iLecture System version 3.0

Blackboard Plugin Overview

© The University of Western Australia, 2001-2005

Blackboard, the Blackboard logo, Blackboard Learning System and Blackboard Building Blocks are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Blackboard Inc. in the United States and/or other countries.
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USER GUIDELINES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 BLACKBOARD INSTALLATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 BLACKBOARD COURSE INSTRUCTOR VIEW</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 STUDENT VIEW</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1
Introduction

The Blackboard Plugin is a plugin for the Blackboard Learning System (Blackboard) version 6.0 that provides access to the iLecture Server functionality from within Blackboard. Specifically it allows Blackboard Course Instructors to place secure links in their Blackboard courses that link directly to recordings stored on an iLecture Server.

It communicates to the iLecture Server using the iLecture Integration API which is a SOAP service available in iLecture 3.0.

Figure 1-1. Blackboard Plugin Overview
Section 2

User Guidelines

The Blackboard Plugin provides a simple to use tool to add links to existing recordings stored on an iLecture server. This section describes the Blackboard installation steps, the Blackboard Instructor guidelines, and the Student view.

2.1 Blackboard Installation

The iLecture Blackboard Plugin should be installed by the administrator of the Blackboard server. The following files are included in the iLecture Blackboard Plugin zip file:

- iLecture-Blackboard-Plugin.war - (Blackboard Building Block)

2.1.1 Add Integration System to iLecture Server

The iLecture Blackboard Plugin communicates with the iLecture server through the iLecture Integration API. To enable the iLecture Blackboard Plugin to communicate with the iLecture server, Blackboard needs to be added to the iLecture server as an Integration System.

*Note. The Blackboard LMS Plugin requires iLecture System version 3.0 or higher.*

To add an Integration System:

- Go to iLecture Administration Tool and select the Configuration tab
- Choose the add link next to the Integration Systems heading in the Security Configuration box

![Figure 2-1. iLecture Administration Tool – Configuration tab](image-url)
Enter the Integration System details and click on the Add System button.

The Integration System Name can be any descriptive name for the iLecture Blackboard LMS Plugin.

The Client IP must be the IP address of the Blackboard Server that will be running the Blackboard Plugin. If the IP address of the Blackboard Server does not match the value stored for Client IP, then the Blackboard Plugin will be unable to communicate with the iLecture server.

The Client Key is a password used by the Blackboard Plugin to authenticate itself with the iLecture server before any communication can occur. This value should be treated as a system password and kept secure at all times.

The Function Groups indicate which set of functions should be available to the Blackboard Plugin. The Blackboard Plugin requires access to all functions of the iLecture Integration API and the 'all' checkbox must be selected.

The Contact Name should be set to the name of the Blackboard administrator.

The Contact Email should be set to the email address of the Blackboard administrator.

The Notes entry can be used to store any type of notes about this Integration System.

The iLecture server is now configured for use with the Blackboard Plugin.

2.1.2 Add Building Block to Blackboard

The Blackboard Plugin makes use of a Web Application Resource which is deployed via the Blackboard Administration tab.

Log into Blackboard using the account details of a Blackboard administrator. Once logged in, the System Admin tab should be available. If it is not, you will need to use the account of a Blackboard administrator to perform this step.
Figure 2-3. Blackboard Home

Bring up the Blackboard System Admin tab and then click on the Manage Building Blocks link in the Building Blocks Management section. Building Block is the term that Blackboard uses to describe plugins to the Blackboard Learning System.

Figure 2-4. Blackboard System Admin Tab
The Manage Building Blocks page in the Blackboard System Admin Tab is the central administration point for all plugins on the Blackboard Server. You will see a list of already installed plugins that are included with a default installation of Blackboard.

To install the Blackboard Plugin on the Blackboard server, click on the Install Building Block link. The iLecture-Blackboard-Plugin.war file is a valid Blackboard Building Block file and you should select it at this step. When you have done this, click on the Submit button to install the Blackboard Plugin.

If the Blackboard Plugin is installed successfully, Blackboard will display a success page similar to the one shown in Figure 2-7.
2.1.3 Configure the Blackboard Plugin

The Blackboard Plugin has now been installed to the Blackboard Server. Before it can be used it needs to be configured. Return to the Manage Building Blocks page of the Blackboard System Admin tab. The list of installed Building Blocks should now include the iLecture Blackboard Plugin.

The Availability of the iLecture Blackboard Plugin will be set to Inactive. To configure the Blackboard Plugin, the Availability column needs to be changed from Inactive to Unavailable. Change the settings in the Availability column for the iLecture Blackboard Plugin from Inactive to Unavailable. The page will immediately refresh to a confirmation page.

For the Blackboard Plugin to operate correctly, it needs to be granted certain permissions. The Make Building Block Available page lists these permissions and asks you to accept them before the Building Block is made available. At the bottom of this page you must click on the OK button to continue this installation.
Figure 2-9. Accept Building Block Permissions

After accepting the permissions, you will be shown a receipt page that confirms that you just made the Blackboard Plugin **Unavailable**. The Blackboard Plugin may now be configured but it is still not available to users.

Figure 2-10. Building Block Unavailable

From the **Manage Building Blocks** page in the **System Admin** tab, you will now be able to configure the Blackboard Plugin. Click on the **Properties** button next to the **iLecture Blackboard Plugin** to change the settings for this Building Block.
The configuration page lets you configure the system wide settings for the Blackboard Plugin.

![Properties Button on Manage Building Blocks page](image)

**Figure 2-11. Properties Button on Manage Building Blocks page**
### Properties: iLecture Blackboard Plugin

**Network Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iLecture Server Protocol</td>
<td>http</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iLecture Server Hostname</td>
<td>ilecture.yourinstitution.edu.au</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Security Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iLecture Integration System API Key</td>
<td>secret</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Submit**

Click Submit to finish. Click Cancel to quit.

---

**Figure 2-12. Blackboard Plugin Settings**

The *iLecture Server Protocol* setting must be set to “http” if the iLecture Server is not running SSL or to “https” if the iLecture Server is encrypted using SSL.

The *iLecture Server Hostname* setting must be set to the hostname of the iLecture Server.

The *iLecture Integration System API Key* setting must be set to the same value as the *Client Key* entered in Section 2.1.1 Add Integration System to iLecture Server.

Once you have entered the correct values click on the Submit button to save your changes.

Blackboard will display a receipt page to confirm that the settings were saved correctly.
2.1.4 Enable Blackboard Plugin

The final step of the installation is to make the Blackboard Plugin available to users. This is done from the Manage Building Blocks page of the System Admin tab.

Change the value in the Availability column for the Blackboard Plugin from Unavailable to Available. The page will refresh immediately to a receipt page that will confirm that the Building Block is now available to users.

2.1.5 Testing the installation

The Blackboard Plugin has now been installed and configured. To test the installation, go through the steps in the Blackboard Course Instructor View and Student View sections of this document and verify that they work as expected.

2.2 Blackboard Course Instructor View

The Blackboard Plugin can be used by any Blackboard users with Instructor or Course Builder access to a Blackboard Course.

Once the user has logged into Blackboard, they will be able to add a link to an iLecture recording in the same way that they would add any other type of document to their course.
First navigate to a section of the course that accepts documents such as the Course Information, Course Documents or Assignments sections.

Then click on the Edit View link to add a document to the course.

**Figure 2-15. Blackboard Assignments Page**

From the Edit View of the Blackboard course page, you can add a link to an iLecture recording by choosing iLecture Link from the drop down menu next to the word Select and then clicking on the Go button.

**Figure 2-16. Add iLecture Link**

This takes them to a page that lists all of the units on the iLecture server that they currently have access to.
From this page the Blackboard Instructor can either choose one of their iLecture units, or they can request access to a different iLecture unit. The iLecture unit is selected by selecting the radio button next to the unit name and then clicking on the Next button.

The next page of the Blackboard Plugin will allow a user to choose a specific recording from the selected iLecture unit, or choose to link to all the available recordings for this unit.

When the selections have been made the Blackboard Instructor can proceed to the confirmation page by clicking on the Next button.
If all the settings are correct the Blackboard Instructor can create the link by clicking on the **Save** button. If they wish to make any changes, they can return to a previous step by clicking on the **Previous** button.

If the Blackboard Instructor did not have access to the iLecture unit that they were looking for, they can request access to an iLecture unit by clicking on the **Request access to iLecture unit** link on the first step. This will display a list of all the units on the iLecture server for them to choose from.
To select a unit from the list, the Blackboard Instructor can select a radio button next to a unit name and then click on the Next button. This will take them to the confirmation page.

From this page, the Blackboard Instructor can return to the previous page or save this request. If they choose to save the request, an email will be sent to the iLecture administration email address with the details of the Blackboard Instructor and the requested unit.
To delete an iLecture link once it has been created the Blackboard Instructor should click on the *Remove* button from the *Edit View* of the Blackboard content page.

To modify an existing link, the Blackboard Instructor can click on the *Modify* button from the *Edit View* of the Blackboard content page and select a different iLecture recording.

Figure 2-23. iLecture Link Modify and Remove Links

### 2.3 Student View

When students use the Blackboard Plugin, they will do so by selecting a link from their Blackboard Course that has already been created by a Blackboard Instructor.

Figure 2-24. Student View

The link will seamlessly authenticate them in the iLecture System and redirect them to the appropriate page.
Figure 2-25. iLecture Recording List