

Blackboard®

News Release

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SaaS Deployment For Blackboard Learn Available To Customers In Australia And New Zealand

New delivery method brings enhanced quality, better support and access to the Ultra experience

SYDNEY, 29 August 2016 - [Blackboard](#) announced today at the annual [Teaching and Learning Conference](#) in Sydney that its flagship Learning Management System (LMS) Blackboard Learn (commonly referred to as Learn 9.1) is available as a software as a service (SaaS) solution to its customers in Australia and New Zealand. Delivered via the local Amazon Web Services datacentres, the new SaaS option is in addition to the self-hosted and managed-hosted delivery models already deployed.

“The availability of Blackboard Learn as a SaaS solution is a milestone for all organisations looking to combine a robust and flexible LMS with the advantages of the cloud,” said Blackboard Chairman, CEO and President Bill Ballhaus. “These advantages include zero downtime updates, fast roll out of new features and quicker delivery of fixes. We know that for some customers moving to a SaaS environment is important, and we are ready to support them whenever they want to start this journey.”

By moving to a SaaS model using an LMS that is already familiar to academics, staff and students, institutions will be able to mitigate the anxiety and costs related to change management processes. Moreover, they can continue to capitalise on any online curriculum developments, training and technology adoption investments they have made so far.

Once moved to the new deployment method, customers will have the option to access the Ultra experience of Blackboard Learn that features a simplified user interface, streamlined workflows, a personalised user experience that brings aggregated and actionable information to a user's view, and a mobile-first design. Available at first with the U.S. English language pack, the Ultra experience offers the functionalities most instructors need to manage their courses today. Its features will be incrementally expanded through a continuous delivery model. The Blackboard Learn 9.1 experience and the Ultra experience can also be run simultaneously via the SaaS model, allowing institutions to transition seamlessly to the Ultra experience according to their own schedule and without the risk of service disruption.

Today's announcement further testifies to the company's commitment to drive innovation in education by providing learner-focused solutions that help institutions deliver on student success.

About Blackboard Inc.

Our mission is to partner with the global education community to enable learner and institutional success, leveraging innovative technologies and services. With an unmatched understanding of the world of the learner, the most comprehensive student-success solutions, and the greatest capacity for innovation, Blackboard is education's partner in change.