

What's new in Bb9?

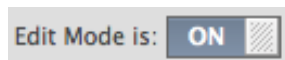


This document will give you a brief overview of the new and different features found in Bb9, and provide links to documents that will explain the use of these features.

General Remarks

Edit Mode

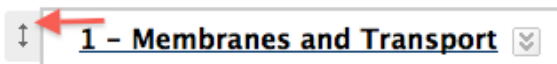
The three-tabbed approach of Build, Teach and Student View of Bb8 is no longer present in Bb9, instead we have a toggle for Edit Mode. This toggle is found near the top right of the Bb9 window:



With Edit Mode off, Bb9 will emulate the student experience, allowing you to see if your Adaptive Release criteria date criteria and others are functioning as you expect from a students point of view. This replaces Student View in Bb8. Edit mode on is very similar to the Build and Teach tabs of Bb8 combined.

Draggable Content

In Bb9 you are often able to move content around, change orders and rearrange content menus by simply dragging the handles at the side of the item. The handles look like this:



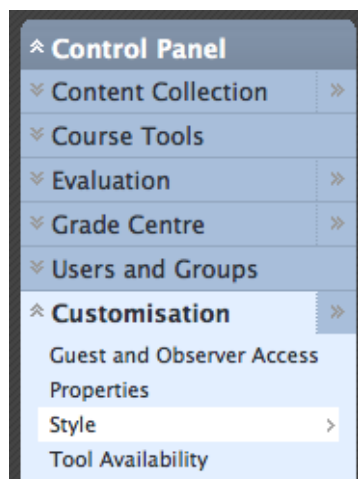
Landing page

The Bb9 landing page refers to the first page that your students will see when they enter your course. In the Standard Course Structure, this page is chosen to be the Noticeboard, where updates, announcements and due dates will be displayed to your students. If you are the Primary Instructor, you can change which page is the Landing Page in the Style menu, under Customisation. The option is called Select Course Entry Point:

4. Select Course Entry Point

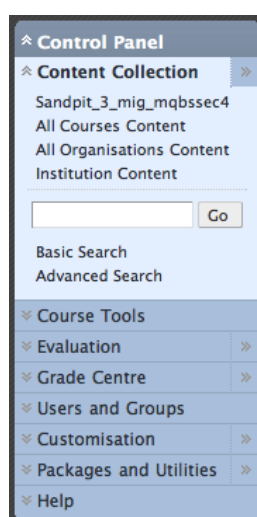
Select the first page users see when entering the Course from the list below.

Entry Point



Content Collection

The Content Collection replaces Bb8's File Manager. As before, each course has its own area, however now you can upload multiple files or whole folders from your pc to the content collection.



Please see further information on [Adding Content](#).

Adding multiple files

Users of the Content Collection now have the facility to upload multiple files or folders from their computer into the Content Collection. Rather than having to click upload and search for individual files, BB9 allows you to drag and drop whole folders or directory structures from your computer, to very quickly build up a structure of files within the Content Collection.

List View / Thumb View

There is now the option to change the display of your Content Collection between List View and Thumb View.



Grade Centre

(In depth information on the Grade Centre can be [found here](#))

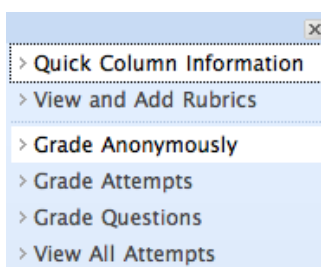
There are a few changes to the Grade Centre in Bb 9 including:

Ability to grade Blogs and Journals

When creating new blogs and journals, instructors can choose whether to grade posts and set a Points Possible amount. This will automatically create a column in the Grade Centre. Instructors are able to grade whilst in the blog or journal, or via the Grade Centre.

Option for anonymous grading of assignment and test submissions

Under a Grade Centre columns' contextual menu, instructors now have the option to **Grade Anonymously**. This will hide student names from the instructor and only after the grade has been submitted will the identity of the students be exposed.



Ability to grade by question attempt

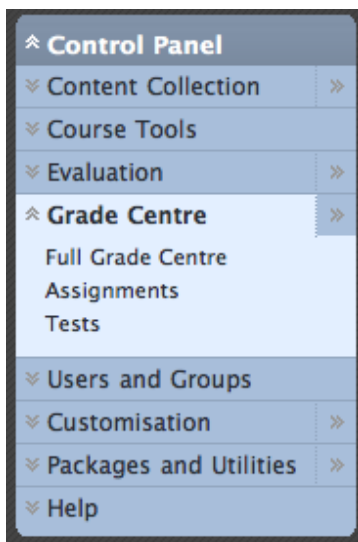
Instructors are now able to mark answers by question for all students as opposed to all questions by student.

Under a Grade Centre columns' contextual menu, choose to **Grade questions**. The instructor is presented with a list of all the questions and a number of responses. If they select the responses, they will see each answer given for that particular question.

There is also the ability to carry out this grading anonymously.

Favourite Smart Views added to Control Panel

Instructors can now set Smart views of the Grade Centre as favourites which will then display them in the Control Panel for ease of access.



More information on smart views can be [found here](#), while more in depth information on the Grade Centre can be [found here](#).

Instructor tools

In Blackboard Vista, designer and instructor tools would appear as menus below the Course Menu in the Build and Teach views. In Bb9 Course Management tools are always available to an instructor within the Control Panel. This appears to the instructor only, whether Edit Mode is On or Off.

New types of Content

Bb9 introduces several new types of content, which instructors can add to their course. These include:

Blackboard Wiki tool

Bb9 introduces a new wiki tool that has replaced the previously used Confluence Wiki.

For further information, please see our guidance using and building the [Blackboard Wiki tool](#), while a guide on assessing and grading Wiki contributions can be [found here](#).

Mashups

This allows the instructor to display third party applications within their course such as YouTube videos, Flickr photographs and SlideShare presentations.

For further information, please see our guidance on [using Mashups](#).

Blank (HTML) pages

This provides the user with similar access to the visual text editor function as in most items in Blackboard, but gives them control over the entire page rather than just the text area of an item.

Noticeboard

In Blackboard Vista the first page that a student or instructor saw on entering a course unit was called the home page which generally held text to welcome the student, along with links to collections of course materials.

In Bb9 the instructor has the ability to change which page students see first, for example they may wish to change this page as the Course progresses to focus attention to a task or area. By default newly activated courses shows a page called the Noticeboard. This contains a collection of modules that display automatically updated content to help students keep abreast of content additions and due dates through the use of notifications.

Email

The email tool in Bb9 is substantially improved over the email in Bb 8. Unlike Bb8, this tool actually sends emails to student's registered addresses (@student.manchester.ac.uk and others), and any replies will be directed to your University email account.

The email system is also linked in to the Grade Centre, so you can email groups of students directly. Combined with Smart Views, this can be used for emailing groups of students that have not met (or perhaps exceeded) certain parameters in the Grade Centre.