



News Stories

[Blackboard System Gets an Upgrade - \(August 20, 2007\)](#)

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The UO Blackboard system was recently upgraded from version 7.1 to 7.3, bringing with it several new and improved features. Among the improvements are:

- enhancements to Blackboard's discussion board feature
- a new plagiarism detection system called SafeAssign. Faculty can now have their students check their term papers before or during submission, and can get a report on portions of the paper that might match—perhaps inadvertently—previously published text.
- support for right-to-left languages such as Arabic
- an "early warning system" to alert instructors to student problems
- certification for use with Windows Vista

Other features that have recently been added include:

- a social bookmarking tool called Blackboard Scholar
- a Quota tool allowing instructors to monitor their Blackboard disk usage
- support for podcasting
- bFree, a tool that allows instructors to export copies of their Blackboard sites as ordinary websites
- a Signup tool allowing an instructor to create an area in a coursesite that students can use to enroll themselves in groups or activities

For more information on the upgrade and for the latest news on all things Blackboard, visit and bookmark the Blackboard news blog at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/tools/blogs/cet/>. The university's Blackboard system is a service of the Center for Educational Technologies, which part of the UO Libraries.