

Learn SaaS Release Notes: v2015.1.0-3.0

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v2015.3.0

 *Test environments updated approximately November 23, 2015.
Production environments updated approximately December 7, 2015.*

Release Summary


This release contains over 120 bug fixes, with a heavy emphasis on improvements to Ultra Discussions, Roster, and Gradebook, as well as overall system performance. For example:

- **Accessibility:** Modest fixes for users who are navigating the Ultra experience with a keyboard or screen reader
- **Discussions:** Modest fixes to discussions in the Ultra Course View

- **Security:** A patch was deployed to fix a security vulnerability that allowed access to a list of an institution's Blackboard users, with names and email addresses.
- **Grading in the Ultra experience:**
 - Instructors can now navigate directly from the Activity Stream to grade assignment submissions
 - Instructors "Needs Grading" page now indicates the correct submission date for student assignments

New Features and Updates

Name	Description
Goal Performance Dashboard	<p>A competency-based education Building Block to map goals to courses within Learn. The Goal Performance Dashboard evaluates evidence of competencies individually, allowing for true measurement of mastery.</p> <p>Learn more about Goal Performance Dashboard.</p>
Grades Journey	<p>Grades Journey integrates your institution's Student Information System with Learn. Grades Journey allows you to exchange grade information between two separate systems.</p> <p>Learn more about Grades Journey.</p>
Notifications	<p>Certain clients may have experienced performance issues and outages when common notification queries were processed on their servers. This release addresses many of these issues.</p>
Announcement Date Restriction Default	<p>When creating an announcement, "Not Date Restricted" is now selected by default.</p>
Escaping Special Characters	<p>When a user uploads a file to Learn and the filename contains special characters (such as / \ : ? * " < >), the system replaces the special character with an underscore (_).</p>
Content Folders	<p>A hotfix is available for clients who are experiencing difficulty accessing content folders within their system.</p> <p>More information on Behind the Blackboard.</p>
Browser Support	<p>Learn SaaS now supports the Microsoft Edge browser. Some new browser releases no longer support NPAPI plugins. Without these plugins, some Learn features may not render correctly.</p>

Name	Description
	<p>More on Browser Support in the Original Experience.</p> <p> <i>This topic is in the Learn 9.1 2014 and later section. Use your browser's back function to return here.</i></p> <p>More on Browser Support in the Ultra Experience.</p>
HTML5 Support	The Content Editor now supports HTML5 Audio and Video playback in Chrome and Edge browsers.
WebEQ Conversion	ANGEL and WebCT Vista packages will convert WebEQ match equations to WIRIS.
Discussion Threads	Users can navigate from thread to thread without having to return to the main Discussions page.

Building Block Updates

Collaborate

When installing or upgrading to Collaborate Ultra on your Blackboard Learn instance, administrators should now contact Blackboard Support. Submit a ticket to finalize the upgrade. For more information, visit the [Collaborate integrations page](#) on Blackboard Help.

SafeAssign

The SafeAssign Building Block version 4.0.13 is now bundled with Learn SaaS.

Fixed issues include:


- The "submit as draft" option can now be cleared on DirectSubmit when canceling action
- Usernames containing international characters are now able to access DirectSubmit
- Changed error message to correctly display max file size for uploads
- Fixed an issue related to copying courses and duplicating assignment connections to SafeAssign

For more details, visit the [release notes on Behind the Blackboard](#).

Blackboard Open Content (formerly xpLor)

For K-12 clients only, the Blackboard Open Content Building Block version 2.0.10.1 is now bundled with Learn SaaS.

v2015.2.0

 *Production environments updated approximately November 10, 2015. Test environments updated approximately October 29, 2015.*

Highlights of the Release

This release is primarily focused on quality, fixing issues in both the Ultra experience and Original experience of Blackboard Learn, as well as accessibility and language pack improvements. Other notable items include a change to the process for enabling the Ultra experience, enhanced features in Learning Analytics, and updates to building blocks.

Enable Ultra

- **Enabling Ultra:** The Administrator workflow was changed. Now, if you want to [enable the Ultra experience](#) on your production environment, submit a ticket to Blackboard Support on behind.blackboard.com. A Blackboard representative will contact you.

Building Blocks

- **PowerSchool SIS Central Integration:** As part of the innovative classroom, SIS Central provides bi-directional integration between all Blackboard Learn deployment options and the PowerSchool Student Information System. This integration provides a hands-free, seamless synchronization of users, classes, enrollments, assignments, and grades between Learn and PowerSchool. For K-12 clients only, the SIS Central Building Block version 3.0.0.0 is now bundled with Learn SaaS.

Other new functionality includes:

- Support for Parent/Child (merged) courses between Learn and SIS
- A new backend filter for first-time customer setup so that only current courses created in PowerSchool after a certain date are created in Learn
- PowerSchool 9.0 compatibility with SIS Central is verified

For more details, visit the [release notes for SIS Central](#).

- **Mobile Building Block:** The Mobile Learn Building Block has been updated to include new features and resolved issues. This impacts users of Blackboard Learn with a SaaS deployment who are concurrently using a mobile app such as Bb Student. For more information, read the [documentation on Mobile Web Services release version 94.7.4](#).
- **Respondus B2:** The Respondus Lockdown Browser Building Block has been added to the Learn SaaS environment. The building block is set to **inactive** by default. Administrators interested in enabling

features of the building block need to set it to active in the **Administrator Panel > Building Blocks** section and work with Respondus to obtain the necessary registration information for their Blackboard Learn instance. The building block may not function properly without contacting the vendor.

- **Internships B2:** This building block was removed at the request of the vendor. Please contact **Internships.com** for more information.

Quality

Enhancements addressed a series of stability and accessibility issues in Course Roster, Assignments, Calendar, and the Course Convert/Import process. Specific improvements are called out below.

Ultra experience

- Assignments: Students can successfully submit assignments through OneDrive.
- Mobile navigation:
 - Android tablet navigation improved.
 - Larger hit area on buttons at mobile breakpoints.
- Accessibility: Fix to inform assistive technologies of content changes.
- Learning Analytics: Notifications have been refined to better target students struggling in a course. Inside their course, these students can submit a request to their instructor for a study partner. Students can also volunteer to help if they are performing well in the course. More information about this enhancement can be found on the [Blackboard Blog](#).

Original experience


Enhancements focused on the reliability and stability of the most heavily used course features, including Assessments, Collaborate, Discussion Board, and Grading.

- Grading:
 - Instructors can enable delegated graders correctly.
 - Randomized delegated graders are truly random.
 - Instructors can save drafts in the grading panel of Discussions, Blogs, and Journals correctly.
- Portfolios: Students can embed video files in portfolios that render correctly.

- Accessibility: Fix to inform assistive technologies of content changes.

To find details on Known Issues in Learn SaaS, visit [Behind the Blackboard](#) and use the filters to select SaaS under "Release."

v2015.1.0

 Test environments were automatically updated with this release on September 1, 2015.

Highlights of the Release

This release is focused on quality improvements in the technical preview of the Ultra experience. These fixes focused primarily on the following areas:

- **Gradebook, assignments, and calendar:** A number of issues in these foundational workflows in the Ultra experience were fixed, improving the reliability and stability of these areas.
- **Responsive design and browser support:** In the technical preview release, we communicated that there were some known problems with how the Ultra experience was displayed on certain browsers and at smaller screen sizes. This release significantly improves the support of responsive design across browsers, but additional work is required in this area, which is planned for a future release.
- **Accessibility:** We communicated previously that the technical preview release of Learn Ultra had more work to be done in the area of accessibility. Accordingly, this release includes a number of fixes to improve the accessibility of Learn Ultra. Additional work is planned in this area, which will be communicated in a future release.
- **User interface and workflow fixes:** We also fixed several general problems regarding the Learn Ultra user interface to ensure a visually consistent experience across multiple workflows.