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An Overview of Blackboard Learn New Features

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Blackboard upgrade

- May 2013
- Blackboard Learn 9.1
- Service Pack 11

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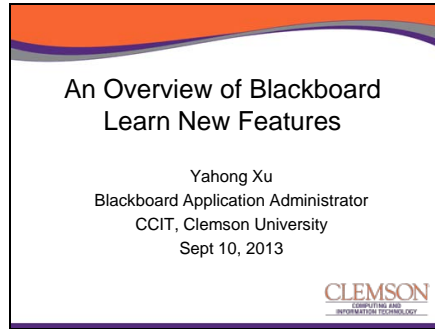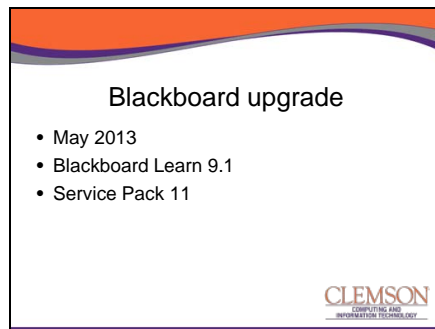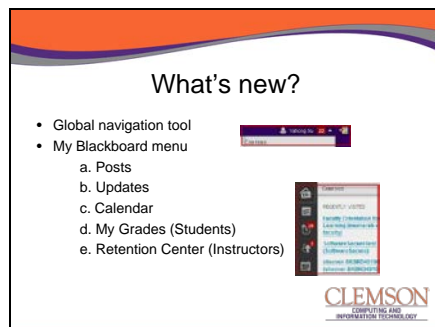
We upgraded the Blackboard Learn system in May 2013 after the spring semester was over to the Blackboard learn 9.1 service pack 11.

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What's new?

- Global navigation tool
- My Blackboard menu
   a. Posts
   b. Updates
   c. Calendar
   d. My Grades (Students)
   e. Retention Center (Instructors)
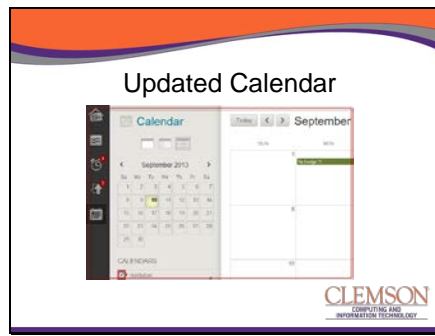
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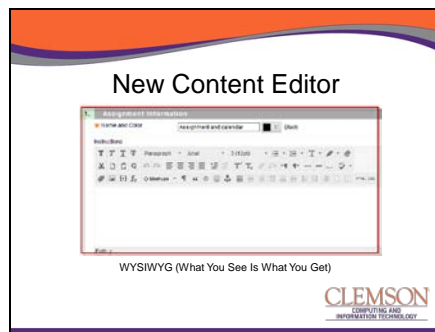
Now what are the new features with this service pack?
- Global navigation tool: you will see the global navigation menu after you log in to Blackboard
- My Blackboard menu:
  Posts: the latest posts in your course's discussion boards; Updates: all notifications for every courses such as assignment, or assessment; Calendar: include all events in all courses; My Grades: only available for students; Retention Center: specifically used for instructors

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Updated Calendar

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)

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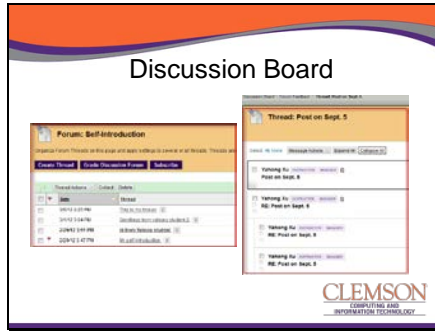COMPUTING AND
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This is what the new updated calendar looks like. The calendar shows events for all courses you are enrolled in. You can view by day, week or month, and use the arrows to move to past or future dates. You can select which calendar displays in the frame, color-code each calendar to help you distinguish between course events.

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New Content Editor

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)

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This is the new content editor, it is a WYSIWYG editor – meaning what you see is what you get.
It allows you to format text, attach files, embed multimedia, and insert equations, hyperlinks, and tables. The content editor appears throughout the system in areas such as content areas, learning modules, folders, items, announcements, and test questions.
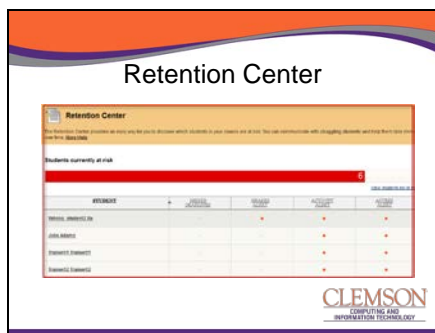
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Discussion Board

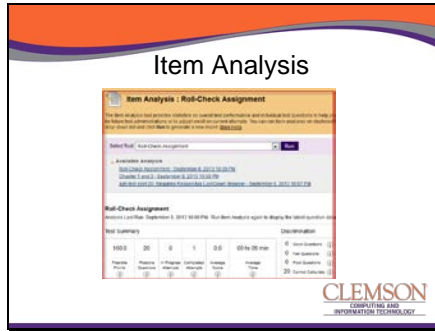This is the new design of Discussion Board.
A discussion board contains several forums created by the course instructor to organize conversation topics. Within each forum, instructors and students, if they are allowed, create threads. A thread includes an original post and all of its replies. You can search for a post, see how many posts are in each forum, and jump to a collection of unread posts. Select a forum to view its thread, on the forum page, you can select how thread are displayed.
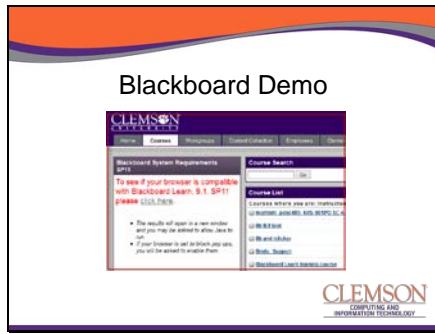
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Retention Center

This tool is specifically for instructors to use. It has replaced the Early Warning system in an old version. Instructors can access it either from Global Navigation menu or the course level, from Control Panel – Evaluations – Retention Center. It provides an easy way for instructors to discover which students in their courses are at risk. Instructors can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.
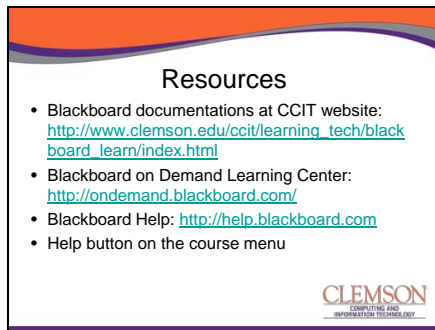
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This is another new feature also for instructors to use to see statistics on overall test performance and on individual questions. You can see how many questions are good, fair, and poor discriminators of student performance. Identify and easily correct ineffective or misleading questions and your tests are re-graded automatically
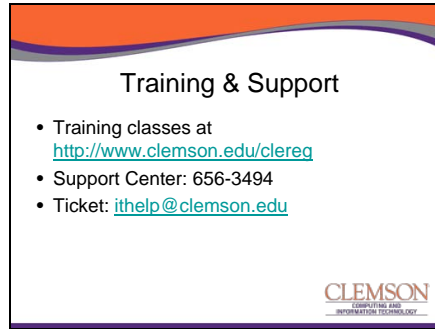
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Now we will do a demonstration of these new features in Blackboard.

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Here are some resources about Blackboard. Blackboard documentations at CCIT website, Blackboard on demand learning center, Blackboard help website at http://help.blackboard.com, Help button on the course menu will direct to student help page.

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Training & Support

- Training classes at
  http://www.clemson.edu/clereg
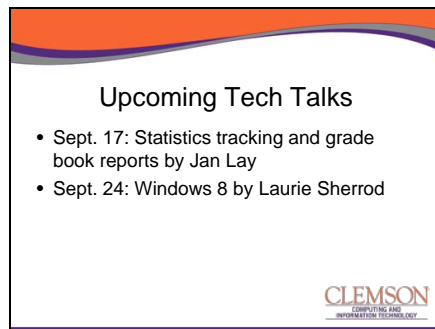- Support Center: 656-3494
- Ticket: ithelp@clemson.edu

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Training and support at CCIT: sign up classes at CLEREG, contact Support Center at 656-3494 or submit an ithelp ticket for any Blackboard questions or problems.
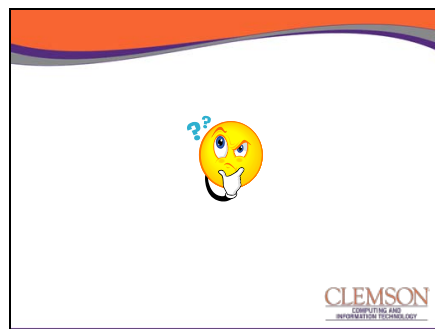
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Upcoming Tech Talks

- Sept. 17: Statistics tracking and grade book reports by Jan Lay
- Sept. 24: Windows 8 by Laurie Sherrod

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Upcoming Tech Talks in Sept 2013:
Sept. 17: Statistics tracking and grade book reports by Jan Lay
Sept. 24: Windows 8 by Laurie Sherrod

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Please type your questions in the Question and Discussion pod.