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

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

Notifications Dashboard can help users keep track of course deadlines (past, current and future due dates), alerts, items needing attention and new content.

Modules Contextual Menus- are available to assist users dismiss, open, expand or collapse alerts. Users should always refresh to ensure current information is displayed.
NAVIGATION & EDITING IN A COURSE

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

In Blackboard 8, this was achieved choosing a position from a choice list.

**New** **Drag-and-Drop** - an easy-editing feature that allows for quick rearranging of content.

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**

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

Press the vertical **double-sided arrow** ▼ and drag the item into the new location. The item is surrounded by dashes as it is being moved into its new spot

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

- **Course Contextual Menus** - provide drop down menus to access all features from the Action Bars.

Edited Mode **should be ON** to see the contextual menus.

- Click the **Action Link** to access the item's contextual menu.
- **Contextual Menus** are expandable menus containing options for each item.
**New** Course Module Page - a new page very similar to the Dashboard Notifications tab on the Blackboard Home page.

**Blackboard v. 8**

- Course Module Page

**Blackboard v. 9.1**

- You can access a separate Course Module on the course Home Page

**Modules** contain information for instructors and students about new content and due dates for the current course. Access is controlled by the instructor.

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**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**

- Announcements

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

Blackboard v. 8

Blackboard v. 9.1

Content types are now organized under the Action Bars choice lists

Instructors have the capability to determine tool availability in their courses contextual menu

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
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.

New Location Course Tools

The same Course Tools are available in Control Panel with the addition of Tests, Surveys and Pools, moved from Assessment.
Grade Center / Needs Grading- takes you to a screen for a collection of items you have not graded yet.

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.

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

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

Course Entry Point, Course Banner and Course Menu Design are all accessed on the Control Panel under Customization / Style.
Blackboard v. 8

**Groups / Group Settings**

Blackboard v. 9.1

Group Settings - 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.

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.

Blackboard v. 8

Blackboard v. 9.1

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

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.
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
   - Hide a content area
1. Delete a content area
2. Reorder content areas
3. 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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