Blackboard to Canvas Migration Project Status

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6/5/15

University of Oregon
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June 5, 2015

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Executive Summary

Canvas, the learning management system chosen to replace Blackboard, was launched for Spring Quarter 2015. Blackboard continues to run until September 30, 2015. During this transition period, faculty may choose to teach in either system but are highly encouraged to migrate to Canvas as early as possible so as to avoid the rush of last minute requests for support.

Usage / Adoption

Canvas usage accounts for approximately 25% of all learning management system usage during the Spring quarter 2015. Over 12,000 students and nearly 500 faculty members and GTFs in 619 credit courses (CRNs) are using Canvas this term. Anecdotal feedback has been generally very positive and in line with faculty and student feedback received during the Spring 2014 Canvas pilot.

Support

A tireless Canvas support team, constituted from IT staff from all the schools and colleges and led by the UO Libraries’ Center for Media and Educational Technologies (CMET), has provided face-to-face workshops, online course and training materials, one-on-one consultations and trainings to hundreds of faculty and GTFs. This same group of dedicated technical professionals and instructional technologists continue to reach out to and support the 1200+ remaining instructors of record scheduled to teach during Summer and Fall 2015.

Faculty & Student Advisory Committee

A faculty, student, and staff Canvas Migration Advisory Committee guided implementation policy and standard operating procedures. The work of this invaluable group will continue in a more permanent Canvas Steering Committee to be formed in the future.
Migration, Archiving – No Data Loss
All 21,000 CRN course content from Fall 2012 to Summer 2015 will be migrated from Blackboard to Canvas. The majority of this work will be complete during summer 2015. We are also pursuing a Blackboard archive license that will allow Bb administrators (not faculty, staff or students) to have continued access to the system for an additional three years.

New and Advance Features
Canvas offers a number of features that are new to University of Oregon faculty and students, including free mobile apps, video recordings, web conferencing, and course and systems analytics.

Technical
Canvas courses are automatically created via Banner feed and student registration is updated automatically three times a day Monday – Friday. Users log in using their DuckID and associated password. i<Clickers and Scantron continue to be integrated / supported in Canvas as they were in Blackboard. Plagiarism detection software is not part of the standard Canvas features as SafeAssign was in Blackboard, and as a result, faculty and GTFs wishing to use plagiarism detection software were instructed to use a workaround method, downloading all submitted assignments and running them through SafeAssign in Blackboard during the Spring quarter. Plagiarism detection software is being added to Canvas for Summer 2015.
As we near the completion of the first quarter of Canvas implantation, we are pleased to have completed implementation of the new system, including the provisioning of three instances of Canvas: the live, production instance of Canvas where courses are taught (canvas.uoregon.edu), a test instance where administrators can test changes before implementing them in the live production system and that instructors can use as a sandbox (uoregon.test.instructure.com), and a beta instance where users
can try out upcoming changes up to three weeks before they are turned on in the live production system (uoregon.beta.instructure.com).

All three Canvas systems are integrated with the Banner student information system for automatic course creation, user account provisioning, and student registration (class lists), and Shibboleth authentication (log in via DuckID).

Migration status:

Originally, the University of Oregon contracted to have 8,000 courses migrated from Blackboard to Canvas: one full year’s worth of courses plus the non-credit course web sites currently hosted in Blackboard. In response to faculty demand, we have increased the number of “automatic” migrations from 8,000 courses to 21,000 courses. The majority of the credit courses will be completely migrated by July 2015; for more details on the current status of course content migrations from Fall 2012 – Summer 2015, please see relevant appendix.

Canvas Course Shells
Empty Canvas course shells for Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Summer Law 2015, and Fall Law 2015 are all available for faculty to prepare their courses. Working closely with the Registrar’s Office, Fall 2015 and Fall Law 2015 empty course shells were made available weeks earlier than usual in order to provide faculty, especially Law school faculty, with several additional weeks to prepare their courses for the Fall term.

Faculty should prepare their Summer and Fall courses in Canvas well ahead of the September 30, 2015 deadline in order to avoid the last minute rush.
Much of the detail work that needs to be completed between now and the time we turn off Blackboard now falls to faculty and staff. Faculty need to become fluent with Canvas so that they can prepare and publish their courses. Faculty and staff who use Blackboard courses for non-CRN purposes, such as departmental operations purposes, committee work, or other purposes, will be able to migrate these non-CRN Blackboard courses during summer 2015. (Like credit courses, these sites will be “automatically” migrated by CMET but faculty and staff may want to rearrange or update the courses).
Behind the Scenes Work (Just a sampling for June 2015)

**Project Management Tasks: Behind the Scenes (June – September 2015)**
While the Canvas platform has been launched, the project management and “behind the scenes” work continues. A sampling of tasks and work being done during June 2015 includes the following. This list is not exhaustive.

- Migrate 21,000+ courses from Blackboard to Canvas (all courses from Fall 2012 through Summer 2015 + nonCRN Blackboard sites)
- Contract for a 3 year archive license for Blackboard courses (only administrators will have access)
- Establish standard contracting language for 3rd party vendor integration requests
- Contract for plagiarism detection software
- Install, test, assess Vericite (plagiarism detection software)
- Explore creation of Canvas courses that do not currently get created automatically via Banner (e.g. Study Abroad, American English Institute, etc.)
- Outreach to faculty and GTFs to learn Canvas and prepare their courses

**Canvas Migration Advisory Committee**
The Canvas Migration Advisory Committee (CMAC) is made up of faculty, student, and staff who will advise on outreach and training strategies for faculty, GTFs, students, and staff and provide feedback and advice on implementation questions as they arise.

The CMAC is an ad hoc committee convened only for the duration of the migration, roughly from January 2015 – September 2015. An ongoing Canvas advisory group will be formed later this year. A list of members and meeting notes can be found at [http://blogs.uoregon.edu/canvas/migration/cmac/](http://blogs.uoregon.edu/canvas/migration/cmac/).
Faculty Outreach
We communicate to faculty via email (including but not limited to direct mailings; mass emails via the University’s mass email/communication methods; the Deans-Dirs email listserv), Web sites, face-to-face presentations at departmental/faculty, divisional, and school-wide meetings, posters, direct post card mailings.

We have also communicated through promotional campaigns by distributing refillable automatic pencils and sticky notes indicating that “This course is taught in Canvas” for students whose courses are taught in Canvas this term. Faculty early adopters received Canvas mugs – both as a token of appreciation for a lot of hard work migrating their courses on a short timeline as well as an incentive for faculty to migrate early.

We have identified instructors of record for the Summer, Summer Law, Fall, Fall Law terms and have marked any who have published a course in Canvas during the Spring or Summer as “good to go.” CMET has partnered with the school and college IT staff to work through this list names to ensure that all faculty and GTFs who are teaching during these terms will be able to successfully migrate to Canvas. As faculty attend workshops and/or publish a course, they are marked as “good to go.”

Faculty Training

Faculty who wish to watch videos, read documentation, and learn at their own pace may now take advantage of the online Canvas course, which is linked from the Canvas homepage after logging in.
Faculty can also attend a two-hour, hands-on workshop. CMET offers one or two daily during this migration period.

Spring Term 2015 - Usage
489 faculty and GTFs published 511 courses. A number of these courses are “merged” courses to facilitate instructors’ posting of the same course content to multiple courses. 619 CRN courses are being taught in Canvas, roughly 25%.

Of these courses, the greatest number of courses taught in Canvas during the first term included the following SUBJ headings

1. Journalism
2. PPPM
3. Math
4. Music
5. Linguistics

Usage of Canvas during the first 6 weeks of the term (lower, green line in chart above) was similar to the usage pattern in Blackboard (upper, black line). Usage of both learning management systems rises beginning Sunday, crests during the early/mid-week and drops Friday and Saturday.
A session is defined as a period of interactivity with a Web site, usually beginning with the student, faculty, GTF or staff logging in to the LMS and clicking on several pages. The session ends when the user logs out, after a 30-minute period of inactivity, or at midnight. These images chart the number of sessions per day in both Blackboard (black line) and Canvas (green line). On average, Blackboard usage crests during a weekly cycle at 45,000 sessions daily and Canvas usage crests at 13,000 sessions daily.
Roughly 25-30% of the LMS usage during Spring Term 2015 is in Canvas.
Blackboard users are spending 6 minutes and 24 seconds to navigate 8.06 pages during each session on average, compared to Canvas users who navigate 5.08 pages in 5 minutes 31 seconds on average. Assuming that Blackboard and Canvas users are engaging in the same kinds of transactions and (submitting assignments, posting to a discussion board, taking a quiz, referencing the syllabus or a reading, etc.), users are likely completing their transactions more quickly and efficiently.
Faculty, GTF, Student Support Requested and Provided

Faculty and GTF Support

CMET usually responds to a monthly average of 127 requests for educational technology support from faculty and GTFs. In preparation for the March 30, 2015 start of Spring term, the first term teaching in Canvas, CMET responded to 569 support requests, 448% more than the average. During April 2015, CMET responded to 387, 305% more than the average.

During the ramp up / launch period for Canvas, (Spring break through the first week of Spring Quarter 2015), CMET received only 62 Blackboard and other educational technology support requests and 414 Canvas-related training and support requests.

These requests were supported by 3.0 full time CMET staff FTE, 2.0 GTF (5 GTFs at .4 FTE each) dedicated to Canvas, and 1.25 FTE undergraduate LMS and educational technology support staff at CMET Consulting (5 undergraduate students at approximately 0.25 FTE each).

CMET has also offered over 80 two-hour Canvas workshops to nearly 500 faculty members, GTFs and academic support staff.
Demand for Faculty and GTF LMS Support to Increase Dramatically

We anticipate seeing an even greater explosion of faculty and GTF support requests during September 2015 and October 2015, concurrent with the beginning of the Fall Quarter 2015. We anticipate the other 75% of Blackboard users to move into Canvas. During this time, we will have 4.0 FTE from full time CMET staff, 0.98 GTFs (2 GTFs at 0.49 FTE each), and 1.25 FTE undergraduate CMET consultants (5 undergraduate students at approximately 0.25 FTE each). The wait/response times for faculty and GTF support is expected to increase dramatically. Faculty and GTFs have been aggressively encouraged during Spring term 2015 to get trained and to migrate early so as to avoid the long waits.

Student Support
Student support requests were tracked separately and do not appear in these charts. During this period, we received approximately 150 student support requests; the majority of these “help tickets” were sent by students who had bookmarked the Shibboleth log in page instead of canvas.uoregon.edu.

The overwhelming majority of these student support requests were received and resolved by the UO Libraries Help Desk. Other points of support include the Technology Service Desk (Information Services), school/college IT help desks (AAA, SOJC, LCB, etc.), and by instructors.

Integrations

FERPA and Third Party Integrations
Faculty and GTFs have requested resources that require integration with third party vendor products. The most common of these requests are online materials provided by publishers such as McGraw Hill,
and Wiley Plus, to be used in conjunction with course textbooks. The University of Oregon Purchasing and Contracting Office is partnering with us to develop and streamline a process by which we can vet requests for data security and FERPA data risk management. We hope to have a more streamlined process in place during Summer 2015.

**i<Clicker**
The University of Oregon has supported the i<Clicker integration in Blackboard. This integration is available in Canvas as well.

**Scantron**
Partnering with Information Services which offers Scantron test scanning services, CMET has supported the Scantron integration in Blackboard. This integration is available in Canvas as well.

**Plagiarism Detection Software**
Blackboard offers SafeAssign, a proprietary plagiarism detection software available within Blackboard without additional cost. Canvas does not offer a built-in plagiarism detection software. Beginning Summer term 2015, plagiarism detection software will be available and integrated into Canvas. During Spring term 2015, instructors wishing to use plagiarism detection software used a workaround solution.

**New Features Offered to Faculty by Canvas**
Canvas offers many features to instructors and students that were not available in the previous learning management system. Many faculty have already discovered (through formal workshops or on their own) drag-and-drop uploading of course files, media feedback on assignments, and SpeedGrader.

After successfully migrating the campus to Canvas, CMET will begin to teach instructors how to take advantage of these “new” and advanced features, such as free mobile apps, SpeedGrader, media (video) feedback, web conferencing, virtual office hours, and course analytics in the faculty dashboard which can be used for early academic intervention at the course level.

**Course Analytics for Faculty and GTFs**
Instructors have access to their analytics dashboard specific to each course. In addition to Canvas activity (page views, etc.) by day for each course, instructors can see both aggregate and individual (to the student) analytics related to assignment submission and grade distribute.
Sample Canvas Site

Faculty Dashboard: Course Analytics
LMS Usage Analytics for Schools / Colleges

Canvas offers analytics dashboards with aggregate, de-identified analytics for the school/college or academic unit.

As of June 1, 2015, 619 CRNs were being taught in 507 Canvas course Web sites by 488 instructors. 12,057 students submitted 4,972 assignments, engaged in 3,043 discussion topics, and uploaded 13,563 files. Additionally, students and instructors authored 577 media recordings as either assignment
submissions or instructor feedback to student assignments. The “files” feature was the most heavily used, followed by assignments, then general page views, and then quizzes. Based on Spring 2014 Pilot analytics, it is anticipated that usage of the “grades” function will increase dramatically as we approach and conclude the term.

Similar reports can be generated for schools and colleges upon request.

Acknowledgements
We greatly appreciate the work of the nearly 600 faculty members and GTFs who learned Canvas and migrated their courses for Spring term on a short timeline, and the 12,000+ students who navigated multiple learning management systems and platforms during this transition. We recognize that the overhead of navigating multiple learning platforms takes a toll on student productivity and the academic experience and appreciate the patience students have demonstrated during this period.

Many campus partners have contributed to the Canvas migration process. Their names and units are too numerous to duplicate here but they are all listed on the Canvas Migration blog, http://blogs.uoregon.edu/canvas/acknowledgements/. However, we do wish to acknowledge several essential individuals whose late nights, hard work, expertise and good humor were keys to the successful implementation during the launch phase of Canvas:

- Tiffany Beattie, UO Libraries
- Seth Bohne, UO Libraries
- Tim Boshart, UO Libraries
- Tyler Brandt, UO Libraries
- Chris Calvert, Instructure
- Helen Chu, UO Libraries
- Stefanie Dupray, UO Libraries
- Sue Eveland, Registrar
- Kevin Foote, Information Services
- Nina Fox, UO Libraries
- Lauren Fukuhara, UO Libraries
- Noreen Hogan, Information Services
- Michael Jefferis, Office of the Registrar
- Kaitlin Jacobs, Instructure
- Tim Ketchum, Information Services
- Kellene Kim, Instructure
- Frank Leng, UO Libraries
- Paul Meng, UO Libraries
- Sanna Parrika, UO Libraries
- David Peterson, UO Libraries
- Ryan Rusby, UO Libraries
- Doug Simpson, UO Libraries
- Tiffany Van Pelt, UO Libraries
- Samier Waqar, UO Libraries
## 21,000 Blackboard Courses Automatically Migrated to Canvas (Fall 2012 – Summer 2015)

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As of June 5, 2015