

Blackboard 9.1 Quick Reference Guide

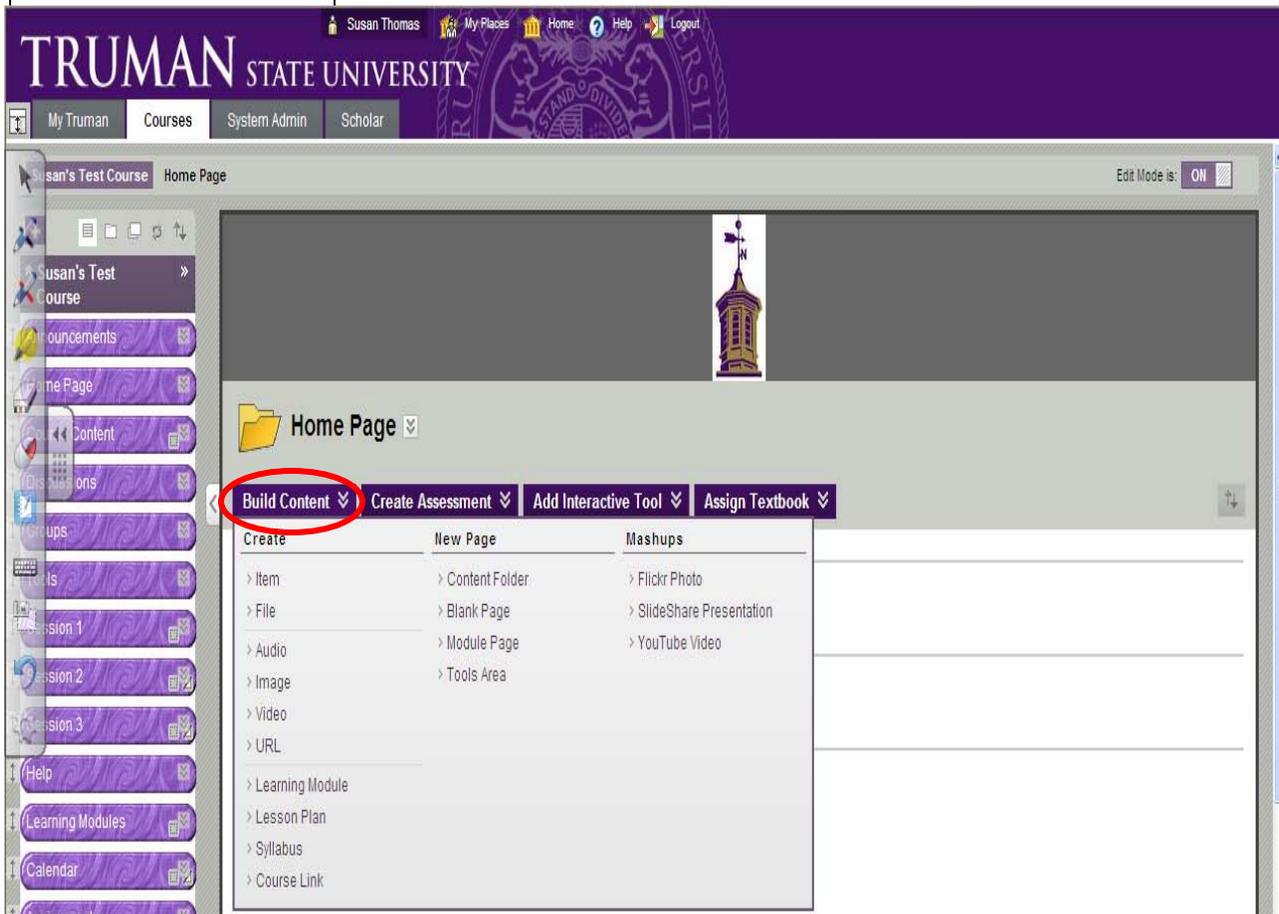
What's New

New Content Types

Several new content types have been added to provide ease in uploading content to your course. In the past, most instructors would use the **Create Item** button to add content to their content folders. There was no clear definition of the type of content you were uploading. The new content types provide a clearer definition of exactly what type of material you will be adding to your course. Some of the new content types are:

- Audio
- Video
- Lesson Plan
- Blank Page
- Mashups

In Blackboard 9.1 you can add content to your content folder by selecting the new **Build Content** button and choosing the content type that matches the item you are adding.



The screenshot shows the Blackboard 9.1 interface. At the top, the Truman State University logo and navigation links (My Truman, Courses, System Admin, Scholar) are visible. Below the navigation bar, the user's name (Susan Thomas) and other icons (My Places, Home, Help, Logout) are shown. The main content area displays a course folder named 'Home Page'. A dropdown menu is open, showing various content creation options. The 'Build Content' button is circled in red, and its dropdown menu is expanded, listing the following content types:

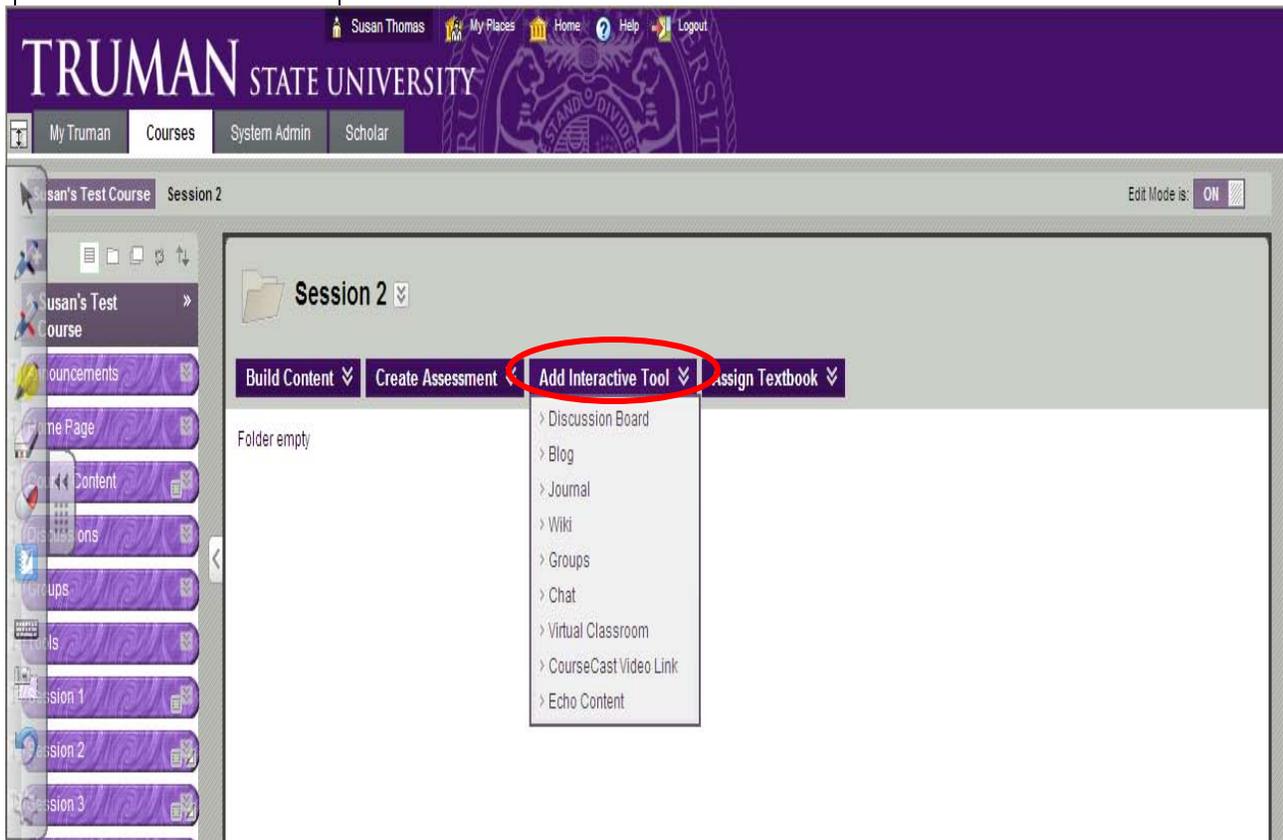
Create	New Page	Mashups
> Item	> Content Folder	> Flickr Photo
> File	> Blank Page	> SlideShare Presentation
> Audio	> Module Page	> YouTube Video
> Image	> Tools Area	
> Video		
> URL		
> Learning Module		
> Lesson Plan		
> Syllabus		
> Course Link		

<p>New Course Files Feature</p>	<p>New capabilities for uploading, managing, and using content in a Course are available to support Instructors when using the Course Files feature. In previous versions of Blackboard Learn, when an Instructor attached a file to a Course content item, that file would be placed in a “hidden” file system on the Blackboard server where it was invisible to the Instructor. Blackboard Learn now provides a Course Files area that allows Instructors or any user with an appropriate Course-authoring role to view and manage all files related to their Course content. Course files can be added or accessed by clicking on the new Files link in your Control Panel.</p> 
<p>New Mashups Feature</p>	<p>The term “Mashup” refers to displaying data from one third-party application in another application. The new Mashup integrations with popular services allow Instructors and Students to discover, select, and embed content from those services without ever leaving the Blackboard Learn interface. This release supports the uploading of Mashups content from the following third-party services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouTube: YouTube enables users to share videos. • Flickr: Flickr enables users to share photos. • SlideShare: SlideShare enables users to share presentations. <p>Mashups can be accessed under the new Build Content button. (See picture on page 1 of this document.)</p>
<p>New Wiki Feature</p>	<p>Wikis provide a collaborative area for Course content that allows Student participation and contribution. Both Students and Instructors can easily create content within the Wiki such as study guides and shared notes. Instructors can also use the Wiki for collaborative group projects where the Wiki’s history and participation summary tools give the Instructor more in-depth insight when assessing individual</p>

contributions of the Students while grading as well as throughout the collaborative process.

Students can use the Wiki to collaborate on content for the Course as well as for group projects. The Wiki's collaborative capabilities and history features help Students see what other Students have contributed and help avoid overwriting each other's work. For groups, the Wiki can be used to simply share ideas or to host the final output of a group project.

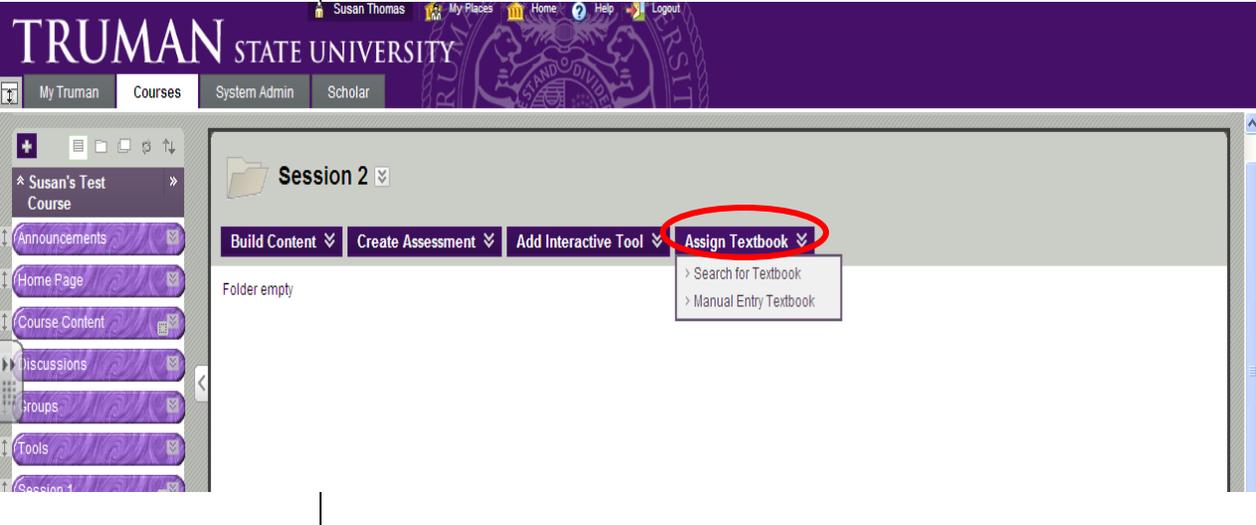
Wikis are located under the new **Add Interactive Tool** button.



New Lesson Plans

The Lesson Plan feature enables Instructors and Course designers to create a structured unit plan with distinct and customizable sections that provide a means of documenting information such as description, learning level, delivery instructions, and so on. Lesson Plans also include content designed for an individual unit using any type of content or tool enabled in the Course.

This feature will meet the challenge of developing unit plans and incorporating content in blended environments where classroom Instructors use Blackboard Learn as an instructional tool in the

	<p>classroom as well as for online teaching. The Lesson Plan feature is accessed by clicking on the new Build Content button. (See picture on page 1 of this document.)</p>
<p>New Assign Textbook Feature</p>	<p>A new button is available in a Content Area that enables Instructors to add a textbook to a Course. Instructors can manually add textbook information to the Course, or they can locate Textbooks in an external source, searching by title, author, subject, and ISBN. To add a textbook you will click on the new Assign Textbook button in the Content Area.</p>
	
<p>Learning Module Enhancements</p>	<p>Learning Modules from Blackboard Learn Release 9.0 has been enhanced in Release 9.1 to incorporate the navigable table of contents. These enhancements help Instructors present material in a more meaningful and engaging way to keep Students organized and on track with Course materials.</p>
<p>Grade Center Enhancements</p>	<p>The function of the Grade Center feature is the same as the previous release of the product, but a number of Grade Center enhancements have been included in Release 9.1 including the ability to grade Blogs and Journals for individuals and groups without having to navigate to the Grade Center. Instructors will also be able to grade by question attempt. This accommodates the Instructor who would like to get an overall feel for how their class is doing on a particular test question. You will have a second option to grade anonymously, which creates a workflow that is less prone to bias or favoritism.</p> <p>A new feature called Smart Views is also available. Instructors can use Smart Views to view specific information and data as desired in the Grade Center. The system views include viewing only Assignments, Assessments, Blogs, Discussion Boards, or Journals. These views can be customized so that Instructors may select criteria of categories, status types, or users.</p> <p>Instructors can also create custom Smart Views with different</p>

	<p>variations on these configurations. Instructors can designate any system or custom Smart View as a favorite, which will result in it displaying in the Control Panel. By doing this, Instructors can directly access their preferred views from the Control Panel without having to enter the Grade Center and then select a Smart View.</p>
<p>Test, Survey, and Question Pool Enhancements</p>	<p>In Release 9.1, Instructors and Course Builders have expanded question management capabilities available for use when creating Tests, Surveys, and Question Pools. These changes allow for more centralized control over question content and reduce the amount of time required to make global edits.</p> <p>Instructors and Course Builders can now copy a Test, Survey, or Pool directly from the List page. This addresses a common scenario in which an Instructor needs to provide a pre-test and post-test and needs to create two assessments that have more or less the same form. This capability also allows users to easily create new, smaller pools that contain a subset of questions of a larger pool. It is a much faster way to create similar tests compared to the import feature, which requires more steps.</p>
<p>Visual and Editing Enhancements</p>	<p>The exciting new social learning and teaching tools available in Release 9.1 foster more logical, visually impactful, and active learning opportunities for students, helping them stay connected to their educational experience 24 hours a day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Modules Table of Contents view • Wikis for Courses, organizations, and groups • Mashups <p>Many of the new features and enhancements in Release 9.1 save educators and organizational leaders time and effort and make it easier to focus on student achievement and retention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Modules Table of Contents view • Improved grading capabilities • Course Files area for managing content • Customizable Teaching Roles

References: Blackboard Learn (2010) *Release 9.1 Understanding the Change from Blackboard Learn 9.0 to 9.1* from <http://www.blackboard.com/learn>.