Blackboard: Weeding and Seeding for the New Teaching Year

NUTELA 5 July 2018

Session outline

- Features of a well designed module

- "Seeding": tools you can use to enhance your module

- Activity: review a Blackboard module

What do students say?

"Make it more visually appealing. It's a bit depressing."

"Less clicking please. Too many folder in folders."

"Hard to find content on app. No descriptions."

"The announcements area is great. More likely to use this than my emails."

"Overall satisfied but would be better if more organised and more use made of tools available like the discussion boards."

"No instructions. Confusing layout."

"Content needs to be more clearly structured."

Blackboard Baseline

- Consistency across modules
- Guidance on availability of information and teaching resources
- Baseline on which modules can be developed beyond the minimum expectations

Full document available at
https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/elearning/blackboard/baseline/

What's in the baseline?

Automated content:

- VLE Presence
- Module information from MOFS
- Reading List
- Assessment information

Manually added content:

- Contact details
- Module handbook
- Learning materials
- Assessment and Feedback area
- Student Voice area

Consistency:
- Menu
- Structure and content names

Effective module design

Blackboard Baseline: enhancement

- Announcements tool
- Orientation guidance
- Online collaboration
- Blackboard tests
- Mobile accessibility

Mobile accessibility

- Clear titles and minimum clicks
- Include text web links to embedded content
- Avoid using symbols in titles/descriptions
- Mobile Compatible Tests
- Tables as PDF files
- Avoid Flash content
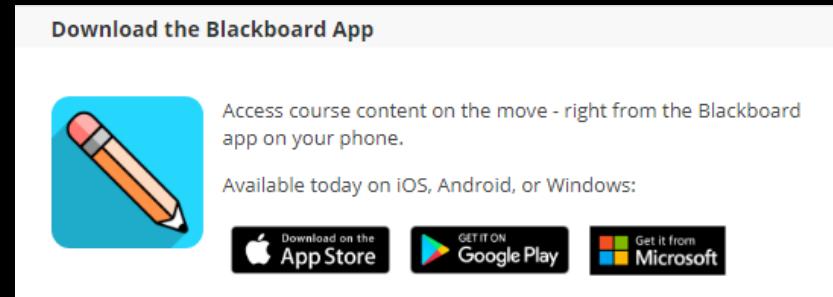
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Access course content on the move - right from the Blackboard app on your phone.

Available today on iOS, Android, or Windows:

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GET IT ON Google Play

Get it from Microsoft

Activity: reviewing a Blackboard module

- Work in pairs to review a module using the checklist handout

Learning and Teaching Development Service

Activity: reviewing a Blackboard module

- Work in pairs to review a module using the checklist handout

- If you've finished reviewing the module you could:
  - Download the Bb student app, and check how the module looks on a mobile device
  - Check out advice on designing accessible content https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Accessibility/Design_Accessible_Content

What did you find?

- Examples of effective practice
- Actions you have identified