Top 10 Reasons to Be Excited!

1. Completely redesigned, modern Web 2.0 interface
   • Drag and Drop capabilities
   • Fewer “clicks” needed to get things done!

2. Improved accessibility
   • Major changes in the user interface and in the behind-the-scenes technology have made Blackboard courses more accessible for people with different physical challenges
   • Improved accessibility has also improved the usability for everyone

3. Create, change, and reorganize the Course Menu directly within the menu
   • Drag and drop menu items to reorganize the Course Menu quickly
   • Drop-down list menus provide access to quickly create, rename, or delete Course Menu items
   • Add sub-headings and visual dividers to Course Menu
   • Quickly create links to individual Tools directly within Course Menu

4. Control Panel items immediately accessible below Course Menu
   • No need to click through multiple pages to manage the course

5. Drop-down list menus available throughout Blackboard
   • Access items from one page rather than several different pages

6. Multiple Grade Center Improvements
   • One-click access to Grade Center from below Course Menu
   • Change the number of displayed rows in Grade Center
   • Easily hide selected rows with one click
   • Optional anonymous grading of assignments and tests or quizzes
   • Can grade tests or quizzes by question!

7. Useful enhancements to the Assignments feature
   • Allow multiple attempts on Assignments (unlimited or a set number of attempts) and grade each attempt (optional) – can also allow an additional attempt for individual students as needed
   • Create Group assignments
     i. instructor decides which group(s) receive assignment
     ii. One group member submits assignment for group, instructor can assign one grade automatically to entire group, but can also override grades for individuals when needed
   • Student submission text box – students can submit text, links, etc. in submission box without having to attach separate file to the Assignment (optional)

8. More powerful Group management tools
   • Instructors can allow students to self-enroll in group
   • Students can create their own groups if allowed by instructor
   • Groups have more collaboration tools available
   • Instructors can create Group Sets to quickly create multiple groups and populate them with students

9. Blogs, Journals, and Wikis now included as part of Blackboard 9.1
   • Individual, course, and group blogs and journals are available
   • Can create multiple Wikis per course, and multiple pages per Wiki

10. Mashups
    • Quickly find and embed content from YouTube, Flickr, and SlideShare without leaving Blackboard!

Watch the Blackboard Upgrade page at http://www.ndsu.edu/its/bb-upgrade for current information!