

# Blackboard

*Bringing Education Online™*



*"After Beta testing Blackboard 5, release 5.5 we remain convinced that Blackboard offers the best product for our needs here at Princeton. Given our positive experience with the product, Princeton plans to upgrade to Blackboard 5 Level Three for the fall. We believe that faculty will find the new features in release 5.5 quite useful, especially the learning units, timed release of content, and the enhancements to the gradebook."*

Dennis Hood  
Coordinator  
Course Management  
Systems  
Princeton University

## Blackboard 5

### *What's New in Blackboard 5, Release 5.5?*

Blackboard is pleased to make available release 5.5 of the Blackboard 5™ platform. This release reflects extensive input from our worldwide user base of more than 1,800 institutions—and is backed by a comprehensive beta program that has been the most successful in Blackboard's history.

Blackboard 5, release 5.5 delivers extensive updates to the industry-leading e-Education platform including: next-generation innovations in teaching and learning, a multi-million dollar investment in expanded enterprise capabilities, the introduction of Blackboard Building Blocks (B2) Architecture, and improved accessibility through section 508 compliance of the Federal Rehabilitation Act.

### *Top Reasons to Upgrade to Release 5.5*

#### **NO COST TO UPGRADE**

- Upgrade to release 5.5 is free as part of your existing licensing agreement.

#### **TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – RELEASE 5.5 NEW FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITY**

- Timed release of content and assessments provides instructors the ability to pre-populate sequential content, including assessments, and release content as desired.
- Learning units enable instructors to create sequential learning paths. Within a Learning unit, instructors may embed content, graphics, assessments, etc.
- Gradebook and assessment enhancements offer instructors added tools for customization, including grade weighting, sorting, reordering, and more.
- Digital course cartridges include hundreds of titles covering dozens of academic disciplines from the world's leading publishers.

#### **EXPANDED ENTERPRISE CAPABILITIES**

- Single-site implementations can support thousands of courses and tens of thousands of users.
- Numerous stability enhancements optimize platform performance.





## BLACKBOARD 5, RELEASE 5.5

- Snapshot tool improvements further automate enrollment, course categorization, and advanced system management for Blackboard 5 Level Three.
- Seamless platform and content migration enables convenient upgrades from any version of Blackboard 5 as well as CourseInfo™ 4.

### BLACKBOARD BUILDING BLOCKS (B2) ARCHITECTURE (AVAILABLE FOR LEVEL TWO AND ABOVE)

- Enhanced interoperability through the B2 Architecture allows Blackboard 5 to integrate with third party systems and tools that are developed independently of the Blackboard platform.
- Blackboard Platform Builder™ provides additional module development capabilities allowing an institution's design engineers to create customizable modules for the portal interface. (Available as a licensing option for Level Two and above.)

### PRODUCT SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

In preparation for release 5.5, Blackboard Product Support Solutions has completely redesigned the Product Support Web site to include expanded and intuitive functionality, additional documentation, and an improved internal search engine allowing all users to find information quickly and efficiently. The site also provides a new Knowledge Base with all relevant product documentation, such as:

- Comprehensive Release Notes
- Hardware and Software Requirements
- Installation and Configuration Manuals
- Administrator, Instructor, and Student User Manuals
- Data Integration Manual
- Product Overview White Paper

To learn more or to upgrade to release 5.5 of Blackboard 5, please visit:

**<http://support.blackboard.com>**. Please note that you will require a username, password, and client ID to access this site.



***For general information regarding Blackboard products and services, please contact a Blackboard representative at 1.800.424.9299 (+1 202-463-4860) or visit [www.blackboard.com](http://www.blackboard.com)***

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### BLACKBOARD CLIENTS

***1,800 Worldwide including:***

Arizona State University

California State University Dominguez Hills

Columbia University-Teachers College

Cornell University

Florida State University

FT Knowledge

Georgetown University

Maricopa Community College District

Mortgage Bankers Association of America

Public Broadcasting System (PBS)

Seneca College (Canada)

Temple University

University of Huddersfield (UK)

University of Southern California

University of Tennessee

Wayne RESA

Worcester Polytechnic Institute