Blackboard

Blackboard Learn 3900.13 Release

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Product: Blackboard Learn

Release Date:

Information:
Blackboard is pleased to announce the release of the 3900.13.0 (May 6, 2021) update of Learn SaaS for production environments (full release number 3900.13.0-rel.24+cf04977). This update will replace the previous v.3900.8.0 release.

Ultra Experience, Ultra Course View

Proctoring Services Framework - In the Ultra Course View, we are pleased to announce the delivery of a proctoring framework to allow proctoring providers to integrate their solutions with Learn Ultra. To support high stakes secured proctored examinations has become an important component of online learning provision. With the rapid shift to blended and fully online learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many institutions have pivoted towards proctoring solutions to improve their capabilities to support online digital secured examinations. Thus, Blackboard has put together the necessary efforts and provide a mechanism to allow Proctoring solutions to be supported in the native Learn Ultra assessment flow.

With this release, Blackboard has developed a framework to allow proctoring providers to integrate their solutions into the native test settings of the Ultra Course View. By working closely with a number of key proctoring providers and the IMS Global Organization, Blackboard's Proctoring Framework has been built with a core focus on standards and interoperability in mind.

By leveraging and certifying against the very latest IMS LTI Proctoring standard and combining this open standards based approach with Blackboard's own Premium APIs, we have been able to provide an extensible framework allowing partners and clients to build and deploy their integrations in Ultra. Alongside all Proctoring partners we are already working closely with, we expect to see many additional solutions and services within the assessment security realm aligning to this specification in the coming months.

Blackboard is the first and currently only LMS provider to be certified against this latest Proctoring specification.
The Proctoring Services Framework includes the following features to support instructor creation and student completion:

- **Configuration of proctoring provider:** instructors can choose to configure a proctoring solution for a native Ultra test. Selecting the desired integration from the corresponding drop-down list will allow the proctoring integration to display their native settings inline.
- **New proctor secured detail and iconography:** both instructors and students will see clear contextual detail and iconography in the assessment peak panel and also on the course outline indicating a test has been proctor secured.
- **Student launch:** students who need to complete a proctor secured test in Ultra, will follow the same procedure for access as with a non-proctor secured test, but will include additional security settings as per the proctoring solution prior to assessment access.

- **Native Ultra assessment security:** instructors can combine the flexibility of a proctor-secured test alongside the existing native Ultra access code functionality, supporting a more enhanced security flow for students taking an online test.
- **Native Ultra assessment setting support:** instructors can continue to utilize the existing settings functionality with a proctor-secured assessment, including but not limited to class conversations, multiple attempts, grading categories, grading schema, automated feedback settings and additional tools depending on the selected question types used.

Dropping grades inside categories for overall grade calculation - In the Ultra Experience and Ultra Course View, we are pleased to announce the delivery of dropping grades inside categories for overall grade calculations, as we understand flexibility is key in a LMS when we talk about managing final grades calculations for students, and there are different ways in which instructors and institutions would like to set what is considered in the overall grade calculations. From this release on, instructors and other privileged roles will be able to decide if they want to add additional rules to how their overall grade is calculated when using calculation by categories. They'll be able to drop as many grades as they want (lowest/highest), as long as there are more items inside the category than dropped items, or to choose just the lowest or highest grade to be considered for that category. This feature serves a great variety of use cases, for instance, to help students at the end of the term or to remove outliers (highest/lowest) grades in order to get a better sense of students' performance.

When rules are in place, students can gain access to their overall grade calculation details and see if some additional rules have been set by their instructors, which gives them clarity on how their grades are calculated and why their calculations might defer from the ones displayed in their gradebook.

Ultra Experience, **Ultra Course View, Original Course View**

Ultra messages: Unread message indication - We are pleased to announce the inclusion of Unread message indication for messages on the Ultra Base Navigation. This was a highly requested feature from our community, and we are excited to bring this capability to our clients. This solution will provide a clearly identifiable number count highlighting any new messages received for both Original and Ultra courses. When a user selects the Messages tool on the base navigation, the red number count will change to a red pill icon as to reduce distraction, but navigating away from this page will again show the unread message count. This capability will provide a greater level of transparency and engagement when new messages are sent and received for all users, and continues our commitment to enhancements for the Messages tool in Ultra.

Ultra Experience, Original Experience

Upgrade notifications for administrators - In the Ultra and Original Experiences, System administrators for Learn deployed in SaaS can opt-in to receive email notifications when an upgrade process starts and completes. This is particularly helpful for SaaS clients who want to be able to communicate with their support teams and user communities, with greater specificity when feature changes are available or bug fixes have been implemented. Users with the full System Administrator role can opt-in at Admin Panel > Notifications > System Alert Settings. Each administrator must opt-in individually to receive emails.

You can view maintenance items for 3900.13.0 on Behind the Blackboard. Our Known Issue articles provide information for individual bug fixes, and may include bug descriptions and which Learn versions were affected. You can filter bug fixes by SaaS release for easier navigation. Here are a few highlights of issues fixed in this release:

- Additional Spaces Rendered on Anchor Tag Preceding any HTML Tag - Article #75274
- Anonymous Grading Usernames Revealed in Digest Email - Article #75177
- Ultra - Audio Feedback in Ultra Course Assignments Displays code Instead of date and time Information - Article #59680
- Blank Page Item in Course Menu Access Denied for Guests - Article #57301
- Conditional Availability Removes Time Limit Info on Tests - Article #75164
- An Error Occurs when Editing Ultra Gradebook Settings if Course Role does not have "Delete Materials" Permissions - Article #75109

- The OK Button in Goal-Performance Tool does not Respond when no Goals are Aligned to the Student - Article #75170
- Not Found Error Occurs in Hotlinks and Web Links to Folders Using Alternative Domain - Article #75237
- HTML in Questions of Original Experience Tests can Cause Errors when Converted or Imported to Ultra Experience Courses - Article #59449
- Filtering the My Tasks Module by Course does not Work - Article #74961
- Files Inserted through the Editor have Excessive Spacin - Article #74955
- New VTBE "+" Attempts to Display Incompatible Media File Formats like PSD, TIFF and WMA Inline - Article #74958
- Exact Course Copy Fails on TMP_KEY_MAPS_PK Constraint - Article #69615
- Rubric Scores are not Rounded - Article #75331
- SafeAssign Icon Links Disappear Under Originality Column in Grade Center - Article #75233
- SCORM Attempts not Deleted when User Enrollment is Deleted - Article #74926
- Error Occurs during SIS Course Creation Using a Template Course - Article #75200
- Korean Language Pack Replaces Spaces with '20' - Article #75287
- OAuth Signature Validation Failed Message Appears when Clicking the Application Authorization Tool - Article #61159
- Missing 'Edit Course Image' Label in Language Pack Editor in Ultra - Article #75183
- Custom Color Palette and Theme Still Applied after Converting to Ultra - Article #59776
- Unable to save Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Option in the Edit Group Set Properties - Article #70341
- Cannot Update Notification Settings - Article #75242
- When Selecting Recipients for Enterprise Survey Response Period, There's No Way to Identify or Exclude Child Sections of Merged Courses, Which Causes Students to Receive Two Copies of Each Survey - Article #61132

Recent Issues

Article Number	Component	Service Pack(s)	Description	Target Fix Release	Patch Available
000078578	Learn	Ultra	In the Ultra Experience, when the "Needs grading" filter is applied, the API only returns a maximum of 20 records, which does not cover all the grade columns in a course with numerous assessments.	Future Reference	
000078577	Content Management, Language Packs	Ultra	Batch Edit with English (United Kingdom) Language Pack doesn't show the whole year. When the date format of the language pack uses a 4-digit date it doesn't display the last two numerals in the Batch Edit date picker.	Future Reference	
000077589	Learn	Ultra	When Blackboard Assist is enabled and an administrator logs into the Ultra Base Navigation, a Bb Assist pop-up message displays every time they access. Also, in the Menu beside 'Assist', the text "New" appears. 	SaaS-Fixed (v3900.89.0-rel.31 or higher)	
000078566	Learn	Learn 9.1 3900.89.0, Learn 9.1 3900.91.0, Learn 9.1 3900.93.0, SaaS	When a course has a selected language pack other than 'System Default', the edit course link in the Administrator panel loads the course in Original View. 	Future Reference	
000078562	Learn	Ultra	When copying one course into another, it sets the overall grade column to deleted_in=Y in the target course.	Future Reference	
			Message user interface will not open when		

[000078559](#)	Learn	Ultra	trying to send a message from Gradebook.	Future Reference	
[000078558](#)	Learn	Ultra	Unable to Drag and Drop Images in Test Questions.	Future Reference	
[000078557](#)	Learn	Ultra	When configuring a Calculated Formula Question and setting the answer setting to "rounding: significant figures," the verification step (step 3) fails to load if we return to modify the question text in step 1.	Future Reference	
[000078579](#)	Learn	Ultra	When students use links in their artifacts that end with "/" and then upload or attach images from Content Collection, those artifacts fail to process the images once they are shared or exported.	Future Reference	
[000078571](#)	Learn	Ultra	Some users are experiencing frequent logouts from the Blackboard Mobile App while trying to log in.	Future Reference	