Information on Blackboard Service Pack 14 Upgrade in Summer 2014

To keep up to date with Blackboard new features and system improvements, we will upgrade Blackboard to its Service Pack 14 over the summer. The upgrade requires a few steps of progressive updates in the system. Most updates will take place in the background and have a minimal impact on front user interface; users will see the same interface with some enhancement. The following are the detailed schedule for upgrade and updates, pre-view and training for your information:

Monday, May 12, 10pm to Tuesday, May 13, 1am, and Week of May 19

Text Messaging Feature
To utilize the new text messaging service of Blackboard, security on Blackboard must be enhanced. Between 10pm on Monday, May 12 and 1am on Tuesday, May 13, a Symantec SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Certificate will be installed to allow sensitive information such as login credentials to be transmitted securely.

As a result of SSL Certificate installation, the Web address for Blackboard will become https://bb.bloomfield.edu. If you have bookmarked the Blackboard url, you will need to update the bookmark to continue accessing Blackboard directly.

Setting up the new Blackboard one-way text message service will take about one week and will take place during the week of May 19. This free Blackboard service allows instructors to push announcements within Blackboard courses to students’ cellphones as text message Information. To receive text messages from Blackboard courses, users must register their cellphone number within Blackboard. The cellphone numbers will only stay within Blackboard server on campus. Users can cancel cellphone number registration any time within Blackboard as well. Instructions on text messaging will be available after May 23.

Tuesday, June 3

Preview of Blackboard Service Pack 14
Service Pack 14 will be available for preview on our test server after June 3. We will upgrade our Blackboard Test Server to Service Pack 14 first. Installation on the test server enable fine tuning of the system and testing of new features before installation on the Blackboard Production Server used for actual course delivery. All instructors can use their current Blackboard credentials to log in the test server to experience new features in Blackboard SP 14. The URL for the Bb test server is https://bbtest.bloomfield.edu.

Information and instructions on new features in SP 14 will also be available to students before June 30.

Training on new features on SP 14 will be provided throughout the summer. Blackboard training schedule for faculty and students is provided at the end of this document.

Monday, June 30, 10pm to Tuesday, July 1, 6am
Service Pack 14 Upgrade – Blackboard unavailable
Blackboard will be unavailable between 10pm on Monday, June 30 and 6am on Tuesday, July 1st for the Service Pack 14 upgrade to the production server. Faculty and students especially involved in Summer 2, AC Summer 2nd and Trimester need to plan Blackboard access accordingly. We apologize for any inconvenience this will cause.

**Blackboard SP 14 New Features and Improvements**
The following are major features that will enhance your use of Blackboard. Click the links below to learn more about each feature.

**Accessibility Improvements**

**Test and Survey Options**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36TBDFwYbZs (YouTube Video)

**Test Access Log**

**Course Messages Notifications**

**Groups Management**

**Achievements**


**Grade Center Improvements**
[https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_14/Administrator/010_Release_Notes/025_SP14_Release_Notes/000_SP_14_New_Features/Grade_Center_Improvements](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_14/Administrator/010_Release_Notes/025_SP14_Release_Notes/000_SP_14_New_Features/Grade_Center_Improvements)

**Inline Grading**
Blackboard Training Schedule

Title: What's New in Blackboard Service Pack 14?
In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to use the new features in their courses and experience the new features as a student user.

Location: CTLT Technology Lab, Library Room L07

**June**
- Monday, June 9, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Thursday, June 12, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- Tuesday, June 17, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Wednesday, June 25, 10:30am – 12:00pm

**July**
- Tuesday, July 1, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Monday, July 7, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Wednesday, July 15, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- Thursday, July 24, 10:30am – 12:00pm

**August**
- Tuesday, August 12, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Wednesday, August 13, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- Monday, August 25, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Tuesday, August 26, 10:30am – 12:00pm

**In-Class Blackboard Orientation for Students**
Instructors can request an in-class Blackboard orientation for their classes. Each session should take no more than 40 minutes. Orientation can be customized to meet class requirements.

To set up in-class orientation, please Contact Yifeng Bai, Director/Center for Teaching and Learning with Technology.

**Contact**
Yifeng Bai
Director/CTLT
Library Room L09
Yifeng_bai@bloomfield.edu
973-743-5084 ext. 1790