What's New in Blackboard 9.1

This lesson shows you many of the new and improved features relevant to Blackboard 9.1

Control Panel

The Control Panel has greatly improved from Version 8. This new Control Panel has eliminated the need for additional clicks to take you to the next screen. It is located in the bottom, left area of the screen below Course Management.
Any item in the Control Panel can be expanded to view the contents of that item. Click on the chevron to expand/collapse the list. Then click the link to access that item.

### Edit Mode

In version 9.1, adding material to a content area is no longer done by using the Control Panel. Instead, a content area is viewed with Edit Mode (located in the upper-right hand side of the screen) turned ON (which gives you the ability to add material) or with Edit Mode turned OFF
(which shows the content from the student's perspective).

Course Customization: Hiding Content Areas; Course Menu, Edit Mode OFF

In version 9, Blackboard automatically hides empty content areas from the student view and when Edit Mode is turned OFF.

Course Customization: Hiding Content Areas; Course Menu, Edit Mode ON

When Edit Mode is ON, empty content areas will show. Empty Content Areas are marked with a small square to the right of the area name.
Rearranging Items

Instead of reordering numbers, items are now rearranged using drag and drop. Wherever double-ended arrows are shown, when Edit Mode is ON, you click, hold and drag to rearrange the order of that list.

Groups

Group creation settings now include the ability for students to self-enroll versus having the instructor manually enroll the students. Students can also create their own groups - if the appropriate setting is enabled in Group Settings.
Assignments can now be added to allow multiple attempts. This is very helpful when involved in a revision process.

Journals are used as a private communication tool between the student and the instructor. Journals must be created by the instructor before students can access them. Journals can be made public by the Instructor so that all users can read all entries made to the Journal topic.
Blogs

Blogs are public journals that are visible to the class. They can be assigned to individual students, a group or to the entire class. They can also be commented on and graded.

Wiki

A Wiki is a collaborative tool that allows students to create and modify documents within the course. As with Blogs, Wikis can be created for individual students, a group or the entire class. Blackboard keeps track of each edit as a separate version of the document. In the History area of Wikis, versions can be compared.

Mashups

A Mashup allows you to easily add a Flickr Photo, SlideShare Presentation or YouTube video into your course. They can be played within Blackboard without having to open another window or go to an external website.