



Blackboard

Blackboard Learn 9.1 Q2 2016

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Product: Blackboard Learn

Release Date: Apr 26,2016

Upgrade Paths:

Upgrade Paths for Clients Already on Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1

Existing Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1 clients can upgrade from the following versions to 9.1 Q2 2016 (Build:3000.1.0-rel.52+991d2bf)

- Blackboard Learn, 9.1 October 2014 (Build: 9.1.201410.160373)
- Blackboard Learn, 9.1 Q4 2015 (Build: 9.1.201510.1171621)

If you are a self-hosted client on a Blackboard Learn 9.1 release prior to October 2014 you will need to upgrade to 9.1 October 2014 before you can upgrade to Learn 9.1 Q2 2016.

Upgrade Paths for Clients New to Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1

If you are upgrading from one of the releases listed below, please refer to the [Upgrade Center](#) for information to help you plan for this move. There are planning, training, and communication materials available to make this upgrade as smooth as possible. Please reference next steps based on your current release. For those migrating from Blackboard Learn, Release 9.0 or Blackboard Academic Suite, Release 8.0, please ensure you include migrating to a 64-bit environment in your upgrade plans.

- **Blackboard Learn, Release 9.0:** You can upgrade to Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1, Service Pack 9 (Build: 9.1.90132.0) from Blackboard Learn, Release 9.0, Service Pack 7 (Build: 9.0.692.0). You can then upgrade from Release 9.1, Service Pack 9 to Service Pack 12 (Build: 9.1.120113.0) to April 2014 (9.1.201404.160205). From April 2014, you can upgrade to Release 9.1, October 2014 or Q4 2015, then to 9.1 Q2 2016.
- **Blackboard Academic Suite, Release 8.0 or lower:** You can upgrade to Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1, Service Pack 9 (Build: 9.1.90132.0) from Release 8.0, Service Pack 7 Hotfix 2 (Build: 8.0.494.35) without needing to upgrade to Release 9.0 first. You can then upgrade from Release 9.1, Service Pack 9 to Service Pack 12 to April 2014 (9.1.201404.160205). From April 2014, you can upgrade to Release 9.1, October 2014 or Q4 2015, then to 9.1 Q2 2016.
- **Blackboard Learning System CE 8.0 and Vista 8.0 Licenses:** You must be on Service Pack 6 (Build: 18.0.6.116) to effectively use course conversion capabilities.
- **Blackboard Learn, ANGEL Edition:** You must be on any ANGEL 8.0 or ANGEL 7.4 release to effectively use course conversion capabilities.

If you are a self-hosted client on a release that is earlier than Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack 6, and you also use Oracle, there is a pre-upgrade utility that will minimize your downtime during this upgrade. Please consult the 9.1 Service Pack 6 Release Notes and the [Readme for the Pre-Upgrade Utility for Oracle](#) for more

information on this utility.

Announcing:


Blackboard is pleased to announce the General Availability of Blackboard Learn™, Release 9.1 Q2 2016 (Build:3000.1.0-rel.52+991d2bf). This notification contains important details of this release. Please review the entire message.

Release Highlights:

Quality Improvements

With the 9.1 Q2 2016 release, the main focus was to upgrade Learn to run on the latest version of Java from Oracle, Java 8. In our continued commitment to quality improvements, this release improves Learn 9.1 infrastructure, security, and resolves bugs across the 9.1 platform for students, instructors, and administrators. The top 50 resolved issues list is available for review in [Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 Release - Top 50 Bugs Fixed](#), Article #42033. To see the full list of resolved issues in this release, please go to Self Service > Known Issues and then under Planned First Fix search by Learn 9.1 Q2 2016. The list can also be printed or exported to PDF or Excel.

Important Notes

- Virtual Classroom and Chat Tools
 - Support for Virtual Classroom and Chat course tools will be ending with this release. Institutions using versions of Blackboard Learn that still have the Virtual Classroom and Chat course tools can continue to use them; they will continue to function beyond June 30, 2016. However, Blackboard Support will no longer accept reported issues with the tools and bugs and security issues will not be addressed. Please see [End of Support for Virtual Classroom and Chat Course Tools in Blackboard Learn 9.1](#) for additional details, Article # 41866.
- Snapshot Client Tool
 - No new versions of the Snapshot Client Tool will be issued with the Q2 2016 release. This is a standalone application used to process remote SOAP transactions and is different from the Snapshot Command Line Tool and Snapshot Controller. The Snapshot Command Line Tool and Snapshot Controller will be included in releases until the 9.1 Q2 2017 release. Please read the following Support Bulletin carefully for full details on the removal of the Snapshot Tools - [End of support and removal of Snapshot Tools for Blackboard Learn](#), Article #42089.
- Since Google removed YouTube's Record from Webcam feature, the Content Editor has been updated with the following changes:
 - The YouTube icon image has been changed and displays as 
 - The Alt Text now reads *Browse My YouTube Videos*
 - The Record tab has been removed and all users are now defaulted to the Browse tab to search existing videos.

Highlights of New Features and Enhancements

- Install/Upgrade
 - There is now 1 installer file to complete fresh installations or upgrades on Windows, Linux and Solaris to upgrade Learn. Please see [Blackboard Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 Installer](#) for help with preparing the server and steps for running the installer.
- Java 8 Update
 - The Q2 2016 release now utilizes the latest version of Java from Oracle. If you would like to learn more, please see the 9.1 [Java 8 FAQ](#).
 - **We strongly encourage anyone who has a Building Block to test it against Java 8 before installing the Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 release onto a production environment.** Please see the following article for further details- [Preparing Building Blocks for the Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 Release and Java 8 Update](#), Article #41958.

- For optimal performance, the minimum system requirements to run Java 8 are 8GB per Learn application server and 24GB per Oracle server.
- REST APIs in 9.1 - **Technical Preview**
 - Based on strong client feedback from our Developer Technical Preview and Blackboard's investment in Blackboard Learn 9.1, REST APIs are available in 9.1 Q2 2016 in Technical Preview! This preview release will give Administrators and registered Developers the ability to leverage a set of Rest APIs with the 9.1 Q2 2016 release. Get started now! The [Blackboard API Developer Portal](#) is available and registration is free.
 - Since this is a Technical Preview, Blackboard does not have a Service Level Agreement at this time and will continue to be make changes to REST APIs as needed. This preview is available for experimental purposes only and should only be run on a **test** environment.
 - You can also find great resources on the [Blackboard REST Developers](#) Community group. This group provides additional guidance and a platform to consult with other Developers. Blackboard welcome any feedback you have from testing.
 - [The Blackboard Rest API Framework](#)
 - [What is the REST 9.1 Technical Preview?](#)
 - [Community Feedback](#)
- SAML 2.0 Building Block
 - The SAML Building Block provides a way to authenticate, authorize, and use single sign-on (SSO) with the latest SAML 2.0 protocol, which focuses on improved security, improved end user experience, and easier IT administration. This building block provides Just-in-Time provisioning capabilities, a commitment made to the InCommon Net+ community as part of our certification process. See [SAML Authentication](#) for more information.
- New DMARC email handling setting in bb-config.properties
 - Clients who have control over their user's email addresses and not susceptible to DMARC-based rejections now have the option to turn off DMARC handling. In the bb-config.properties file, the setting for bbconfig.email.use.dmarc.from.override can be changed from True to False to disable DMARC handling. By changing the setting to False, do-not-reply@local will be removed from mail headers. For further instructions on making this change, please see [Email](#).
 - To access the rubrics, please see Value Rubrics for Learn 9.1
- New VALUE Rubrics
 - As part of AAC&U's Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative, the VALUE rubrics contribute to the national dialogue on assessment of college student learning. The original VALUE initiative in 2007-09 involved teams of faculty and other educational professionals from over 100 higher education institutions engaged over many months to develop 16 VALUE rubrics for the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes. Each rubric was developed from the most frequently identified characteristics or criteria of learning for each of the 16 learning outcomes. Drafts of each rubric were then tested by faculty with their own students' work on over 100 college campuses. For Blackboard Learn users who are interested in using these rubrics, we are making them available for download and import. Each rubric has been built and formatted appropriately and is ready to be imported to your courses and used anywhere you can align and evaluate with rubrics today. For more information on the VALUE rubrics, visit the AACU site at <https://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics>
 - To access the rubrics, please see [Value Rubrics for Learn 9.1](#)
- Security
 - The 9.1 Q2 2016 release resolves a set of fixes to core features of Learn 9.1. Once the issues are released through all supported 9.1 versions through a Cumulative Update or Building Block, a Security Bulletin will be released to provide details on the individual fixes.

Accessing the Build:

Change Management Resources

Self-hosted clients may download the latest build on the [Download Files](#) page. Managed Hosting clients may submit a case on Behind the Blackboard to schedule implementation of this release.

For a more detailed explanation of the changes and new features of this release, please reference the [Release Notes](#) and the [Download Files](#) page.

[Download Files](#)

[Release Notes](#)

[Supported Technologies](#)

[Browser Support in Q2 2016](#)

Recent Issues

Article Number	Component Service Pack(s)	Issue Description	Target Fix Release	Patch Available
000042716	Community SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	Course menu is no longer white, but dark blue on a dark grey background making it difficult to read.	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016 Release <p>SaaS (3100.1)	Yes
000042573	Course Tools, Notifications, Extensions SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	Enterprise Survey notifications show in all Courses and cannot be dismissed.	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016 Release <p>SaaS - Fixed (v3000.13.0)	Yes
000042846	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	Multi-byte characters present in the name of a Group do not display correctly in the Blog Tool.	Future Reference	No
000042837	Learn 9.1 Q2 2017, Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	When attempting to grade Discussion forum posts from Needs Grading or the Full Grade Center a long delay is observed before the page loads.	Will Not Fix	No
000042891	Learn 9.1 Q2 2017, Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, Learn October 2014 (9.1.201410.160373), Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	An Observer User has been setup for a Student with the Student meeting all the adaptive release rules. The Student can see the content but the Observer sees an empty learning module.	Future Reference	No
000042625	Learn October 2014 (9.1.201410.160373), SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	When creating or editing a Portfolio's Section, the Save button does not work correctly. Sometimes it save the sections correctly, and sometimes it does nothing when clicking it.	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016 Release <p>SaaS-Fixed (v3000.10.0)	Yes
000039610	Learn April 2014 (9.1.201404.160205), Learn October 2014 (9.1.201410.160373), SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	The Outcomes Collection is collecting data from courses not in the Term selections.	Learn 9.1 Q2 2017 Release	No
000042842	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	Themes with Reference Names less than three characters long cannot be downloaded.	Future Reference	No
000042839	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	A Resource not Found error occurs when attempting to edit a group if the user has opened the group first.	Future Reference	No
000042840	Learn 9.1 Q4 2016, Learn October 2014 (9.1.201410.160373), SaaS, Learn 9.1 Q4 2015 (9.1.201510.1171621), Learn 9.1 Q2 2016 (3000.1.0-rel.52+991d)	Users may create tests from an existing Question Set. When doing so and editing the points possible for a question, this value is updated on the previously created test.	Future Reference	No

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