A TLT Teaching & Learning Technology 2012 EVENT
What you are about to see in this new product is one of the most exceptional demonstrations of how partnership can benefit the user community that I've ever seen in higher ed technology. Blackboard Collaborate 11 builds on the fantastic architecture of Elluminate and the beautiful user interface that's simple and intuitive that those of us in the Wimba community have come to know and love. I know you are going to be as excited as I am when this new product rolls out, and I can't wait for you to see the amazing new features.

**Kara Monroe**  
Assistant Vice Provost  
Center for Instructional Technology  
Ivy Tech Community College

SOURCE:  
http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Collaborate/Products/Blackboard-Collaborate/whats-new/Testimonials.aspx
It is tremendously valuable for Drexel to have a presence in a group like this where the practitioners and participants are passionate about enhancing education on behalf of their students and faculty. It is phenomenal to work with the staff at Blackboard Collaborate because they feel a partnership, and that takes engagement to another level with and between the organizations.

Mike Scheuermann
Associate Vice President
Instructional Technology Support
and Information Resources & Technology
Drexel University

SOURCE:
http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Collaborate/Products/Blackboard-Collaborate/
whats-new/Testimonials.aspx
Those of us in education understand that there are large differences in terms of what we need in a technology solution versus those in corporate markets. Technology vendors like Blackboard Collaborate that take a proactive approach in designing its solutions by so actively seeking feedback from its customers, then have a solution that meets our needs 24/7, and allow us to be involved with its developmental roadmap, are highly desirable. This creates a solid vendor-client relationship, builds trust, and most importantly, builds strong, use-case specific products that allow us to achieve our goals.

Marcel Bechtoldt
Principal Systems Administrator
University of Missouri St. Louis

SOURCE:
http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Collaborate/Products/Blackboard-Collaborate/whats-new/Testimonials.aspx
COMING SOON WITH THE RELEASE OF BLACKBOARD 9.1
AN INTRODUCTION & DEMONSTRATION
PRESENTED BY:

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WHAT IS COLLABORATE?

• Virtual classroom environment
  – Supports hundreds of users (i.e. students) at a time
  – Many different tools available to support instruction

• Web conferencing tool
  – Small-medium group collaboration
  – Archived sessions for later review
WHERE CAN I FIND COLLABORATE?

• Standard tool available starting with Blackboard 9.1
  – Currently only piloted by a select few instructors and users
    • Chemistry
    • Technical Communication
    • Writing Center
• Needs to be “turned on” inside a course to be used
  – Each session can only be made available for up to 1 year
When will it be available?

- Concurrent release with Blackboard 9.1 upgrade after Spring Semester 2012 ends
- Should be available for Summer 2012
  - Definitely available for Fall 2012
- Interested in trying it out?
  - Let EdTech know so we can work with you
  - Requires some behind-the-scenes configuration within current version of Blackboard
WHO CAN USE IT?

• Anyone at S&T can starting using it in Summer/Fall 2012
  – Currently piloted by:
    • Chemistry to support their redesigned Chem 1 course
    • Writing Center for distance tutoring
    • Technical Communication for distance learning
    • Engineering Management for distance learning
    • ...and a few others here and there around campus who saw a need for a virtual classroom
  – Contact EdTech to start your own pilot, if desired
WHO SHOULD USE IT?

• Anyone who:
  – ...teaches a blended or distance course, especially from off-campus
  – ...needs to archive one or more lectures for students to review (e.g. test preparation)
  – ...wants to bring in a broader range of content into a course (web resources, specialty software demos, guest speakers, and more)
  – ...has reasons beyond those listed above

• Always up to an individual to decide if Collaborate will meet their needs
Why should I use it?

• For distance students, allow them to participate more directly with the instructor and with each other
• Allow on-campus students to engage with each other collaboratively
• Alternative lecture capture to other technologies (e.g. Tegrity)
• ...and more
THINGS TO BE AWARE OF…

• May take a few classes before students get used to it
  – Typically spend the first session chatting with each other asking questions
  – Using a TA to moderate the chat can be helpful in larger classes (c.f. Chem 1)
  – Once students are used to Collaborate, they really seem to like it
Things to be aware of…

- Use Web Tour to show videos (e.g. YouTube), not Application Share
  - Frame rates in the Web Tour are much, much better, resulting in a smoother video animation
  - App Share frame rates are very slow, resulting in poor quality animation and audio
    - Transitioning from one app to another also very jerky
Things to be aware of...

- PowerPoint presentations can be uploaded with following caveat:
  - Animations and other special features in presentation will be lost
  - Collaborate (like Wimba before it) converts each slide into a flat image slide with no animations or special features
On to the demo...
Final Thoughts

• Collaborate is a tool
  – It doesn’t replace instruction--just enhances it or complements it
  – Requires practice to become proficient!

• Think very carefully about how to use Collaborate
  – What features will most benefit current lesson plans?
  – What learning objectives will be met through Collaborate?
Final Thoughts

• Collaborate is technology
  – It can and will break from time to time
    • Software is only as good as its programmer
  – Requires additional technology to take advantage of all features
    • Web cam / Microphone
  – EdTech probably can’t solve all your issues when Collaborate doesn’t work
  – Contact the Help Desk at 573-341-HELP for assistance (online http://help.mst.edu)