

## Do More. Know More.

EFFICIENCY, IMPROVED INSIGHT,  
OPENNESS AND INSTRUCTIONAL  
SUPPORT IN SERVICE PACK 8

Blackboard Learn<sup>TM</sup>, Service Pack 8 has a new look that is visually stunning yet still familiar. SP8 makes it easier for new users to start teaching online and more enjoyable for everyone: students, teachers, and administrators alike. SP8 improves workflows for both educators and administrators, increases openness and flexibility with new technologies, and provides improved insight and instructional support across the entire education experience.

- **Educators will save time on core administrative workflows like grading, assessments, and course management.**
- **Instructors, administrators, and academic leaders will gain increased insight into learning outcomes.**
- **Administrators can streamline course management as well as more easily delegate administration and integrate with their systems.**

### SP8 At A Glance

NEW FEATURES		ENHANCEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automated Regrading</li> <li>• Negative Marking</li> <li>• Merge Enrollments</li> <li>• Course-to-Course Navigation</li> <li>• Term Support</li> <li>• Student Activity Reports</li> <li>• Standards Alignment and Performance Reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard Learn 2012 Theme</li> <li>• Course Structures &amp; Themes</li> <li>• Quick Setup Guide</li> <li>• Institutional Hierarchy: Phase II</li> <li>• File Alignment to Standards, Objectives and Goals</li> <li>• Building Block Management</li> <li>• Authentication Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in Handling Mini-Websites and File Packages</li> <li>• Improved Orphaned Content Tool</li> <li>• Improved Archive / Export with Files from Content Management</li> <li>• SIS Integration Framework</li> <li>• Basic LTI Update</li> <li>• Improved Installer</li> </ul>
Bug Fixes and Perfective Maintenance		

# SP8 introduces new features and enhancements across the entire Blackboard Learn platform. See some highlights below.

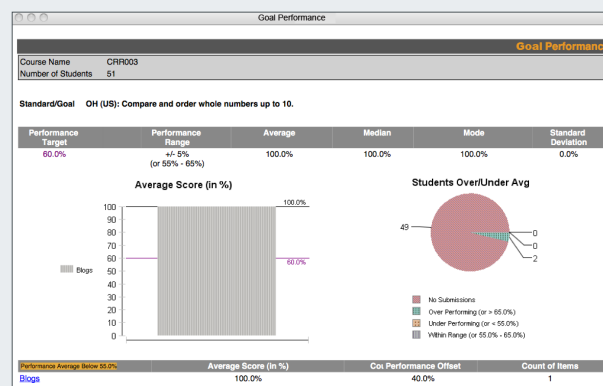
## COURSE DELIVERY

In SP8, Course Delivery introduces new features that help increase overall efficiency for all users, provide more visibility and improved insight into student learning and streamline core workflows through improved instructional support.

### Standards Alignment and Performance Reporting

Release 9.1 introduced standards alignment and reporting for K-12 districts and schools. SP8 builds on that foundation and provides instructors with a complete Standards Alignment and Reporting toolset. New with SP8, instructors and administrators have the ability to:

- Create and add custom standards, providing more flexibility in the standards alignment process.
- Report on student performance against aligned standards, via the Course Performance report and others, providing greater visibility into the achievement of learning outcomes.



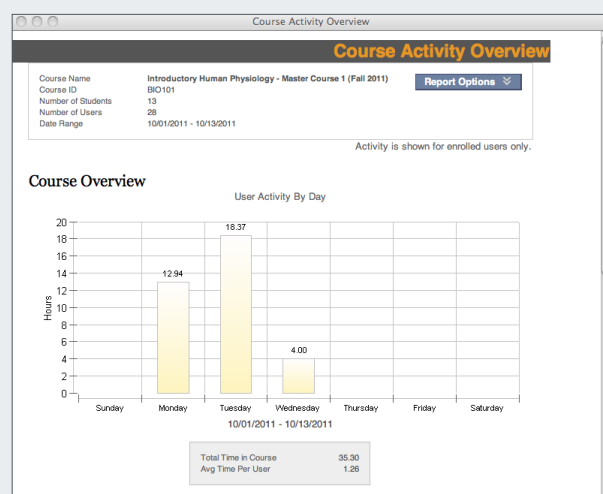
Goal coverage reports show instructors and administrators how course content aligns to stated learning objectives. These have been available since Release 9.1 but the reports have been updated significantly.

Reporting against standards provides instructors, administrators and academic leaders true insight into overall student performance as well as school-wide or district-wide performance.

### Student Activity Reporting

Schools and districts, particularly those with strong distance learning departments, need to know how their instructors and students are using their online courses and materials. This information is critical to managing the district, maximizing student retention and performance and is, in many cases, required by sanctioning or funding bodies that support or regulate the schools.

The Activity Reports in SP8 are available for both administrators and instructors. Administrators can generate reports for any course in the system and all users. Instructor reports are limited to their individual courses and the students enrolled in those courses.

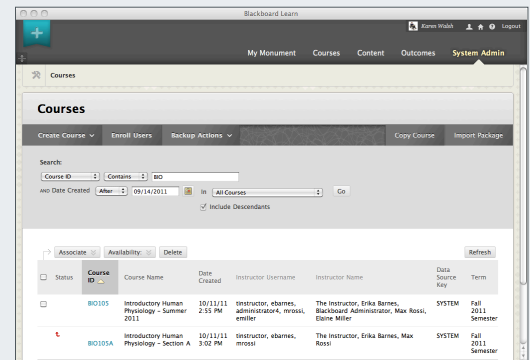


## Course Relationship Management

Blackboard has a series of tools to assist with course management, increasing instructor and system administrator efficiency. The process for the management of multiple courses has been centralized through a merge enrollments feature that supports two major use cases: Cross-Listed Courses and Multi-Section Management.

### Merge Enrollments: Cross-Listing

Cross-listing refers to single courses that are represented by more than one course catalog entry, such that instructors have students from two different programs taking the same course. After the courses have been merged by the system administrator (resulting in them being cross-listed) the end result would be a relationship between a Parent (master) course and a Child course. Once the system administrator merges enrollments for the courses, instructors are able to manage all students in that course from one location, regardless of their program.



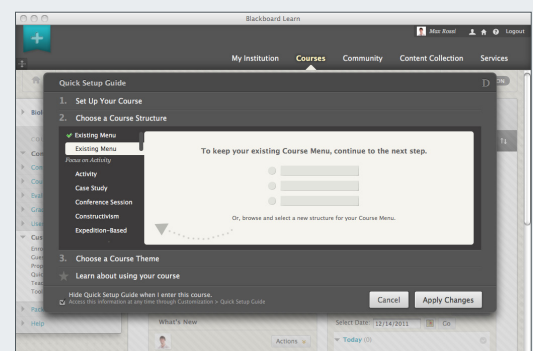
### Merge Enrollments: Multi-Section Management

In order to manage a course with multiple sections, the system administrator can set up a course shell and merge the master course roster and all the sections together. Instructors are then able to manage content, courses, grades, and communication for all sections from one central location.

## Course Structures & Themes

Course Structures and Themes, which started in CourseSites, enables instructors to build courses that better match the pedagogy goals of their course and improve their students' experience within that class. These tools make it simple for instructors to take advantage of Blackboard Learn's customization options within the course.

When Instructors first log into the system, they are presented with a Quick Setup Guide that shows them help information on set-up and course building. They can then select their Course Structure, Sample Content, and Course Theme.



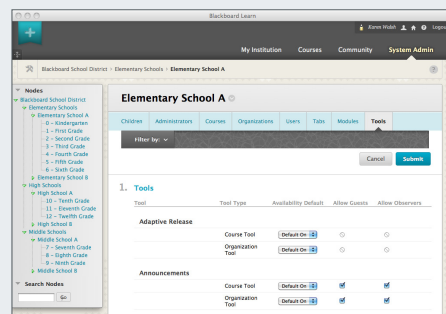
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Phase II of Institutional Hierarchy for Delegated Administration

Institutional Hierarchy, introduced in Service Pack 6, allows administrators to model their organizational structure in Blackboard Learn in order to delegate administrative privileges in a way that parallels that real-world structure.

With SP6, the Institutional Hierarchy feature provided the ability to delegate management of Users, Courses, and Organizations by Node in the hierarchy. SP8 rounds out this Institutional Hierarchy feature by providing the ability to delegate management of Tabs, Modules, and Tool / Building Block Availability by Node.

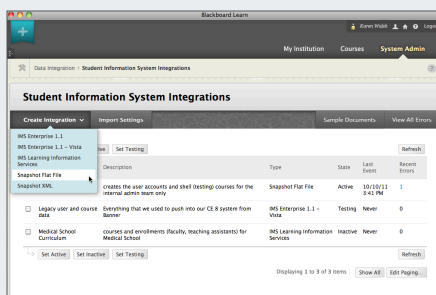
Administrators can now provide different parts of their institution (e.g., different schools, departments, grades, etc.) with the flexibility to manage their own Portal presence, Tools, and Building Blocks in the Blackboard Learn platform. As a result, administration is more efficient and flexible, especially when supporting multiple organizational units with different needs on a single instance of Blackboard Learn.



## TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS

With SP8, Blackboard continues in standards leadership and commitment to openness and interoperability.

**The SIS Integration Framework:** The SIS Integration Framework in SP8 provides users with a simplified interface for configuring, managing and maintaining SIS integrations, helping to lower costs, shorten development time, and integrate GUI management and SIS interoperability. With Blackboard Consulting's SIS Integration Mentoring program, Blackboard Consulting will provide business rules and configuration expertise to get institutions up and running faster and easier.



**The Authentication Framework:** The new Authentication Framework in SP8 makes authentication configurations easier and will ultimately save institutions time and money when integrating Learn with different authentication providers. Blackboard Consulting can also help with the authentication framework setup process with their Authentication Mentoring Program.

**Improved Installer:** An improved installation process in SP8 saves Learn administrators time, which ultimately saves money on IT resources.

### New Standards supported in Service Pack 8 include:

- **Shibboleth and CAS** — Permits organizations to exchange information between systems about their users in a secure and private manner.
- **Basic LTI Update** — Gives educators the ability to integrate content from external tool providers into their course material within the Blackboard Learn course environment.

Support of these standards helps institutions in their quest for system interoperability. Besides standards support, Blackboard provides users with a number of integration technologies in the form of Web Services and Blackboard Building Blocks™ to help institutions integrate disparate systems.