

Social Learning Tools Release Notes: May 2014

Release Basics


Building Block: Social Learning Tools

Launch Date: May 28, 2014

Release Mechanism: Automatic cloud deployment

Minimum Learn Version: Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack (SP) 10

License Requirement: North American Higher Education (NAHE) License

 *After the release to the Cloud production central services, the Enhanced Cloud Profile will be available immediately to all users of the Cloud Profile on NAHE Learn instances.*


Release Highlights

The Enhanced Cloud Profile for Blackboard Learn provides students with their first professional profiles. The added features help users demonstrate competencies they have developed through their educational journeys in a visual and uniquely compelling way. Leveraging the MyEdu profile experience, the Enhanced Cloud Profile will allow students to showcase the following:

- Work Experiences
- Projects
- Membership in Organizations
- Competencies

Students access the new Enhanced Cloud Profile by navigating to their profile in Blackboard Learn. A wizard walks them through the setup process. All previous information students have entered is retained and used in their new Enhanced Cloud Profiles.

- Instructors and administrators can choose to not connect their profiles to MyEdu.
- Profiles now have a cover page that includes tiles that highlight knowledge and competencies.
- Competencies level up as they are associated to work experience and projects. This shows how advanced a student is at the competency.
- New profile cards include the top eight tiles.
- There are more privacy setting options that include employers and web searches.

 *Users accessing profiles for the first time, or the first time after the update, are taken through a guided registration process.*

Versions and Installation Order

The building blocks listed below are a recommended update for the Enhanced Profiles functionality, but they are not required. However, they are **required** in order for Course Delivery Only licenses to have full access to Social Profiles and Tools.

The building blocks will be released through Software Updates on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 12 p.m. US Eastern (GMT -4). A new version of Software Updates, Cloud Profiles, and Social Profiles and Tools will appear as building block updates in the Software Updates module within 24 hours. If needed, the building blocks may also be downloaded from Behind the Blackboard.

Install the released building blocks in the following order:

1. **Software Updates:**

- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 10 and SP 11 version 3.7.6
- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 12 and later version 3.8.6 or higher

2. **Cloud Profiles Building Block:**

- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 10 and SP 11 version 3.7.6
- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 12 and later version 3.8.6 or higher

3. **Social Profiles and Tools Building Block:**

- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 10 and SP 11 version 3.7.6
- Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP 12 and later version 3.8.6 or higher

Blackboard Learn Requirements

- For **Enhanced Cloud Profiles**, the following requirements must be met:
 - Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack 10 (9.1.100401.0) or higher (North America Higher Education (NAHE) license required)
 - Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Software Updates recommended
 - Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Cloud Profiles Building Block recommended
 - Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Social Profiles and Tools Building Block recommended
 - Turn on “Cloud Profiles and Tools” in Administrator Panel > Cloud Profiles and Tools
- For **Social Profiles and Tools**, the following requirements must be met:

- Blackboard Learn 9.1 Service Pack 10 (9.1.100401.0) or higher
- Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Software Updates
- Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Cloud Profiles Building Block
- Version 3.7.6 or 3.8.6 of Social Profiles and Tools Building Block
- Turn on “Social Profiles and Tools” in Administrator Panel > Cloud Profiles and Tools

Connecting to the Cloud

Bidirectional communication to the Cloud Services is required. If you are running Blackboard from behind a firewall as a test server or for security reasons, the firewall must be opened to use these features. For more information on how to configure your firewall see the article [Blackboard Cloud IP Addresses](#).

Known Issue

Arabic is not yet a supported language in the Enhanced Cloud Profile.

Resolved Issue

- For Enhanced Profiles, the administrator option to disable the Facebook and Twitter account connection option for users has been removed. The Facebook and Twitter connection was a one-time sync of avatar and description. Instead, connection to social networks is now a free form entry of the handle on a tile. This tile simply provides a link to the entered handle on the social network.

Default State

Cloud Profiles and Tools must be turned on to see Profiles.

Roles

- Instructors and administrators can choose to not have their profiles connected to MyEdu.
- Profiles is designed primarily for students as an education resume.

End-User Feature Guide

The [Cloud Profile End-User Feature Guide](#) (available in English only) provides an overview of each of the new end-user profile features. You can customize and combine it with other feature guides as needed to meet your institution's needs.