What’s New in Blackboard Version 9.1?
A Quick Reference Guide to What’s New and What’s Different

Overall, the Blackboard v. 9.1 interface is similar to the interface of Blackboard v. 8.0. However, there are some notable differences such as the new Notifications Dashboard, flexible options for displaying items, and the relocated, rearranged and upgraded Control Panel.

BLACKBOARD HOME PAGE

Add/Remove Modules

Notifications Dashboard

New Modules on the Home tab collect information from all the courses you belong to. You are able to add and delete modules, collapse individual windows, and change the position of modules.

Notifications Dashboard can help users keep track of course deadlines (past, current and future due dates), alerts, items needing attention and new content.
New Modules **Contextual Menus**- are available to assist users dismiss, open, expand or collapse alerts. Users should always refresh to ensure current information is displayed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blackboard v. 8</th>
<th>Blackboard v. 9.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most Blackboard 9.1 items have an Action Link, visually represented by two downward facing arrows ("chevrons"). Click the Action Link to access the item’s **Contextual Menu**

![Image](image3)

**Contextual Menus** expandable menus containing options for each item

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**NAVIGATION & EDITING IN A COURSE**

**New Edit Mode**- this button lets instructors to manage their courses through the system.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click **Edit Mode** to change from ON to OFF. When the Edit Mode is ON, all instructor functions are available. When Edit Mode is OFF, you see what students see

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CUNY's Blackboard Training Task Force
**New** Drag-and-Drop - an easy-editing feature that allows for quick rearranging of content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blackboard v. 8</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Blackboard 8, this was achieved choosing a position from a choice list.</td>
<td>Press the vertical <strong>double-sided arrow</strong> and drag the item into the new location. The item is surrounded by dashes as it is being moved into its new spot.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COURSE MENU

Overview - the Course Menu has been redesigned for easier management.

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select plus icon to access choice list for adding links to the menu content</td>
<td>Refreshes the current page without leaving it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical <strong>double-sided arrow</strong> to change menu order</td>
<td>Contextual menu contains options to rename, hide/show and delete link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Link to access the item’s Contextual Menu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Course Contextual Menus** - provide drop down menus to access all features from the Action Bars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blackboard v. 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Edit Mode" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Edit Mode ON" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edit Mode</strong> should be <strong>ON</strong> to see the contextual menus</td>
<td><strong>Edit Mode</strong> to <strong>ON</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Contextual Menus" /></td>
<td>Contextual Menus expandable menus containing options for each item</td>
</tr>
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**Course Module Page** - a new page very similar to the Dashboard Notifications tab on the Blackboard Home page.

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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="No Access" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="You can access" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Course Module" /></td>
<td>You can access a separate <strong>Course Module</strong> on the course Home Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Modules" /></td>
<td><strong>Modules</strong> contain information for instructors and students about new content and due dates for the current course. Access is controlled by the instructor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**New** - Announcements /Customizing Announcements display order- instructors have the ability to re-order the display of announcements so the most important information will appear first.

### Blackboard v. 8

In Blackboard v. 8, the display of announcements cannot be reordered.

### Blackboard v. 9.1

- **Reordering tool** on the Action Bar can also be used to reorder.

Press the vertical, double-sided arrow and drag the announcement to the top of the list. The item is surrounded by dashes as it is being moved into its new spot.

### Adding Content

**Adding Content** - is still done in content areas using content types.

- **Blackboard v. 8**
  - Content types are now organized under the Action Bars choice lists.

- **Blackboard v. 9.1**
  - Instructors have the capability to determine tool availability in their courses contextual menu.
Mashups / adding rich media content from an external Web site.

Mashups allows instructors to add rich media content such as embedding YouTube videos from an external Web site.

Assignment / Multiple Assignment Submission Attempts

Assignment will allow instructors the option of letting an assignment accept multiple attempts.
CONTROL PANEL

Overview - Control Panel functionality is still here although it has been retooled, relocated, rearranged and upgraded in a number of cases.

Blackboard v. 8

Blackboard v. 9.1

Control Panel resides on the main page of the course under the course menu, enabling editors to see changes as they are made.

Click the Action Link to expand or collapse the sub-menu.

Click on the link name to expand or collapse the sub-menu.

Expand an item into the content frame by clicking the double arrows pointing right.

New Building Content / Uploading Multiple Files or Folders - you can upload files individually, multiple files at one time, or folders containing multiple files.

1- Click the Action Link to expand the Files sub-menu and then the name of the course file to expand an item into the content frame.

2- Upload multiple files at once by dragging and dropping, or browsing your computer. All files are uploaded to a central location (course Files), and can be linked anywhere.
The same **Course Tools** are available in Control Panel with the addition of Tests, Surveys and Pools, moved from Assessment.

**New**  **Test / Lockdown Timer option**

- **Test** - you now have the option to have the test automatically end when the time limit has been reached.
**New** 

**Grade Center** / **Needs Grading** takes you to a screen for a collection of items you have not graded yet.

**Blackboard v. 8**

*Needs Grading* is accessed in the Grade Center sub-menu of the Control Panel. Instructors can review attempts for individual assignments, group assignments and tests.

**Blackboard v. 9.1**

There are two ways to go about grading. You can do a Grade All or grade using the Action Link within the Needs Grading page.

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**New Location**

**Customization** / **Settings & Course Design**

**Blackboard v. 8**

Instructors can make a course available by clicking the **Properties** link.

**Blackboard v. 9.1**

Course Entry Point, Course Banner and Course Menu Design are all accessed on the Control Panel under Customization / Style.

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Groups / Group Settings

Blackboard v. 8

Groups - is a feature in where the instructors can permit students to create their own groups, and also permit them to edit their student-created groups. Both are defaulted enabled.

Blackboard v. 9.1

Groups - this tool has an additional option of random enrollees, where Blackboard chooses and enrolls members randomly.

New Groups / Random Enroll - is the quickest way to create multiple groups based on the instructor's criteria such as the number of students per group or number of groups.
**New Location** Course Options - all of the tools within these sections function in the same manner with the addition of contextual menus rather than buttons.

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<tr>
<td>for adding links to the menu content</td>
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**COURSE OPTIONS** has been divided into two new sections in the Control Panel: **Customization** and **Packages and Utilities**

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**BLACKBOARD ON DEMAND MOVIES**

1. **A TOUR OF BLACKBOARD V. 9.1 COURSE ENVIRONMENT**
   - Edit Mode
   - Course Menu
   - Home Page
   <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r9/movies/9_Your_Course_Environment.htm>

2. **CUSTOMIZING COURSE MODULES ON COURSE HOME PAGE**
   - Add Modules
   - Arrange Modules
   - Remove Modules
   <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r9/movies/Bb9_Course_Content_Customize_Modules.htm>

3. **EDITING THE COURSE MENU**
   - Create a new content area

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_CUNY’s Blackboard Training Task Force_
- Hide a content area
- Delete a content area
- Reorder content areas
- Customize course menu style
  <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r9/movies/Bb9_Course_Environment_Edit_Course_Menu.htm>

4. **CREATING COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS**
   - Create an Announcement
   - Set Options
   - Reorder announcements
   <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r9/movies/Bb9_Communications_Tools_Creating_Announcements.htm>

5. **ADDING CONTENT AREAS**
   - Create a content area
   - Create an item
   - Select options
   <http://www.blackboard.com/quicktutorials/Bb9_Course_Content_Add_Content%20Area_Item_with_audio.htm>

6. **UPLOADING ONE OR MORE FILES TO YOUR COURSE**
   - Upload a single file
   - Upload multiple files
   <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_course_files_adding_files.htm>

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