Blackboard Getting Started

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Setting up a course	1
Logging in to Blackboard	2
Working with a Blackboard Paper	3
Navigation Pane	
Control Panel	4
Sharing News	5
Making Announcements	5
Adding Content	6
Creating a Folder	6
Adding content to a folder	7
Adding Items	7
Add Web Links	9
Assignments	9
Editing Content Material	10
Collecting Assignments	11
Sending Email	11
Creating Tutorial Groups	12
Customising Blackboard	13
Customising the look	13
Cutomising Behaviour	14
Updating Staff	15
Appendix: typing macrons in Māori	16
Windows	
Mac OS X	17

## **AIMS AND INFORMATION**

# Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Connect to and use Blackboard
- Update course material
- Manage papers

# Compatibility

These notes are for both Mac and PC users.

# **Previous Experience**

None.

### **Related Courses**

For other, more specialized, Blackboard courses see otago.ac.nz/its/training

## **Further Information**

The support website for staff using Blackboard is at help.otago.ac.nz/blackboard

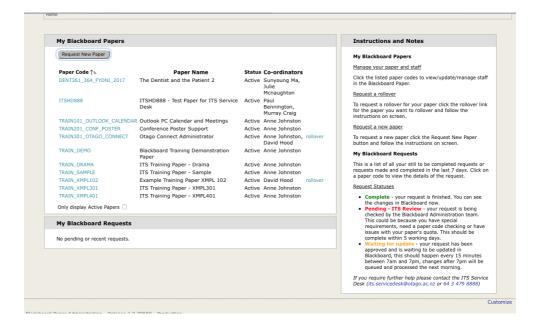
## **SETTING UP A COURSE**

To use Blackboard, you need a username and password (this is the same username and password as other university systems)

For staff there are three ways to become involved with Blackboard

- 1) You have staff responsibilities in a paper where another staff member is the primary contact person
- 2) You inherit an existing paper
- 3) You want to set up a new paper

Setting up a new paper is done through the University website. From the main university page choose "for Otago staff" and ITS corporate applications. Log in and there is a Request a New Paper option on the right.



Papers can either match to a class list for a particular course, or be a synthetic paper of custom chosen people (added in this area once the paper is created).

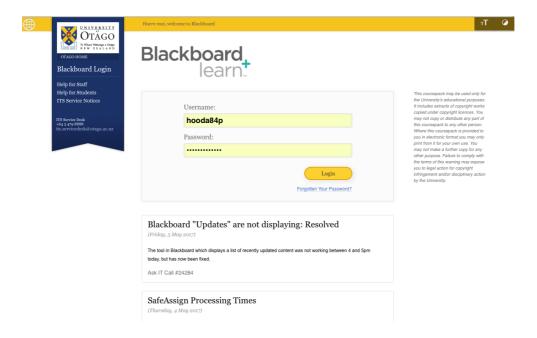
If you have problems, or want to discuss a particular novel use of Blackboard, send an email to the ITS Service Desk its.servicedesk@otago.ac.nz

Once a paper is underway, changes in staff and rollover are handled in the same way.

Rollover is the question of "Do you want this years teaching resources copied into next year's version of the paper?" If you inherited a paper, and it has not been rolled over, it will have an old year's date as part of the paper code in the name.

### LOGGING IN TO BLACKBOARD

To connect to Blackboard, open a web-browser and go to the address https://blackboard.otago.ac.nz/. This takes you to the login screen. Alternatively, you can access it via the for Otago staff menu from the University of Otago Home page.



Enter your username and password, and click the login button. This is the same username as is used for PIMS, PBRF, and Staff Web Kiosk.

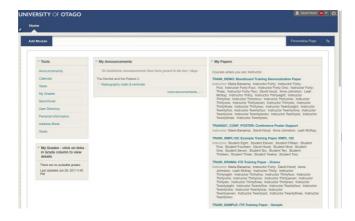
#### **Exercise**

Open Blackboard

Log in using the provided login and password

#### Start screen

The Blackboard start screen shows you a summary of everything you are involved with on Blackboard. Many of these things are more relevant for students than staff, and can be customized with the Add Module or Personalise Page buttons

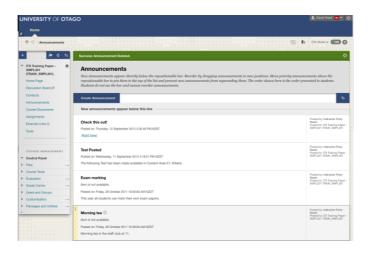


The menu with your name at the top of the screen is a quick way to move between papers you are involved with on Blackboard. In the top right is a logout button. In the My Papers area are the details of all the papers you are involved with, and what staff have what roles within the paper.

#### **Exercise**

Enter the example Blackboard paper

### **WORKING WITH A BLACKBOARD PAPER**



While working in a Blackboard paper, these buttons in the top right may radically alter how you see the paper



#### Edit mode

If Edit mode is on, you are seeing (and can work with a paper) as staff. When Edit Mode is off, you see the paper as a student does.

### **Student Preview**

To the left of the Edit mode are is an eye made out of arrows and a dot. This is the Preview as a student mode. If you want more than a quick glance from edit mode, you can "be a student" for a while, eventually leaving it be the toolbar at the top of the screen.

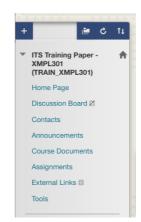


The preview mode is more powerful than swapping edit mode, because you can save what you have done as the hypothetical student as you exit, then interact with the results when you are staff.

### **Navigation Pane**

Using the Navigation Pane in the upper left, both students and instructors can move between different areas within the paper.

While Edit Mode is on, staff can create new areas in the paper by clicking the plus symbol at the top, can move the order of the areas up or down by dragging the up/down arrows on the left (hover cursor over heading to see this option), and can show/hide (or rename) areas from students by clicking the v in a circle symbol on the right (hover cursor over heading to see this option).



When creating new areas, you can add:

**Content Area** – to add files and resources for students, and folders for organising that material

Blank Page – a single page where you can add content

Tool Link – various tools for displaying student material

Course Link – a link to another, already created part of the paper

External Link - a link to another website

**Module Page** – module pages automatically generate events, such as recent changes to the paper. Newly created papers start at the Home page, which is a module page showing recent changes.

Changing the Navigation bar illustrates three general principles of Blackboard

Add new things using a button at the top of an area.

Modify existing things using the circle with a v in it.

Changing the order of things by dragging them around.

### **Control Panel**

One exception to the Edit Mode/ Student View is the Control Panel area in the lower left of the screen. This is always visible, but only to staff.

The Control Panel is a staff only area for managing a paper. You can set up groups for students, set up tests, collect assignments, send emails to students, and review marks.

The Control Panel area has a series of headings in it. If you click on a heading, the items within that heading appear underneath. Click on a particular item to use it.

### **SHARING NEWS**

The Announcements section is found in the Course Tools section of the Control Panel, or by going into the student Announcement section with edit mode on.

### **Making Announcements**

After entering the Announcements section, any existing announcements are visible. These announcements can be modified or removed altogether.



To create a new announcement, click the Create Announcement button.

The text message box you see may appear slightly different, depending on the web browser and the kind of computer.



There are several options for modifying text and attaching content in the message section. If you are unsure about what a button does, hover over the button with your cursor for a brief description.

If you wish the announcement to remain there rather than be archived, select the Not Date Restricted option. For Date Restricted use the Display after and Display until settings if you would like to restrict the timing of the announcement.

Email the Announcement sends a copy to the student's university email address.

#### **Exercise**

Add and modify announcement

## **ADDING CONTENT**

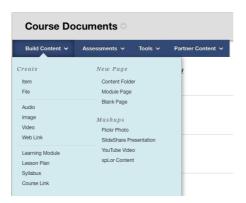
You can make material available to the students in any Content Area by using the buttons at the top.

Build Content – for adding resource material.

Assessments – for adding pre-prepared tests and areas for submitting files.

Tools- use to create discussion boards, blogs, etc.

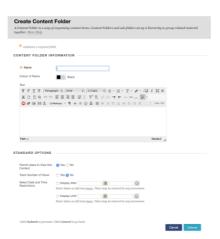
Publisher Content- use to easily create a list of required and recommended books.



A very common strategy when adding content is to add a Content Folder, move into the folder, then add individual items to the folder.

# **Creating a Folder**

From the Build Content - New Page column, choose Content Folder.



At a minimum, you need to give the folder a name and click the Submit button.

Other options available are:

Text – used for providing a label on the outside of the folder, that the students see before viewing the content.

Permit Users to View this Content – by default the folder will be visible to students as soon as it is created. By changing this option to 'No', you can add an initially hidden folder that you can make available later.

Track number of Views – generate reports about which students have viewed the material, and when.

Date and Time Restrictions – you can set the folder to automatically hide and show itself.

These settings can all be changed at later points in time.

#### **Exercise**

Create a Folder of your own Give the folder a distinctive title

### **ADDING CONTENT TO A FOLDER**

Once a folder is created, you can click on the name of a folder to move inside it. Anything you add at this point is added to the folder.

## Adding Items

This enables an instructor to add resource material. As well as the text box messages seen in announcements, you can also add files of any kind to Blackboard.



This toolbar contains buttons for: Attaching files, embedding images, embedding movies (large movies should be stored outside of Blackboard and linked to in Blackboard), embedding sounds, and embedding flash files.

To add files using any kind of computer, in the second part of the Add Item section (Attachments), click the Browse button and choose the file you wish to add, or drag the file into the dashed area of the screen. Next, name the link to the file.

You can drag files from your computer to the Attach Files area or use the brouse functions. Files are saved in the top-level folder in your course's file repository. If you select a file you do not want, click **Do Not Attach** to remove the attachment from the content item. The file itself is not deleted.

Attach Files

Browse My Computer

Browse Course

Link Title

File Action

Screen Shot 2017-06-20 at 3.06.20 PM.png

Screen Shot 2017-06-2C

Create a link to this file

Do not attach

After an attachment has been made, three options are available (located under the heading File Action) for dealing with files being added to the system:

Create a link to the file: used when the file is to be downloaded and saved onto the student's computer or displayed in their browser.

Display the file within the page: used for image and short movie files you wish to show on the page.

Unpackage these files: used for loading an entire website onto Blackboard. In order to load the site, it must first be compressed into .zip format.

Zip compression applications for the Macintosh include MacZip. For the PC there are applications such as 7zip. Which options you are presented with will depend on the kind of file you are loading.

#### **File Formats**

When making files available over the Internet, be aware of the file format.

It is best practice to use the text box to tell students what kind of file it is, and what they should do with it.

#### Viruses

When distributing or receiving files over the internet, be aware that some files may contain viruses. The computer that Blackboard runs on can check for PC viruses, but as an instructor of a paper with online material, you should also have and use virus protection software on your computer.

### **Exercise**

Add Items

Add a selection of items from the sample files folder

### Add Web Links

To add web links, provide a title, address, and description. The easiest way to avoid typos is to open two web browser windows, and copy and paste the target web address into the Blackboard URL space.



In the Options section, you can choose to open the link in a new window. If you want the page to open in Blackboard, select the No checkbox.

#### **Exercise**

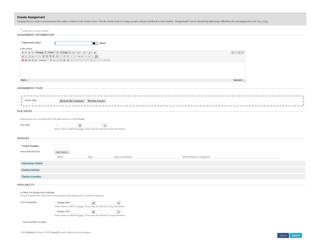
Add URLs

## **Assignments**

The Assignments option allows students to submit files to staff, who then add the assessment mark to the online Grade Centre.

Staff can add an assignment, then download students' submitted work in the assessment area. To create an assignment in a content area, use the Assessments – Assignment drop down menu.

As well as setting up the assignment area for collecting files, you can add a file to the assignment in the setup process. Use this to create an essay template with the correct margins and fonts.



As an assignment is a marked piece of work, you also need to provide a points value for the assignment (you can then ignore this if it is not important to you).

Setting a due date does not stop students submitting assignments after the date, but Blackboard will note which assignments have been submitted late. To stop students submitting assignments, you will need to hide the assignment from the students.

Add Rubric allows you to create a marking schedule to help measure different levels of achievement.

In making the assignment available, you can choose to let students submit answers once or repeatedly.

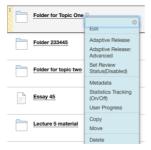
For Understanding and correctly using the Plagiarism tools, we strongly advise attending a separate Anti-Plagiarism course.

#### Exercise

Add an assignment

## **EDITING CONTENT MATERIAL**

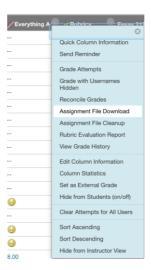
Every content folder or item has a drop down menu to the right of it.



To change the settings of a folder or item (for example to hide or show it to students), choose Edit from the drop down menu. This will reopen the original dialog box.

## **COLLECTING ASSIGNMENTS**

If students are submitting assignments, they are picked up in the online Grade book area. Click on the Control Panel - Grade Centre - Assignments, and then the drop down menu beside the column heading of the assignment.



From the list, choose Assignment File Download to copy the files onto your computer (they will be a zip compressed archive).

Once the marking is done, use Assignment File Cleanup to remove files from the system.

#### **Exercise**

Download (but DO NOT CLEAN UP) the example assignment files.

### **SENDING EMAIL**

Blackboard maintains a current class list, and knows the student's university email address.

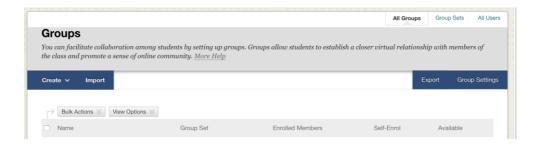
To send email to this address, go to Control Panel - Course Tools - Send Email option.

You can choose specific people in the course to send email to, or send it to everyone.

### **CREATING TUTORIAL GROUPS**

It is possible to create groups of students within Blackboard papers and to give these groups their own discussion and shared work areas.

To create a group, go to Control Panel – Users and Groups – Groups section.



You can manually select which group a student is to be added to by creating a Manual Enroll group.

Another option is Self-Enroll Groups, where the students use sign-up sheets on Blackboard to add themselves to a group.

The third option is dividing up the students in the course into a random selection of groups using Random Enroll

To select which tools you want to make available for the group(s), check or uncheck the boxes beside each item in Step 2.

For matching students and real-world tutorial groups, use the Import option and supply a csv file of groups and a csv file of which students are in which groups.

For more help on this see the more help link in the grey area at the top of the screen



Students will see any groups they belong to below the main Navigation Pane. If staff wish to be part of the group, they should add themselves to a group as members

#### **Exercise**

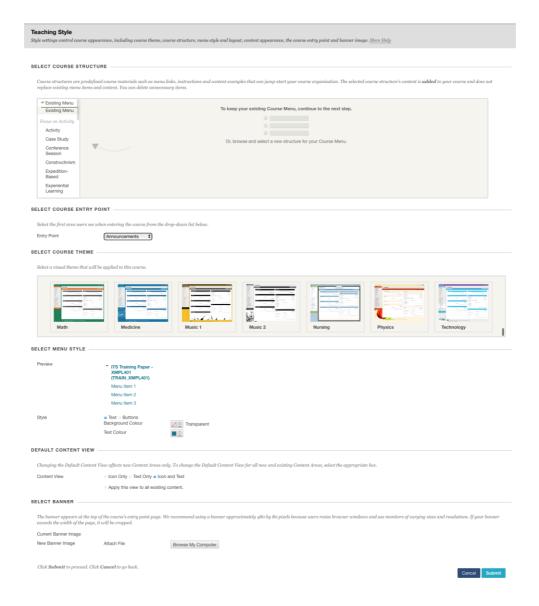
Create a Group

## **CUSTOMISING BLACKBOARD**

You can customize both the look and the behavior of the paper.

## **Customising the look**

In Control Panel - Customisation – Teaching Style is where you can give the paper your own look.



This includes the sorts of buttons or menus used, what page of the course to start on, and whether there is a banner for the top of the course page.

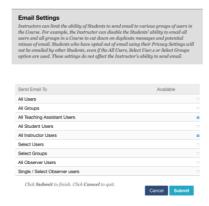
# **Cutomising Behaviour**

You can turn options in Blackboard on and off in Control Panel - Customisation – Tool Availability



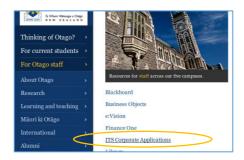
If Items are unticked, they are not available to staff or students in the paper. This can be a problem with inherited papers- if a paper you inherited does not have things available, check the Tool Availability

There is also a drop down modify button by email in this area, where you can control who students in the paper are able to email. This does not affect staff sending email.

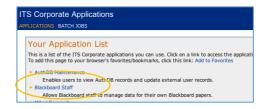


## **UPDATING STAFF**

Instructors of a paper can add, remove or edit staff access to a paper. From the University homepage choose Otago Staff 🏻 ITS Corporate Apps.



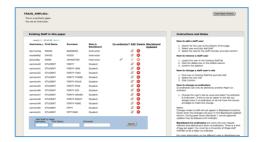
Enter your university username and password, and after logging in choose the Blackboard Staff option.



Choose the paper you wish to update from the list.



Add or Change the staff following the instructions on the right.



In the top right, click Exit Blackboard Paper Administration when done.

## **APPENDIX: TYPING MACRONS IN MĀORI**

## Windows

To type macrons, you need to be on a New Zealand keyboard

From the Start menu, Open the Control Panel

If the Control Panel is in the Classic view choose Region and Language



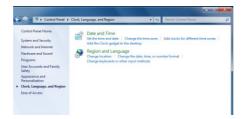
Then choose Keyboards and Languages tab



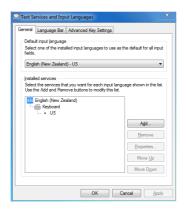
If the Control Panel is in the Category view choose Clock, Language, and Settings



Then choose Change Keyboards or other input methods



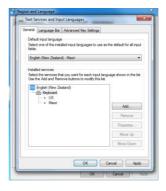
After that, in the installed services section, click the Add button



Find the option for English (New Zealand), expand the keyboard choices in Keyboard with Show more, then find and tick Maori and click OK



After the Maori keyboard option has been activated, you can change the Default input language to English (New Zealand) - Maori



With this option active you can type macrons by using the `key in the top left of the keyboard followed by the vowel you want

### Mac OS X

Hold down the vowel you want, after half a second the computer will offer different variations. Choose the vowel with the macron.