



Office Hours

Weekly product update webinar

September 22, 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:

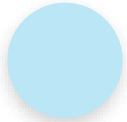
support.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/teams/use-sign-language-mode-in-microsoft-teams-meetings

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**
- **September / October Release Update**
- **Release Updates**
- **LTI 1.1 > 1.3 update**
- **Community input: Badgr integration**
- **Demo 1:** Manage rubrics with course rubrics page
- **Demo 2:** Export and import rubrics
- **Demo 3:** RTE
- **Open Discussion**

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 Oct 1 – Custom-build report to improve Blackboard template adherence

Lou Stringer, University of York

Thu Oct 15 - It Doesn't End with Ultra: Lessons on Promoting Faculty Change

Stephanie Richter, Northern Illinois University

Thu Oct 29 – Blackboard Learning Object Repository - 📢 Speakers Wanted!

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

Community Insider of the Month

Each month during **Office Hours**, we'll spotlight one community member for how they engage, share, and help others.

Recognizing a member who actively joins Office Hours, shares their experience, and supports others.

Want to stay connected with your peers? Join the Community!

Join conversations, share what you know, attend events, and help fellow members. [JOIN TODAY](#)



OFFICE HOURS INSIDER • SEP 2026



Craig Pember

Asst. Director Instructional Technologies
[Lamar University](#)

He is a member of more groups than anyone else: 14 in total.

He's interested in AI in education, course design, leadership, and EdTech integrations.

In his own words, the Community helps him “better guide the University.”

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Office Hours across LMS, Ally, Illuminate, Outcomes and IE last 4 months

Release Updates

September Release Update



SAML Update:

98% of our customers' SAML configuration verified through internal testing.

v4001.0 Production Release

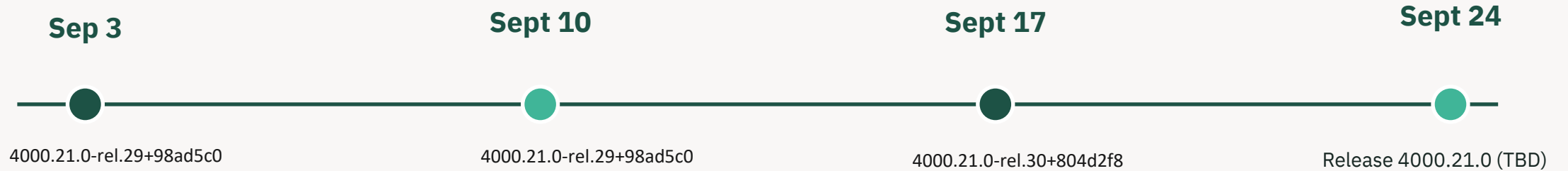
The production release is now set for **October 1, 2026**.

Upcoming Release Schedule

Release Number	Release to Test Servers	Release to Production Servers
4001.0 (Sept release)	11 August 2026	1 October 2026
4001.2 (Oct release)	29 September 2026	15 October 2026
4001.4 (Nov release)	13 October 2026	5 November 2026

Recent Releases: 2026 Blackboard SaaS

4000.21.0 — Blackboard SaaS Production



Fixes in the upcoming 4000.21.0 Release — September 24, 2026

- Future Due Date Reverts to Current Date When Creating a Gradebook Item in Grid View # Article [95853](#)
- Gradebook Message Attachments Cannot Be Opened by All Recipients # Article [95858](#)

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

September Release — v4001.0 Production

Test / Stage: August 11
Prod: October 1

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

SafeAssign

- Removal of SafeAssign DirectSubmit feature flag

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

Blackboard Core

- Use new Catalan language pack

October Release — V 4001.2 Production

Test / Stage: September 29
Prod: October 15

Instructional Design

- ~~Use Learning Activities to create flashcards for student self-review~~
- Configure editing permissions for Learning Object Repository objects
- Improvements to the beta Content Editor in Blackboard Documents

Assignments and Tests

- Manage rubrics from a dedicated course rubrics page
- Export and import rubrics

Gradebook

- Restore submission receipt search for anonymously graded assessments
- View exception indicators in the gradebook grid view
- Display username and last access date in the gradebook grid view
- Display points possible in the gradebook list view
- Reveal student identity for anonymous assessments

Communication and Collaboration

- Quiz students with the new AI Conversation type Pulse Quiz (Requires AVA)
- Start AI Conversations in a new immersive experience
- Lock an AI Conversation to a specific language

Blackboard Core

- Extend Your Top To Dos feature flag to August 2027

Integrations

- Prepare for the retirement of LTI 1.0 and 1.1 support

Upgrade to Ultra

- Preserve activity data for Tests, Discussions, and Journals

Course Catalog (requires Course Catalog subscription)

- Updated UI displays Course Catalog Premium name

Updating LTI 1.1 > 1.3

Community blog post:

<https://community.blackboard.com/home/blogs/retirement-of-lti-11-support-in-blackboard-lms-2026-08-27>

Update on process for crowdsourcing tool upgrade availability and method



Community insights requested...

Badgr/Canvas Credentials > Parchment Awards

Blackboard team seeks information to prevent potential disruptions for credentialing solutions from Instructure integrated with Blackboard LMS.



Demo 1

Manage rubrics with course rubrics page



Demo 2

Export and import rubrics



Demo 3

Content Editor

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.