

Blackboard®

BbWORLD®
2012

Discovering Free Building Blocks

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Agenda

- What is a building block
- What are the pros and cons of building blocks
- How a building block is installed
- User/Course building blocks
- Administrative building blocks
- Building block watch list
- Where to find building blocks
- Question and answer

What Is A Building Block

- Not for Learn basic version
- Custom code that provides extra functionality
- Free, Free with paid service, for purchase
- Specific to OS, DB, or SP or available for all
- Created by Bb partners, individuals, or colleges
- Building blocks AKA extensions or B2s



Pros and Cons of Free Building Blocks

Pros	Cons
The enhances the functionality of Bb	Not always available for your SP level
No Programming staff needed	Need a Test Server
No cost to use Free building Blocks	Trust unknown person & their ability
List of building blocks keeps increasing	Manually find, none or limited support
If used a lot Bb will incorporate/support	Sys. Admin. B2 search time allocation
Automated B2 update alerts (some)	Have to remove & install B2s
Get source code w/Free B2s, can modify to fit local needs	Need programming staff to create B2s per Bb's instructions or modify source
Anyone can develop B2s, so no need to switch to another LMS	Free B2s don't get included in update alerts

How A Building Block Is Installed

- The custom building block code is packaged up into a web archive (WAR) file which a user with System Administrator rights can install on a Blackboard server.
- During the installation process the system administrator will see a list of permissions that the new tool(s) require.
- The system administrator has to approve these requests before the tool can be made available.
- Some building blocks have settings that need set in the system admin panel area. Others only need to have default setting selected in Tools area.

User/Course Building Blocks

Course Evaluations	Online Attendance
Welcome Module	Twitter Mashup
Jing Mashup	Paste From Word
Add A Test Student	My Organization/Course Plus
My Messages	Add User By Role
Disk Usage	Announcement cast
iTunes U	Singup Linst (Oracle Db Online)
Browser Test (9.1 SP6)	B2 Quizlet
Document Unpackager	Bboogle

Administrative Building Blocks

Bb Stats

Login As

Who's Online

Course Life

Advanced System Tracking and Reporting

Suggestion Box

Course Grouping

Disk Usage

Bb Scripts (SQL statements only)

Partner Building Blocks

SecureExam

Turnitin

Internships

McGraw Hill

Nook Study

Café Scribe

Mobile Learn

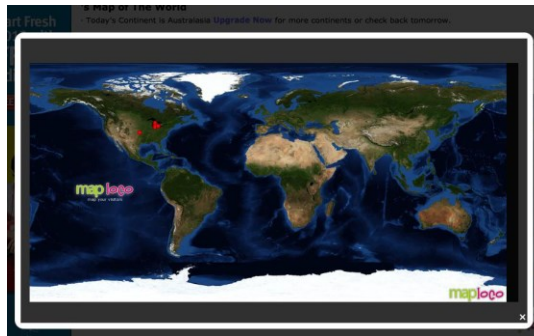
SoftChalk Publish

Registration Block (RW Poll/TurningPoint)

These are B2s that SU uses but many other vendors have building blocks for Bb if you ask. However, some are free and others will cost you an additional fee.

Building Block Projects To Watch

- Student Map
 - will allow faculty to build and item in the course and map student locations. The result will be a map which shows where students are connecting from. Currently still in development by Szymon Machajewski
 - <http://projects.oscelot.org/gf/project/bbstudentmap/>



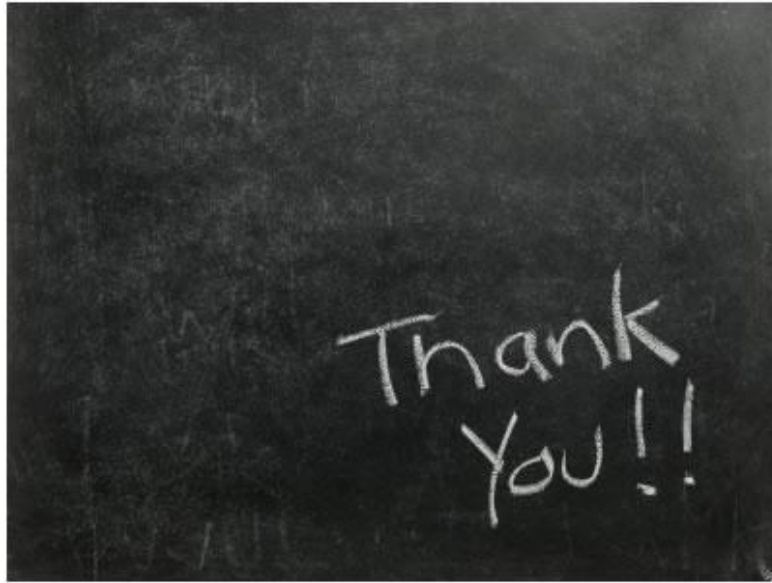
- bFree by UNC extracts selected content from Blackboard Archive/Export files into a local filesystem, allowing them to be cleaned, manipulated, zipped, and uploaded for use. This is useful for those faculty who will be reorganizing their courses or for complex courses.

Where To Find Building Blocks

- Bb Extension Catalogue
 - <http://www.blackboard.com/Partnerships/Extensions.aspx>
- Oselot projects site
 - <http://projects.oscelot.org/gf/>
- BB-OpenSource.Org
 - Not active site, version 5.5
- Admin ListServ
 - <http://lists.asu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=blkbrd-l>

Q&A Session





We value your feedback!
Please fill out a session evaluation.

The title of this session is: Discovering Free Building Blocks

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