

Getting Started with . . . Course Content

- 1** Create Item Content is stored in folders. The top-level folders that appear on the Course Menu are called Content Areas. Folders can include more than just content, they can hold links, tools, and other objects. It is possible to place Assignments and Tests in the same folder as content.
- 2** Build The Control Panel is the interface for managing the content, features, and appearance of a course or organization. It is accessible to users based on the privileges assigned to their Course Role. Students do not see the Control Panel.
- 3** Evaluate The Course Menu appears on the left side of a course page. It holds buttons or text links to Content Areas, Tools, and links. The Course Menu is usually arranged by subject or the order in which Students progress through the course.
- 4** Collaborate The Edit Mode button allows you to change the view of content on screen from the instructor's view (Edit Mode: On) to the student's view (Edit Mode: Off).
- 5** Edit Mode A detailed log file appears in the course after the import. Check under Packages and Utilities to view the log. It shows the places where data from the CE course was not brought over or was brought over incompletely.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard course interface for 'Intro to Oceanography' in 'Week 1'. At the top right, the 'Edit Mode' is set to 'ON'. The Course Menu is visible, with buttons for 'Create Item', 'Build', 'Evaluate', and 'Collaborate', each marked with a numbered circle (1-4). A 'Discover Content' button is also present. The main content area lists several items: 'Introduction - Read Me First' (marked 6), 'Chapter 1: The History of Ocean Exploration and Ocean Science' (marked 7), 'Tsunamis' (marked 8), 'Week 1 Assignment' (marked 8), 'Branches of Oceanography' (marked 9), and 'testing' (marked 9). The 'Branches of Oceanography' item includes an attached file 'oceanology.doc (24 Kb)'.

- 6** Item An Item is a file, folder, or other discrete piece of content.
- 7** Folder A Folder is the storage area for files and other folders.
- 8** Assignment An Assignment is a defined type of content that allows the Instructor to give users instructions and ask them to upload files to be managed and graded.
- 9** Course Tool or Link A Course Link is a shortcut from one place in a course to another location within the same course.

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Task	What You Need to Know	Steps to Accomplish
Create a Content Item	Content items are containers that display content directly on the page or link to content. For example, you can create and upload a package of HTML files or a slideshow and link to it.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select the preferred Content Area on the course menu. 2. Click Create Item on the action bar. 3. Type a brief name for the new content item. 4. Click Submit.
Attach a File to an Item	You can attach a file as a Link to a Content Collection Item, a Folder, a Link to a file, or an External Link.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the Create Item or Edit Item page, click Browse to locate the file. 2. Add multiple files using the Text Editor Attach File function. 3. Click Submit.
Control Access	<p>Control Access by setting a content item link or tool to available or unavailable. If marked available, the item will be visible to students. In this instance, availability can be restricted by date. If an item is unavailable, it does not appear, no matter what date settings are also given.</p> <p>More advanced access control can be set using Adaptive Release.</p>	<p>Add a Basic Adaptive Release Rule</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the Content Item's contextual menu select Adaptive Release. 2. Select any of the four types of criteria by filling in the information for each one. 3. Click Submit.
Add a Tool	Adding a tool can link to the tool itself or a specific instance of the tool. For example, you can link to the Discussion Board page that lists all forums, or you can link to an individual forum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Edit Mode, access a Content Area. 2. Point to Build and select Link to Tools Area. 3. On the Link to Tool page, select the tool. 4. Click Next. 5. On the Add Link page, enter a Link Name or leave the default name. 6. In the Text box, enter the text to appear under the link name in the Content Area. 7. Under Options, select Availability. 8. Click Submit.
Display Content as Items or Text	<p>In the Content Area, you can display the contents as "Show Icons and Text" or "Show Icons Only" View.</p> <p>In the "Show Icons and Text" view, you will see the corresponding icon with the content name and description.</p> <p>In the "Show Icons Only" view, you will see the corresponding icon and content name.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the Course Menu select Course Content. 2. Click the Action Link Icon beside the name of the content area. 3. Select Show Icons Only or Show Text Only.
Reorder Content	Items can be reordered using the drag and drop controls or by using the Keyboard Accessible Reordering Tool.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click the Keyboard Accessible Reordering Tool beside the Edit Mode button. 2. Select the item you wish to move in the list. 3. Use the up and down arrows below the title box or on your keyboard to adjust the order. 4. Click Submit.

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Track Usage	Tracking Reports area can be used by instructors to generate reports on the course usage and activity. Instructors can view specific Student's usage to determine if Students are actively using the course.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From the Course Menu select a Content Area.2. Select the Content Item where you want to apply the Tracking Report.3. From the Content Item's contextual menu select Tracking.4. Select Enable or Disable.5. Click Submit.
Apply Metadata	Content Metadata stores information about a piece of content.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From the Content Area select a Content Item.2. From the Content Item's contextual menu select Metadata.3. Complete the necessary fields for the General Information, Lifecycle Information, Technical Information, and Rights Management Information.4. Click Submit.
Link to Other Parts of a Course	In a Content Area, you can link to other parts of the course to provide quick access points to relevant materials and tools.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access a Content Area.2. Point to Build on the Action Bar, select Create Course Link.3. Enter a brief name for the Course Link.4. Specify the location of the file.5. Click Submit.

Glossary

Adaptive Release	Adaptive Release is a tool that customizes the release of content. With Adaptive Release you can control when and to whom course content is available. You create rules based on criteria to control the availability of content items to users.
Advanced Adaptive Release	Advanced Adaptive Release rules enable instructors to create an unlimited number of complex rules with multiple instances of the same criteria. Multiple rules can be applied to a single content item so that the same content can be released to students who meet the criteria for different rules.
Basic Adaptive Release	Basic Adaptive Release rules enable the instructor to create and edit one rule that is based on a limited number of criteria used to control the availability of a single piece of content.
Blogs	Blogs are a web-based communication tool for sharing thoughts and ideas with a broad audience. Blogs encourage feedback and discussion through comments.
Course Link	Course links are shortcuts from one place in a course to another location within the same course.
Discussion Board	Discussion Boards are a communication tool where users post and respond to messages in an open forum.
Edit Mode	Edit Mode is a button that toggles between the Instructor View, where content can be created and changed, and the Student View, which can be used to preview the content you include in the course.
External Links	External links link to Web sites outside the Blackboard Learn system.
Content Area	A Content Area is a top-level folder. Content Areas appear in the Course Menu and can contain content items, links, and other folders.
Journals	Journals are a private Web diary that can be shared with the instructor.
Metadata	Metadata is descriptive information about an item, wherein you can assign metadata values to suit your course content and pedagogical requirements. You can add the following types of metadata: Categories, Topics, Levels of Difficulty, and Keywords.
Offline Content	Offline Content is an instructor-created link from a course or organization which points to specific content on a CD-ROM or another external location, such as a Real Media server. The user viewing this content must have possession of the CD-ROM which contains the content or access rights to the external server.
Statistics Tracking	Statistics Tracking enables the system to record every instance that a user interacts with an item.
Text Editor	The Text Editor provides an interface resembling a word processor where you can format text, create tables, insert links to Web sites and files, add multimedia, and embed images.
Tool Link	A Tool Link connects users to a tool from within a content folder.