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Collaborate Update - Dec 2015

Here's everything you need to know about the **December 2015** release of Blackboard Collaborate with the Ultra experience.

Date Available

The December 2015 release became available on the following dates.

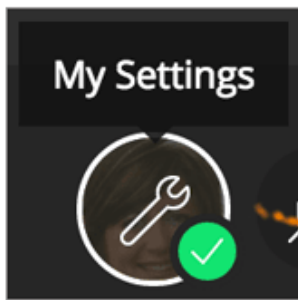
- Monday, December 28 in European and Australian data centers
- Tuesday, December 29 U.S. and Canadian data centers

What's New and Improved


We're ending the calendar year with a bang as we continually improve the teaching and learning experience with Collaborate. In this release we focused on features allowing you to extend use case support for larger classes, giving students the ability to call into the session from a phone, and providing a chat channel just for session moderators. We also updated the scheduling experience. All of this in time for your first 2016 term!

Call Into a Session

Now moderators and participants can call into a session using their phone. Each phone user is identified as a full session participant. No more wondering who is speaking on the phone line. A great benefit for students with less than ideal internet conditions.



My Settings




✓ Present ▼

Audio and Video Settings ^

Set Up your Camera and Microphone

Display Closed Captions (when available)



Use your phone for audio.

[Generate Number](#)

➔ [More on calling into a session](#)



Due to an unforeseen networking issue in Canada, we were unable to roll out Teleconferencing for Ultra to our Canadian hosted clients only. We will fix the issue in a future maintenance window.

Blackboard app

Collaborate with the Ultra experience is included in the Blackboard app on iOS and Android devices. Moderators need to use Collaborate with the Ultra experience in order for participants to collaborate in the app. Collaborate with the Original experience is not supported.

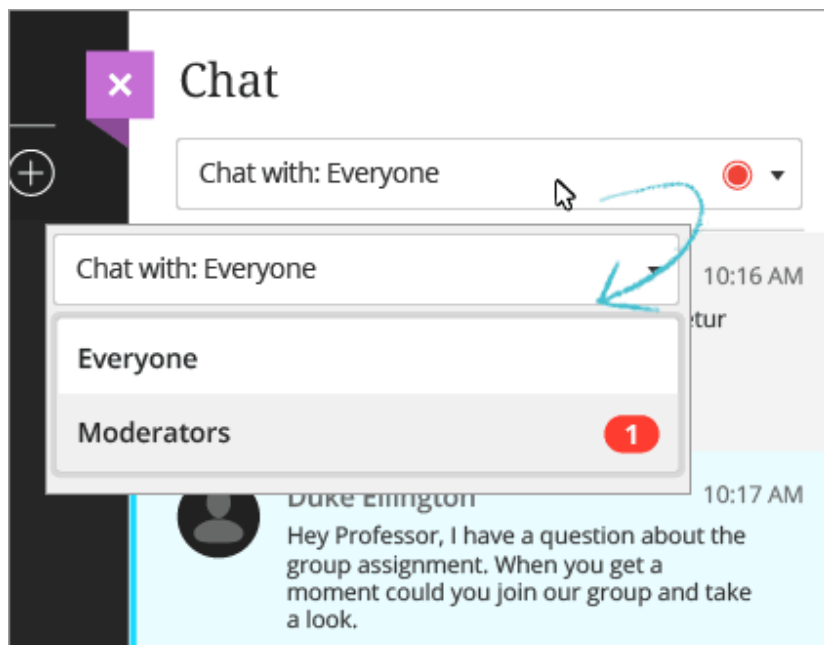
➔ [More on using Collaborate in the Blackboard app](#)

Meet With Up to 100 Participants

Host sessions with up to 100 participants! You can now use Ultra for those larger class sizes. With the first term in 2016 right around the corner, we suggest updating your virtual class experience to Ultra so students can benefit the fully browser-based, high-quality Ultra experience.

Have a Private Chat With Other Moderators

Moderators can now chat with each other in a private chat channel while in session. Collaborate makes it really easy to switch between chatting with moderators and chatting with everyone in the session.



➞ [More on chat for moderators](#)

A New Scheduling Experience


Moderators enjoy a new look and feel with scheduling sessions and viewing recordings in 26 different languages. After switching to the Ultra experience of the Session Administration System (SAS) you'll encounter an intuitive design for scheduling sessions in the Ultra experience and viewing recordings. You can easily switch back and forth between scheduling Ultra experience and Original experience of Collaborate (12.6) sessions any time.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Collaborate interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation options: Profile, Sessions (highlighted with an orange box), Recordings, Logout, and Back to original experience. The main content area is titled 'Sessions' and contains a table with columns for Name, Starts, and Ends. The table lists three sessions: 'The Situation Room', 'Biology 101', and 'Anatomy & Physiology 201', all starting on 9/8/15. A 'New Session' modal is open on the right, showing event details such as start and end times (8/3/15, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM), repeat options (Repeat Weekly, Every Week), a day selector (Monday is selected), and an 'End After Occurrences' field set to 10. At the bottom of the modal are 'Delete' and 'Save & Send' buttons.

Name	Starts	Ends
The Situation Room	9/8/15, 12:57 PM	9/8/15
Biology 101	9/8/15, 12:57 PM	9/8/15
Anatomy & Physiology 201	9/8/15, 12:58 PM	9/8/15

You'll also get a basic profile page where you can edit your account information - without the Java plugin!

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Collaborate user interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the Blackboard Collaborate logo and navigation options: Profile (highlighted with a red box), Sessions, Recordings, Logout, and Back to original experience. The main content area is titled 'Duke Ellington' and contains an 'Account Info' section. This section lists 'Personal Info' (Duke Ellington), 'Password' (masked with asterisks), and 'Language' (English). Each item has an edit icon (pencil) to its right. At the bottom left of the sidebar, there is a copyright notice: ©2001-2015 Blackboard Inc. and its subsidiary companies. All rights reserved. (collab-chariot.bbpd.io) Terms of Use, Privacy Policy, Rules of Conduct and Cookie Policy.

 This is an introduction to the Ultra experience for Collaborate administrative functionality. Like the Ultra session experience, we'll continue adding functionality to this interface over time, eventually replacing the current SAS interface entirely.

 [More on the new scheduling experience for moderators](#)

A New Experience In LTI Compatible LMS

If you are using Collaborate in your Learning Tools Interoperability® (LTI) compliant Learning Management System (LMS) you enjoy the new look and feel of the Ultra scheduling experience automatically.

Schedule sessions and view recordings from your course.




Blackboard Collaborate



Beth Carlson

Sessions

Recordings

Sessions

[Show All Upcoming Sessions](#)   

Name	Starts	Ends	
Biology 101	6/17/15, 11:22 AM	N/A	 

[More on the new experience for your courses](#)

User Experience Improvements

We hear you. Many of you have requested some user experience improvements over the past few months. We've added a few of these in this December update, including:

- The whiteboard eraser is now only available to moderators. Other participants can select and erase their own annotation.
- The whiteboard pointer now remains enabled when progressing through slides and images.
- There is now a chat notification sound and setting

WebRTC Experience in Firefox

This December release originally had Firefox WebRTC support included. Unfortunately, Firefox v43, the version we had anticipated supporting, has an unresolved stability issue that we consider unacceptable for our customers. Firefox users will continue to use the Flash plugin with the December release. We will work to resolve this issue and release Firefox WebRTC support as quickly as possible.

What's Fixed

We resolved many known issues.

[More on resolved issues](#)

Known Issues

They say Rome was not built in a day. The following link identifies the known defects and workarounds in Collaborate with the Ultra experience.

[More on current known issues](#)

[Collaborate Ultra Resolved Issues - Dec 2015](#)

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