Blackboard Collaborate: Strategies and Considerations for Institutional Adoption
Presenters

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Northern Illinois University Overview

- Main campus in DeKalb, IL located 65 miles West of Chicago
- Total enrollment: 20,130
- 1,174 Instructional faculty
- Student to instructor/faculty ratio: 15:1
- Online programs: 8 undergrad, 7 graduate, 7 certificates
Blackboard Usage at NIU

As of Fall 2015:

• 96% of students
• 92% of instructional Faculty/Staff/TAs
• 67% of course sections
• 4.18 course sections per student on Blackboard
### Blackboard Collaborate at NIU

#### 2008
- Committee of faculty reviewed web conferencing tools
- Wimba Classroom was selected
- Faculty Development begins offering online workshops to demonstrate use of web conferencing

#### 2012
- Gradual rollout of Blackboard Collaborate
- Held preview workshops
- Piloted with a small group of faculty
- Dual deployment for 2012-2013

#### 2015-2016
- Graduate rollout of Ultra experience
- Began using for workshops May 2015
- Piloted with a small group of faculty
- Dual deployment for 2016-2017
Blackboard Collaborate at NIU

- Blackboard Collaborate since 2011
- Fully-integrated in Blackboard Learn, available to all Blackboard Courses and Communities
- 400+ sessions per year
- Used for variety of purposes in f2f, blended, and fully-online courses
Rollout Strategy

Generate excitement and introduce slowly
Model practice
Communicate A LOT

- **Identify user needs** with survey or chats
- **Model new features** in online workshops
- **Pilot with key faculty** both experienced and novice
- **Notify users** of change & training
- **Track use** and collect feedback
Rollout Timeline

Spring 2015
Faculty & staff participated in Collaborate Ultra technical preview

May 2015
Faculty Development offered first online workshop using Collaborate Ultra
Featured Ultra on website - niu.edu/blackboard
Rollout Timeline

**Summer 2015**

Select faculty use Collaborate Ultra for their courses

**Fall 2015**

Surveyed users on features in Collaborate vs. Ultra

Opened up use to more faculty, sessions created in SAS

Communicated new features via newsletter, workshops
Survey Results

**Length of Collaborate Use**
- Have not used: 14%
- < 1 year: 4%
- 1 year: 11%
- 2-3 years: 39%
- 4 or more: 32%

**Most Used Classic Features**
- PowerPoint: 59%
- Audio Set-up Wizard: 59%
- Polling: 44%
- Recordings: 41%
- Telephony: 41%
- Whiteboard: 37%
Survey Results

**Most Important Classic Features**
- Session Recordings
- Application Share
- Blackboard Learn Integration
- Displaying Video
- Polling

**Most Anticipated Ultra Features**
- High quality audio and video
- Faster, sharper application share
- Java-Free, browser-based
- Modern user experience
Rollout Timeline

Spring 2016

Ultra used for full-day Teaching Effectiveness Institute
First hands-on training on Ultra

Summer 2016

Added Blackboard Learn integration - Ultra using LTI
and Classic using Building Block

Officially announcing availability of Ultra
Faculty Feedback

“I used the tool for a course offered to first-year graduate students, many of whom work full-time and are considered mid-career.

They found it extremely useful to interact with the instructor without making the trek to the campus.”
Faculty Feedback

“I had never used Blackboard Collaborate, yet learning how to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra was very easy.

The process is very intuitive and the students also seemed to pick it up easily.”
Faculty Feedback

“I have used Blackboard Collaborate on several occasions both for teaching as well as to work on research projects with colleagues in other parts of the country.

I like the features of being able to share files on the screen as we discuss items.”
Faculty Feedback

“The technology seemed to work well and everyone who has used it liked the overall look and feel.

Overall, very positive, very easy to use. Love it.”
Mobile Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

- From a Learn course
- From a link
Logging In to Bb Student from a Learn Course

Enter your Information

-----Your school name
-----Your username and password
-----Your password

Tap Log in

Access the session from within a course
Logging In to Bb Student Using a Link

Link Sent via Email

From: Blackboard Collab... To: Tara Thompson

Blackboard Collaborate Invitee
January 26, 2016 at 12:58 PM

Tara Thompson:

You are invited to attend the following Blackboard Collaborate session:
Name: Group Presentations
Starts: Jan 13, 2016 1:00 PM (-05:00)
Ends: Jan 13, 2016 3:00 PM (-05:00)
To join the session, please click on the link below within 15 minutes of the session start time.

Join the Blackboard Collaborate session

Launch of Bb Student

Enter the Session
Tips for Adoption

• Learn as much as you can - join previews, attend roadmaps, attend office hours

• Survey users to determine what is important to them

• Model use of Blackboard Collaborate

• Build excitement

• Communicate early and frequently
  Ideas: blog posts, newsletters, social media, email
Tips for Adoption

- Invite key faculty to participate in a pilot
- Collect and share feedback from faculty and students
- Be clear about limitations; share the roadmap
- Offer hands-on opportunities for faculty to try features
- Offer in-session assistance for first-time users
Questions?

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Don’t forget!
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