SP13 New Features

SP13 includes a minimal set of new features along with a number of fixes and improvements.

- **Updated Calendar**
  - Courses are now color coded and can be viewed on a single calendar.
  - The calendar can now be downloaded in .ics format which can be imported into Outlook, Apple Mail, and Gmail.
  - Calendar supports due dates, if set, for gradable items. Clicking on calendar items allows an instructor to view or edit the item, or grade attempts on the associated item.

- **Discussions Board**
  - All of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page.
  - Posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user’s course role and forum role.
  - Instructors now can require students to first post to a forum before they can see other students’ posts.

- **Exporting Test Questions (Instructors)**
  - All questions are now retained in exported and imported tests, including questions that originate outside the exported test, such as Question Sets, Random Blocks, and Question Links. When the user exports a test and imports it back into a different course, all questions are now present irrespective of their origin.

- **Test Access Log (Instructors)**
  - Provides detailed information on student test attempt interactions. Instructors and other users who are granted permission, can view the Access Log for a test from the Attempts page of the test. The access log shows a detailed list of every interaction that students engage in when taking a test.

- **Inline Grading**
  - Instructors have a consistent grading sidebar within assignments, blogs, discussions, journals, and wikis. This grading sidebar allows them to grade a submission, post, and entry without leaving the page.

- **Test Availability Exceptions**
  - This new settings allow instructors to select one or more groups of students and make a number of exceptions to the already established availability settings. Instructors can use exceptions to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences.

- **Building Blog Dependency Management**
  - When administrators install or update a building block using Software Updates, they are informed of any dependencies that building block has on other building blocks. If the installation is approved, the building block dependencies are also updated. When all the installations are complete, the administrator receives an email with details of the operation. If there is an error, the email message will contain sufficient information to triage or to provide to Blackboard Support for resolution.

- **Course Menu**
  - Viewing the folder structure of the course now always opens in a new window, to ensure users have the space needed to read the expanded contents.