

What is changed in Blackboard after the implementation of the new release (August 2014)?

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At the UT a new Blackboard release was implemented on August 2. In this document you can read:

1. Which new and improved functionalities this offers.
2. Which bugs are solved.
3. Which new bugs we found that can't be solved yet.
4. Which other issues you can encounter.

1. New and improved functionalities

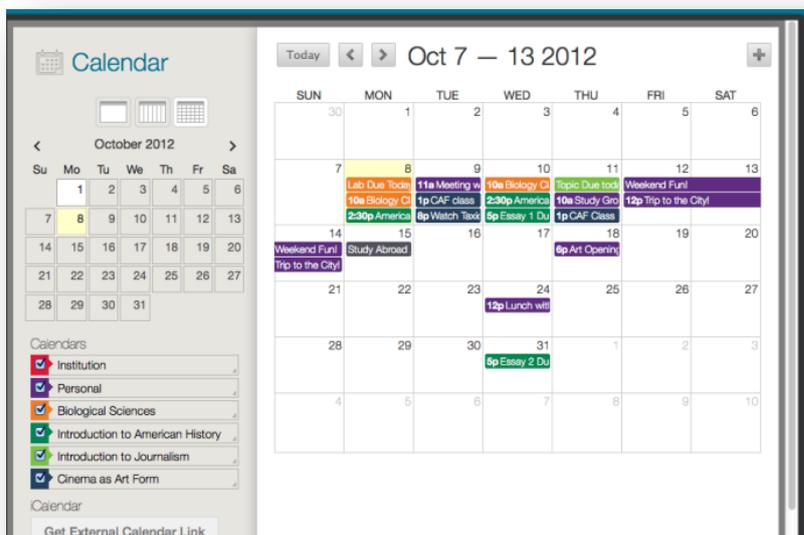
Calendar [target group: all users]

The calendar displays a consolidated view of all your institution, course, organization, and personal calendar events. Users can select views (month, week, day) and color-code the events to differentiate courses and personal items.

Course items with due dates automatically appear in the course calendar. Only instructors may create course calendar events. Institution events can only be created by system admins.

Calendar items can also be exported via an iCal feed to Outlook, Google or other 3rd party calendars (but you can't import external calendars in the Blackboard calendar).

You can access the calendar from the Tools panel on the My Blackboard tab.





[Watch the video](#) about the Calendar or read more in the [Blackboard manual](#).

My Grades [target group: students]

The look and feel of My Grades has been updated.

The Order by drop-down list allows you to change the order by Course Order, Last Activity, or Due Date. By default, items are ordered by course order.

Above the list of gradable items, you can narrow the list by selecting All, Graded, Upcoming, or Submitted. For example, Graded shows only items that have been graded by your instructor.

If your instructor included feedback during grading, click the View Feedback icon () to view it in a pop-up box.

My Grades				
All	Graded	Upcoming	Submitted	Order by: Last Activity
ITEM	LAST ACTIVITY	GRADE		
Del grading test 1 Assignment	29-Jul-2014 14:16 GRADED	9.00 /10		
Groepsopdracht Assignment	17-Jan-2013 14:13 GRADED	 7.00 /10		
Een eenvoudige toets Test	17-Jan-2013 14:01 GRADED	30.00 /30		
Assignmnt due date DUE: 14-JUL-2012 Assignment	17-Jan-2013 10:23 GRADED	6.00 /10		

Assignments [target group: instructors]

The interface for creating or editing an assignment has undergone a significant update to accommodate new Grading options and to improve the workflow for the creation of all assignments.

Submission details

The previous 'Recipients' part (individual/group assignment) can now be found under 'Submission details'.

 Please note: it is no longer possible to change this setting when the assignment is already submitted by one or more students. Thus, for group assignments in particular it is important *to select all groups that have to submit the assignment before you make the assignment available*, because you can't add new groups after one or more groups have submitted to assignment.

Under Submission details you can set the 'Number of attempts' as well. New: if you permit multiple attempts (students can submit the assignment more than once), you can choose here which of the graded attempts will be used as the final score ([read more](#)).

Submission Details

If any students are enrolled in more than one group receiving the same assignment, they will submit more than one grade for the assignment.

Assignment Type Individual Submission Group Submission

Items to Select

- Groepje 1
- Groepje 2
- Groepje 3
- Groepje 4
- Groepje 5
- Groepje 6
- Groepje 7

Invert Selection Select All

Selected Items

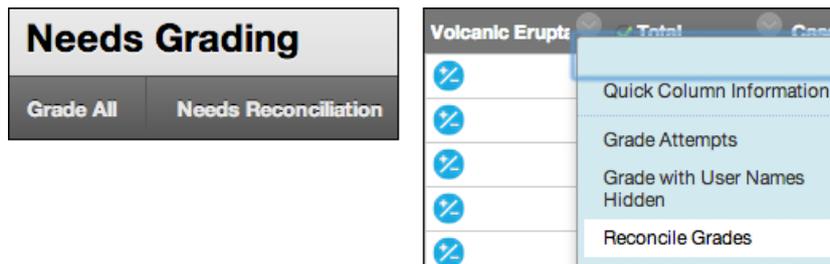
- werkcollegegroep 1
- werkcollegegroep 2
- werkcollegegroep 3
- werkcollegegroep 4

Invert Selection Select All

Number of Attempts

Maximum Attempts

Score attempts using



Other grader roles who have graded attempts see the Needs Reconciliation icon in the Grade Center, but do not have access to the Reconcile Grades page. All (and only) users with the instructor role can always reconcile grades, also if no submissions are assigned to him/her to grade.

Some specific remarks/tips for using this function:

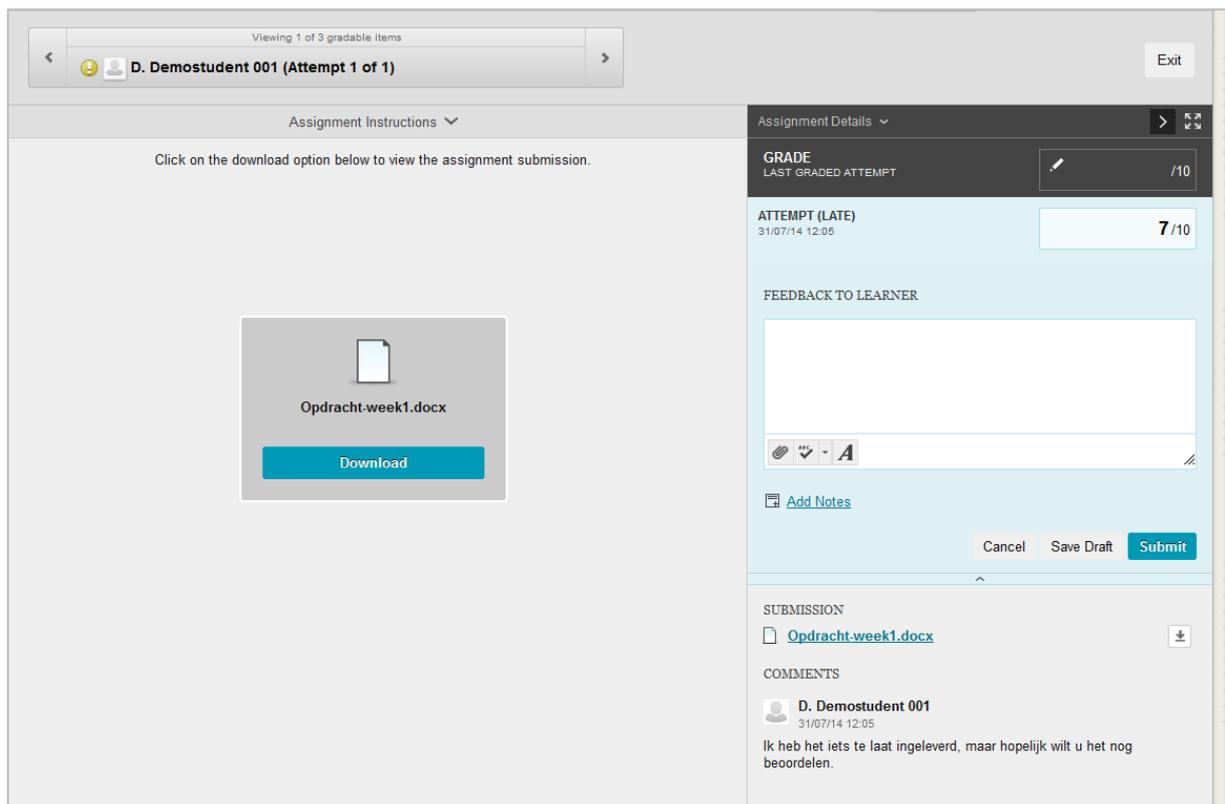
- It is still possible to change the delegated grading options when students have already submitted the assignment
- Be aware that the student can't see the grade and feedback in My Grades when the instructor hasn't reconciled the grade(s) yet.
- If you are an instructor who has no submissions to grade, but want to see which students have submitted the assignment or not, select 'Reconcile grades' from the Grade center column menu (see picture above). On the Reconcile grades page you can see both graded and ungraded attempts (you can't see this like usual in the grade center grid because you don't see the needs grading icon there).
- Instructors can always reconcile grades, even if not all / none of the delegated graders have provided a grade

Read more about delegated grading in the [Blackboard manual](#).

 Please note: Under Grading options you also see the option '**Enable anonymous marking**' (this is a new function), but you can't select this setting. Reason for this is that UT has decided to deactivate this new function for now because it contains a major bug .

Grade center [target group: instructors]

The grade attempt page has been redesigned, mainly because of the new 'inline grading' functionality that UT has not activated yet (because the function has been developed by a third party and it implies that student's work is stored not only in Blackboard but in 'the cloud' as well and UT first needs to determine if there are no privacy issues).



On the left you see the submission *text* if the students has provided any. If not, you see the submitted *document* and a download button.

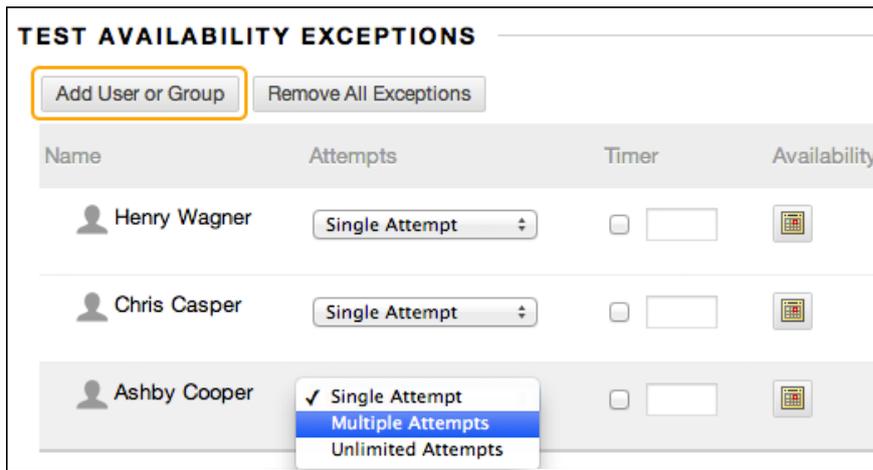
On the right you see the grading sidebar:

- if the student has provided any comments, you see these at the bottom.
- the grade for the attempt should be filled in in the 'Attempt' field (not in the Grade field). If there are more attempts, you can switch between attempts.
- by default the feedback field is collapsed. Click the icon below attempt to show the field. You can also add a file here, or write down private notes.
- the 'Grade' at the top shows the final grade, which can be different than the attempt grade if there are multiple attempts or if the attempt grade is overridden. When no grade has been submitted yet, this field is empty and it will be filled in automatically after submitting the grade (please don't fill it in yourself, unless you mean to apply an override grade that takes precedence over all attempts, *including* future attempts).

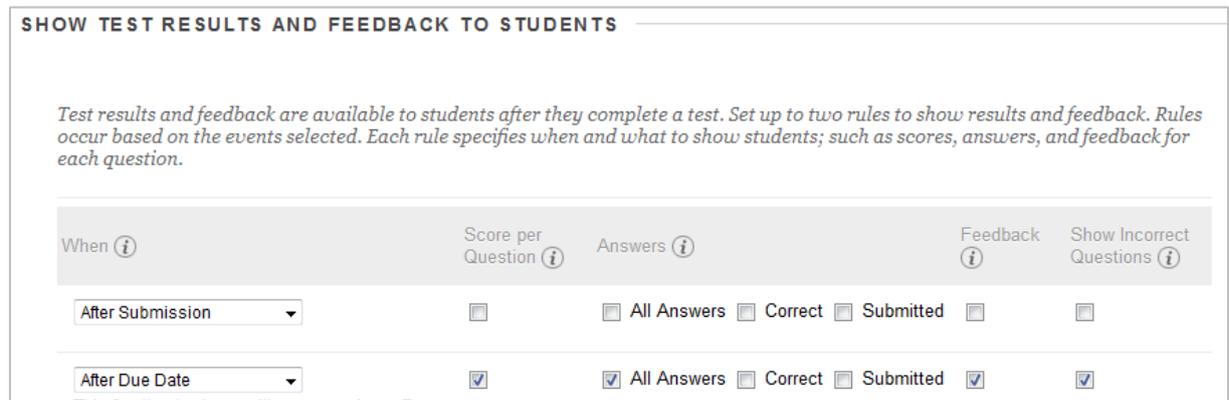
Improvements in Tests [target group: instructors]

New options

1) We provided instructors the ability to provide availability “exceptions” to tests. Instructors may now select different availability rules for different users, or groups of users - for example, certain students with disabilities who might need more time to complete a test.



2) After they complete a test, results and feedback are available to students. By setting up rules, instructors can set the release of progressive feedback to keep test results secure and prevent cheating. Rules occur in the order they appear.



3) The first page students see before a test includes several changes that clarify taking the test.

4) New questions added to a test or survey no longer appear at the bottom of the test, and then requiring dragging them into the proper order. On the test or survey canvas, instructors can add new questions exactly where they want them.

5) A new setting lets instructors decide whether or not to allow a student to take a test after the due date has passed. When late submissions are allowed, they are clearly marked on the Needs Grading page, the View All Attempts page, the Review Test Submission page, and the Grade Details page.

export verbetering / test access log
 Read more about these new options in the [Blackboard manual](#)

Export

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.

Questions that are in question sets and random blocks in the originating test are imported into the new course in question pools. Single questions that were linked in the originating test are imported as “native” (non-linked) questions.

Test access log

A source of frustration for students, instructors, and test proctors is the inability to confirm whether students began a test or ran into problems during a test. Teachers and proctors have no way to verify student activity or lack of activity during a test. Students have no way to prove that they did begin a test and when. If students reported problems occurring during a test, they were either given the benefit of the doubt and the test was reset, or they were penalized for circumstances beyond their control.

The new version addresses this issue by providing information about student interactions with a test attempt. 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 list of every interaction a student engaged in when taking a test.

Read more about this in the [Blackboard manual](#).

Retention center [target group: instructors]

The Retention Center provides an easy way for you to discover which students in your course are at risk. Based on preconfigured rules and rules you create, students' engagement and participation are visually displayed, quickly alerting you to potential risk. From the Retention Center, you can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.



[Watch the video](#) about the Retention center or read more in the [Blackboard manual](#).

Several other changes

New layout.

You can see the publication time of an announcement (before, only the date was shown).

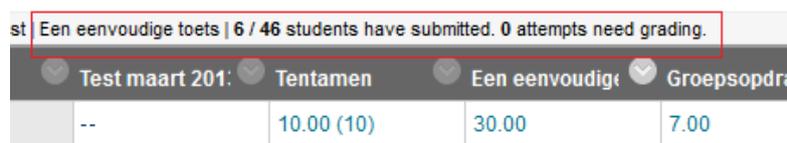
In 'My courses' students can see unavailable courses if they are enrolled in it (but they don't have access).

In My Grades a student can view what document he has submitted to an Ephorus assignment if the assignment is not graded yet (because the assignment is clickable now).

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. Click an item in the tree to navigate directly to that location.

User avatars are shown in the Signup lists.

In the Full grade center: if you hover over the column heading with the mouse cursor, a text appears above the grade center that shows how many students have submitted the assignment/test, and how many attempts need grading.



The screenshot shows a table with a tooltip. The tooltip text is: "Een eenvoudige toets | 6 / 46 students have submitted. 0 attempts need grading." The table below has the following structure:

	Test maart 201:	Tentamen	Een eenvoudige	Groepsopdra
--	10.00 (10)	30.00	7.00	

Quick links: The Quick Links tool will help significantly improve the navigation experience for sighted, keyboard-only users. This tool can be quickly accessed on any page using a link at the very top of the page or a keyboard shortcut (Control+Alt+L). It will aggregate a list of all of the landmarks and

headings on a page and allow a user to select one and jump directly to that location within the page. It will also collect and highlight any keyboard shortcuts that exist for the current page or tool, providing another method for quickly completing key tasks within the application.

2. Bugs that are solved

Target group	Blackboard function	Description
All	Layout	In Google chrome only: if you refresh a page by switching from Edit mode (instructors), or pressing F5, the layout of the page is gone. You can only restore this by logging out from Blackboard and log in again.
All	Navigation menu in the top right corner	Applies only to Firefox: When the "Gear"-icon is clicked in the Updates screen, items overlap, the scrollbar misses and the cancel/save button does not work
Student	Testresults	Students can't see embedded images in test questions when they look at their test results via My Grades
Student/ Instructor	Wiki	The wiki is inaccessible if a course or a user uses the language pack 'Nederlands (UT)'. The wiki is inaccessible if a course or a user uses the language pack 'Nederlands (UT)'.
Student/ Instructor	Contacts (images)	Some profile images in Contacts are not visible for students. This issue only occurs if the contact was set to 'unavailable' when it was created (Options: make the profile available: yes/no)
Instructor	Grade Center	Grade Center: it should be impossible to add feedback to a submitted assignment without adding a grade. If you want to save the Grade Attempt page via the Save & Next function, a warning should be displayed stating that no grade has been entered, and that a grade is mandatory. Nevertheless saving is possible. The feedback is then invisible for students, and the submitted assignment still has the status 'Needs marking'. When dealing with group assignments, the feedback is not saved at all when no grade is entered. However, the following message does appear: "successfully edited this attempt".
Instructor	Grade Center	The horizontal and vertical scrollbars are missing from the Grade Center when using Mac OS X and Google Chrome or Safari.
Instructor	Survey/Grade Center	This only applies to surveys that have one or more questions of the type "Fill in the multiple blanks". If you click on 'Attempt statistics' for such a survey in the Grade Center, you get an error (downloading the results to Excel is still possible).
Instructor	Slideshare	If you try to submit a Slideshare presentation, you get an error "Renderer template processing failed. Java heap space"
Instructor	General	When using Internet Explorer 11, the browser will not respond / crash if you go to a course in Blackboard that has Edit mode turned on. This caused by a security update of Microsoft.
Instructor	Content collection	If you have Java update 51 installed on your PC, the multiple file upload function will not work anymore. Note: this Java version is not installed on standard UT workstations.
Instructor	Ephorus	If you click on an Ephorus assignment, you see the text "People with access to the control panel (instructors, teaching assistants, etc.) may not submit assignments. Perhaps you want to view the submitted documents?" On the page there's also a button OK. A problem occurs in the following situation: 1. Instructor clicks on an Ephorus assignment when the Edit mode is ON. 2. The page mentioned above appears.

Target group	Blackboard function	Description
		3. Instructor clicks on the button OK. Then you go back to the page with the Ephorus assignment, but the page looks as if the Edit mode is OFF (for example: unavailable items are not visible), while the switch in the top right corner says 'Edit mode ON'.
Instructor	Ephorus	In Control panel > Course tools > Ephorus assignments > list of submitted documents for a group assignment: if the submitted work doesn't fit on one page and is shown on multiple pages, you can't see the list of members in a group if you are not on page 1. If you click on the plus-icon, it changes into a minus but the list of group members is not shown.
Instructor	Ephorus	This problem only occurs in Internet explorer and not in Firefox or Google Chrome. If an instructor has entered a grade in the plagiarism report and clicks the button Submit grading, a popup with the message 'Are you sure you want to leave the page? (your grading has not been saved yet) appears. However, if you click Leave this page, this grade will be saved.
Instructor	Ephorus: My documents	In Internet Explorer, the Ephorus function My Documents (with which an instructor can upload a document for a plagiarism check) does not work. After selecting the file via the Browse function, it does not appear on the page.
Instructor	Flickr photo	If you search for a Flickr photo (Build content > Flickr Photo), you get an error: Could not connect to Flickr because of an invalid Flickr API key. Contact your system administrator).
Instructor	Sign-up list	In the Sign-up list, the messages in the top (in the green bar) miss when a student has completed a certain action (e.g. when a student has enrolled himself, or when a new list has been created). This does not mean that anything went wrong, but the problem is that the message is not shown

3. New bugs

Target group	Blackboard function	Description	Solution / Workaround
All	My Blackboard	The modules 'Nieuws over Blackboard, OSIRIS en andere onderwijssystemen' and 'News on Blackboard, OSIRIS and other educational applications' don't show the items properly if there are more than (approximately) 4 items.	Solved in a next release. Workaround: 1) Click on the gear(settings) icon in the title bar of the module; 2) For 'number of headlines' select 20; 3) Submit.
Student/ Instructor	Announcements	In the announcements title bar there are unreadable text links in the top right corner (unreadable because the text is blue on a dark grey background). The instructor only sees this if Edit mode is OFF. This also happens in a Discussion board forum.	Solved in a next release. Workaround: hover over the text with mouse cursor to see the popup text.
Instructor	Grade Center	In the following situation the Grade Center does not work as it should: 1. Go to the full Grade Center and select the attempt of a user. 2. Grade / change the attempt of a user. 3. Click Submit After submit you see the attempt of the next user, while you should go back to the Full grade center view.	Solved in a next release. Request submitted to Blackboard to reintroduce the buttons 'Save and Next', and 'Save and Exit' (as in the previous version) in order to let the user choose for himself what page should be shown after submitting.
Instructor	Needs attention module	This only applies to an assignment that has delegated grading: if an instructor/teaching assistant/marker is added as a delegated grader and the assignment is already submitted by one or more students, he doesn't see 'assignment need grading' in the Needs attention module on the notification dashboard (only applies to the assignments that were submitted before he was added as a grader).	Solved in a next release. Workaround: if you use delegated grading in a course, it is best to use the Needs marking tool to check if there are attempts that need grading.
Instructor	Needs attention module	This only applies to an assignment that has delegated grading: if an instructor/teaching assistant/marker is removed as a delegated grader and the assignment is already submitted by one or more students, he still sees 'assignment need grading' in the Needs attention module on the notification dashboard.	Solved in a next release. Workaround: 1) you can remove the false notifications in the Needs attention module by dismissing them; 2) if you use delegated grading in a course, it is best to use the Needs marking tool to see if there are attempts that need grading.
Instructor	Assignment	If you create an assignment, you can click on Grading options. You then see the option 'Enable anonymous marking' (this is a new function), but you can't select this setting. Reason for this is that we decide to deactivate this new function because it contains a major bug .	Solved in a next release.
Instructor	Content editor	The math editor does not work in browser Internet explorer	Workaround: use another browser (Firefox can be installed via Zenworks). Please note: the general browser

Target group	Blackboard function	Description	Solution / Workaround
			advice for Blackboard is not to use Internet explorer at all.
Student	My Grades	In My Grades the 'needs grading' icon is not shown for an assignment that has delegated grading (a - is shown instead)	Solved in a next release.
Student	My Grades	If the instructor has attached a file with feedback for an assignment, you should see a link to that file if you click on the speech balloon icon in My grades. For Ephorus assignments (assignment with plagiarism detection), the link is not visible if you click on the speech balloon icon.	Workaround: if you click on the assignment <i>name in My grades</i> , you will see the attached feedback file.

4. Issues that are not a bug

Target group	Blackboard function	Description	Solution / Workaround
All	Blackboard URL	When you go to Blackboard, you don't see the normal login page, but a white field with 'No tabs found'. Cause: you have used a bookmark in your browser for Blackboard that has the extended URL https://blackboard.utwente.nl/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp . This URL does not work anymore, always use the short URL https://blackboard.utwente.nl	Always use the short URL https://blackboard.utwente.nl
Instructor	Grade Center	In the previous release an instructor could see which group member submitted the group assignment on the grade assignment page. Now this information is shown only in the Grade history.	This is not a bug. Blackboard says that it is a consequence of the redesign of the 'review submission page' because of new functionality in the Grade center.
Instructor	Ephorus	If you have filled in feedback for an Ephorus assignment without entering or changing the grade, you get the message 'grading was not updated' after submitting. However, the feedback was saved so this message is a bit confusing.	Not yet known if this is a bug or functioning as designed
Instructor	Ephorus assignment	In exceptional situations you may see one or more unavailable Ephorus assignments named 'Ephorus/1', 'Ephorus/2' etc. in your course that you didn't create yourself. This is not a bug but a fix for situations in which there were two Ephorus columns in the Grade center with the same name (probably caused in the past by removal of and old assignment without removing the grade center column as well). To prevent errors, the obsolete columns are renamed into 'Ephorus/1', 'Ephorus/2' etc. It is not	not applicable

Target group	Blackboard function	Description	Solution / Workaround
		necessary to keep these columns and the dummy assignments, you can safely remove them.	
Student	My grades	<p>In the previous release a student could see much more information for a submitted group assignment (on the review submission page). Namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the assignment was a group assignment - on behalf of what group the assignment was submitted - which group member submitted the assignment - who the group members are <p>Now the review submission page for a group assignment is missing all this information.</p>	<p>This is not a bug. Blackboard says that it is a consequence of the redesign of the 'review submission page' because of new functionality in the Grade center. The currently missing details were not considered important in that time.</p> <p>We however consider this as a loss of functionality and have submitted an enhancement request to Blackboard to change it back.</p>