Convert

Learner Progression and Personalized Experience

- ~~Centrally manage Automations availability across your institution~~
- Track Announcement engagement by student

Blackboard Admin

- Restrict grading activity in completed Original courses

Integrations

- Use Institutional Hierarchy for Microsoft Education integration
- Use API for managing course user accommodations
- Grade Export: Configure OAuth 2.0 scope settings

Course Catalog *(Requires Course Catalog license)*

- Unenroll learners through managed enrollment workflow

Video Studio *(Requires Video Studio license)*

- Record videos on Blackboard App

Demo: Improved Rubric Usability when Adding or Adjusting Grades

Demo: Add Folders and Learning Modules to the Learning Object Repository

Demo: Choose what happens to course content when deleting an object from the Learning Object Repository

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Demo: Answer-level feedback for multiple choice and multiple answer questions

Feedback: Future of Certificates and Badges

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Feedback Opportunity!

**SHARE YOUR
FEEDBACK.
SHAPE THE FUTURE.**

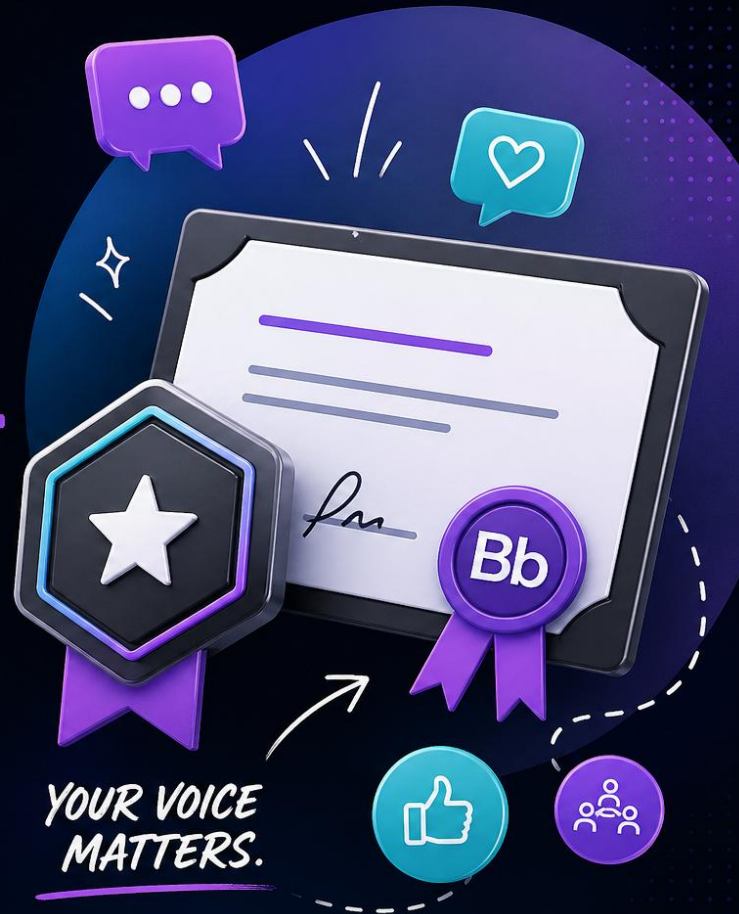


**JOIN US FOR A 1:1
FEEDBACK SESSION**



Let's talk about **certificates**
and **badges** in Blackboard.

Your input. Real impact.



**Book your time
with us!**

https://outlook.office.com/book/UpgradetoUltraCourseConversionsInterviews@anthology.com/s/aB1lK0plMku-50Zb0o_ayw2?ismsaljsauthenabed

Feedback: Copying Items

Copying Courses

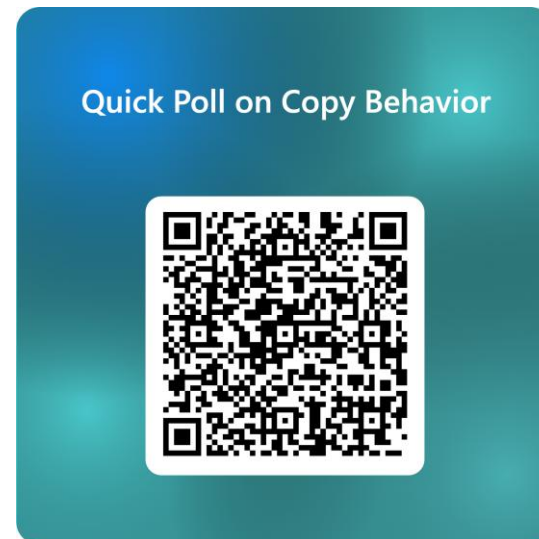
How should Blackboard handle duplicate items when copying a course or assessment?

Applies to:

- Gradebook Categories
- Rubrics
- Grade Schemas
- Groups

[Quick Poll on Copy Behavior – Fill out form](#)

- **Keep Both** Keep existing items and copy new ones. Rename duplicates (e.g., "Rubric (1)").
- **Favor Existing Items** Reuse items already in the destination course. Do not copy duplicates from the source.
- **Favor New Items** Replace existing items in the destination with those from the source.



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?

Any other ideas? Post them on the Idea Exchange!



<https://anthology-teachingandlearning.ideas.aha.io>

Blackboard 