

Reflections on Moving from Blackboard Version 8 to 9.1

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May 2011



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- The process of testing Learn version 9.1
- Issues encountered
- The involvement of learners and staff
- The process of communicating changes and offering training to teaching staff and learners



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Background

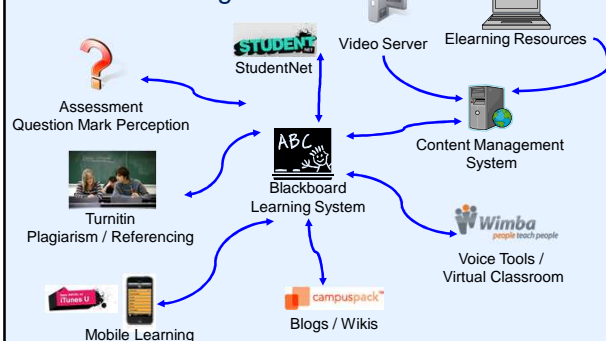
- [Wide variety of activity](#)
- Blackboard embedded appropriately in all college courses
- Version 8 stable and very reliable
- High usage and student satisfaction



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Aberdeen College VLE



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Other Considerations

- Windows 7 – college moving in August
- QMP – upgrading to Version 5
- Small scale look at Mobile



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The Plan – February to August 2011

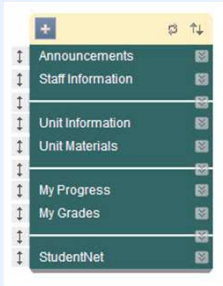
- Identify what's new
- Test new functionality and tools
- Test Building blocks
- Customisation – [log in](#), college theme
- Compare BB tools with other licensed tools (Learning Objects, Turnitin)
- Create communication and training plan
- Install production - post installation testing
- Ongoing training and support



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Default Course Menu



Issues Encountered

- [Known issues](#)
- Announcement emails – multiple footers
- Home page
- Manage My Courses

Issue	Key	Resolution	Began	Fixed
Announcements email has multiple footers	AS-155844	Patch provided	SP4	SP7
Early Warning System - Students Do Not Receive Early Warning System Notices in Alerts Module.* There are no Alerts displayed for the student, but the Assignment appears in What's Past Due.	AS-149411		Release 9.0 SP3	Planned for 9.1 SP7
Needs Attention - Needs Attention Module Does Not Match Needs Grading Status. Module is showing that student whose assignment has been graded is still shown in Needs Grading status.	AS-159869		Release 9.1 SP4	Planned for Unknown
Students Notifications for Past Due and Early Warning System Items do Not Display in Alerts Module	AS-154307		Release 9.1 SP1 HF1	Planned for 9.1 SP7
Modules cannot be personalized after properties are edited on Systems without a Community license. The gear to personalize the My Courses Module disappears after the module properties are edited	AS-151966 AS-152077	SQL – update	SP3	SP6

Comparisons

- Blackboard blogs and wikis v Learning Objects
- [Safe Assign versus Turnitin](#)

Student and Staff Involvement

- VLE Support team - February onwards
- Volunteer lecturers and learners – May onwards
- Representatives from all teams – June onwards
- All learners and staff – August onwards

Communication and Training

- Announcement of proposed changes
- Drip feeding – [newsletters](#), college update, core brief
- Representatives from all teams – face to face briefing / workshops
- Learners informed via StudentNet in May
- Student Induction in August

Any Questions / Comments?



Image from Flickr
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