



Learning Suite 10 Features Guide

April 2012

Contents

Overview

About Learning Suite 10

About this document

Newly redesigned interface

Structured and streamlined layouts

New navigation minibar

Simplified and streamlined navigation bars

Redesigned homepages and widgets

More notifications for students

New workflow for publishing Dropbox feedback

More flexible completion logic in competency structures

“Must post-first” option in Discussions

Import/Export support for Rubrics

Grading from iPad

One-click access to tool items and submissions from Grades

Streamlined content creation steps and more display options

Turnitin integration updates

Calendar Updates

Seating Chart Updates

Automatic population of grades from SCORM Results

Link to SCORM activities in Learning Repository

Pager additions

REST-based Calendar API

Redesigned Course Administration tool

Copying Attendance Registers

User Homepages, Articles, and Journal Sunset

Important This is pre-release information. Features, functionality, and screens might change prior to release.

Overview

About Learning Suite 10

We are excited to introduce Desire2Learn Learning Suite 10. This milestone release contains significant user interface changes for a more engaging and intuitive experience for all users. The most impactful UI changes include:

- A **new top minibar** that follows the users wherever they go in the system providing access to courses, alerts, and personal settings from every screen
- A **redesigned homepage tool** provides great branding opportunities and a variety of homepage layout options to choose from
- A **redesigned navigation tool** that provides flexible navigation options with branding opportunities and layout choices, plus the ability to organize links in dropdown groups for a more streamlined navigation experience
- **Stylistic and navigation updates** across all tools offer a modern, consistent, and intuitive interface that focuses users' attention on what is important, reduces errors, and simplifies tool pages

There are also new features and functions in some of our most popular tools including Dropbox, Competencies, Discussions, Rubrics, and Grades, as well as ePortfolio and Learning Repository.

About this document

The following sections of this document provide an introduction to the upcoming changes in Learning Suite 10. This document is meant to get you excited to play around with the software, and to start planning your upgrade with respect to timing, testing, and updating resources.

This document is currently focused on user interfaces that affect all Learning Suite tools, and on upcoming changes in Learning Environment. Features Guides for other Learning Suite products are available as separate documents.

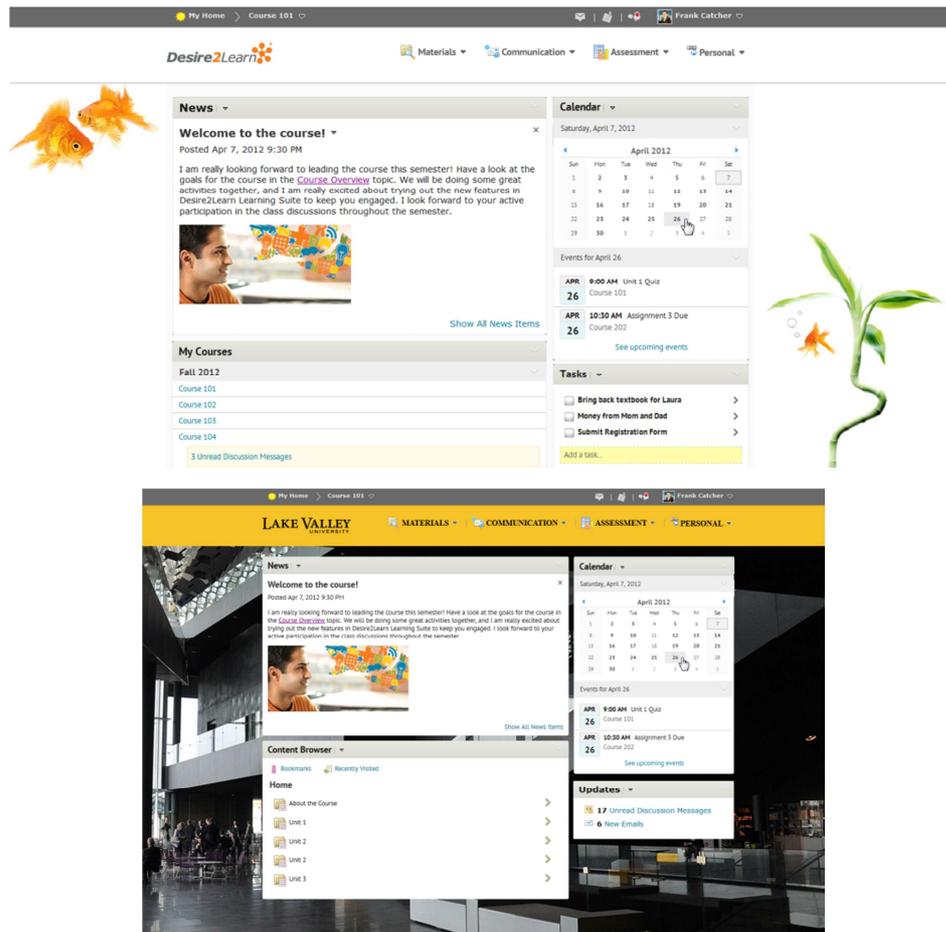
As with all pre-release materials, the features, functionality, and screens may change prior to release.

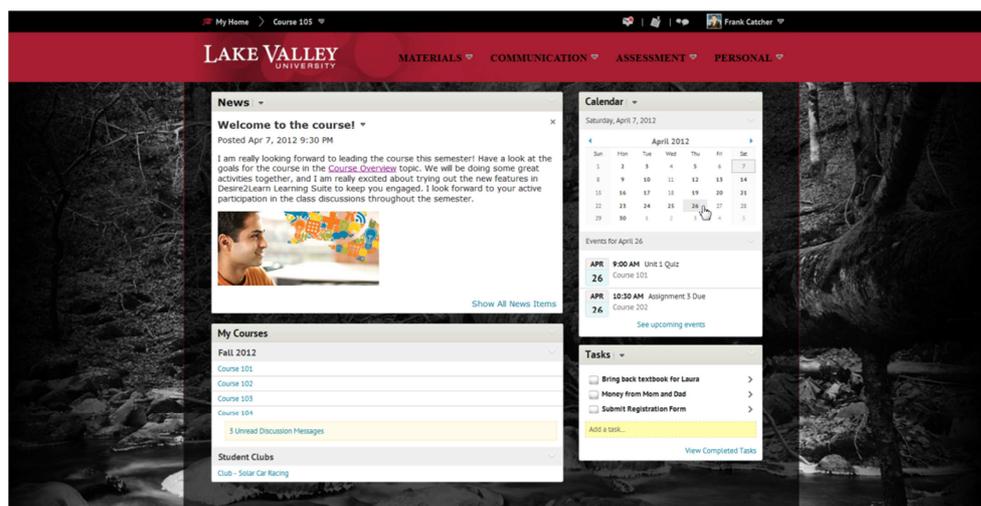
Newly redesigned interface

We are listening to your requests for a more modern and sleek interface, additional branding opportunities, and cleaner navigation that properly showcases the innovative and powerful capabilities of Learning Suite. The overall look and navigation of Learning Suite 10 includes improvements to usability and readability, consistent with best practices and evolving web trends.

- ✓ A modern look and feel that works great on different displays and focuses users' attention on the most important contents of a page
- ✓ Persistent and consistent access to courses, course alerts, and personal settings
- ✓ New branding opportunities that support the individual design aesthetic and learning philosophies of diverse clients, including an organization favicon, course backgrounds, and updated navigation bar and homepage layout options
- ✓ Overall usability improvements focused on simpler layouts, clearer primary actions, button consistency, and streamlined workflows

Structured and streamlined layouts





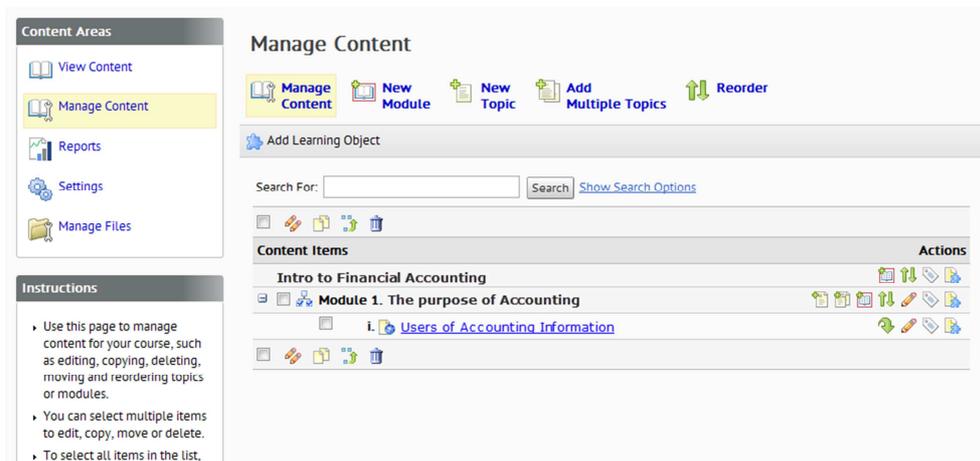
Course Homepage Examples

When you access organization and course homepages, you'll notice a variety of layouts that center widgets in a 960 pixel area, a design layout adopted by many of the most well-designed and beautiful web pages and applications. This layout creates a clean, appealing look that focus users' attention on the most important information. This 960 pixel area layout also adjusts with different screen resolutions, zooming levels, and tablet access. As with homepages, other Learning Suite tools have been updated to focus the main page content and actions at the center of the page to provide users with a better interactive and reading experience that doesn't require users to swivel their chairs or track small lines of text across vast, unrestricted pages.

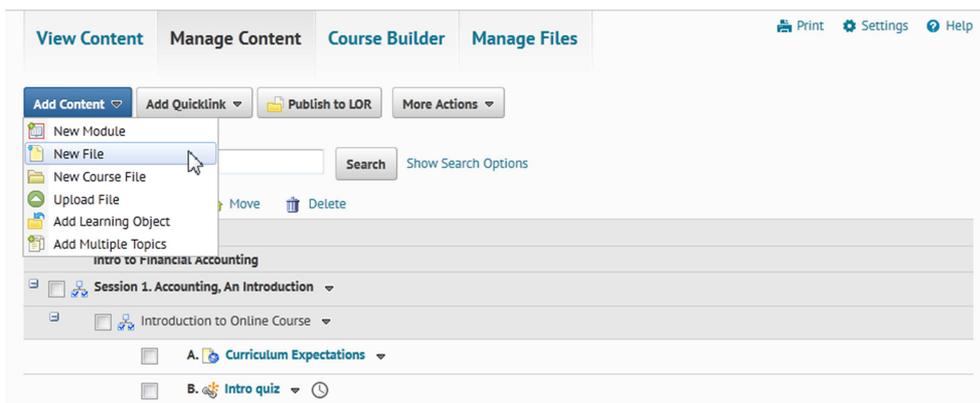
Tool page changes include:

- Updating the default page layout to the 960 grid, while maintaining full screen views in key workflows and pages. Full screen pages suppress the course navigation bar.
- Incorporating a new system font (PT Sans)
- Reorganizing in-tool navigation by moving the left-side Tool Areas panels to the top of tool pages in order to better communicate the relationship between tool areas and subpages, and to free up horizontal real estate
- Removing Instructions panels (which users miss or tune out) and adding help directly on the page next to fields and controls that the user is interacting with, and in customizable page-level orientation help accessed from a Help link on pages that require it
- Updating the styling and placement of top tool actions so that redundant navigation options are removed, primary actions are emphasized and sometimes grouped for easy access, and secondary actions are grouped in dropdown menus to reduce clutter
- Adding visible labels to grid action icons to improve usability for new users. Displaying field labels above the field or selection for better alignment and ease of completion.

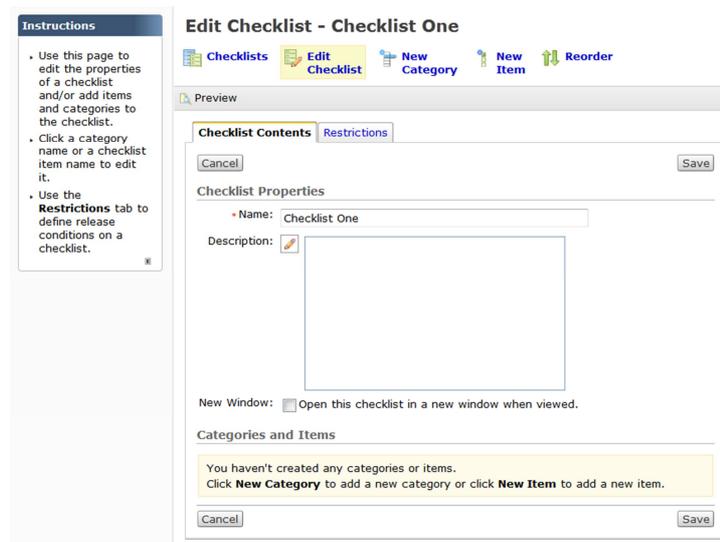
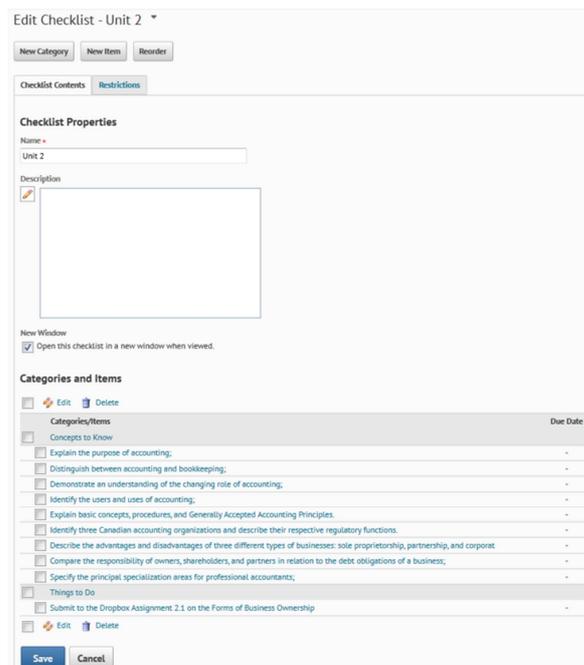
- Standardizing the placement and display of Save/Cancel buttons at the bottom left of tool pages to align with usability best practices and address issues with the previous full-screen widths where users may have had to scroll to find save buttons if they were zooming with their browser.



Manage Content 9.4.1



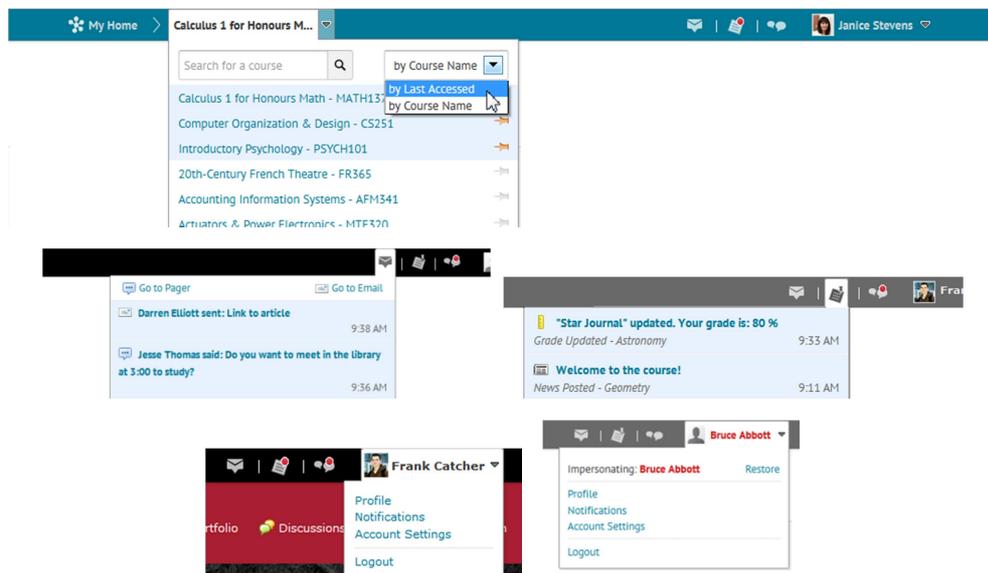
Manage Content 10.0

*Edit Checklist Page 9.4.1**Edit Checklist 10.0*

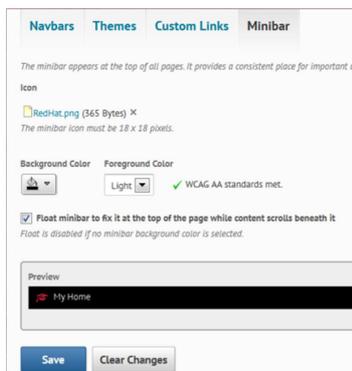
New navigation minibar

A new navigation minibar is now at the top of every page. This minibar enables users to switch between courses; navigate to organization and course home pages; access account settings such as Profile and Preferences; and receive alerts specific to their system activity. With easy access to Profile, Notifications, and Account Settings (which now includes links to change password and change email address for users with permission), you can consider removing the large My Settings widget from homepages.

For branding, organizations can customize the minibar's color and logo, and can specify if the minibar is fixed to the top of each page, or if it floats at the top of the page so that content scrolls behind it.



New Minibar showing Course Selector, Alerts, Personal Options, and Impersonation indicator



Minibar Management

Simplified and streamlined navigation bars

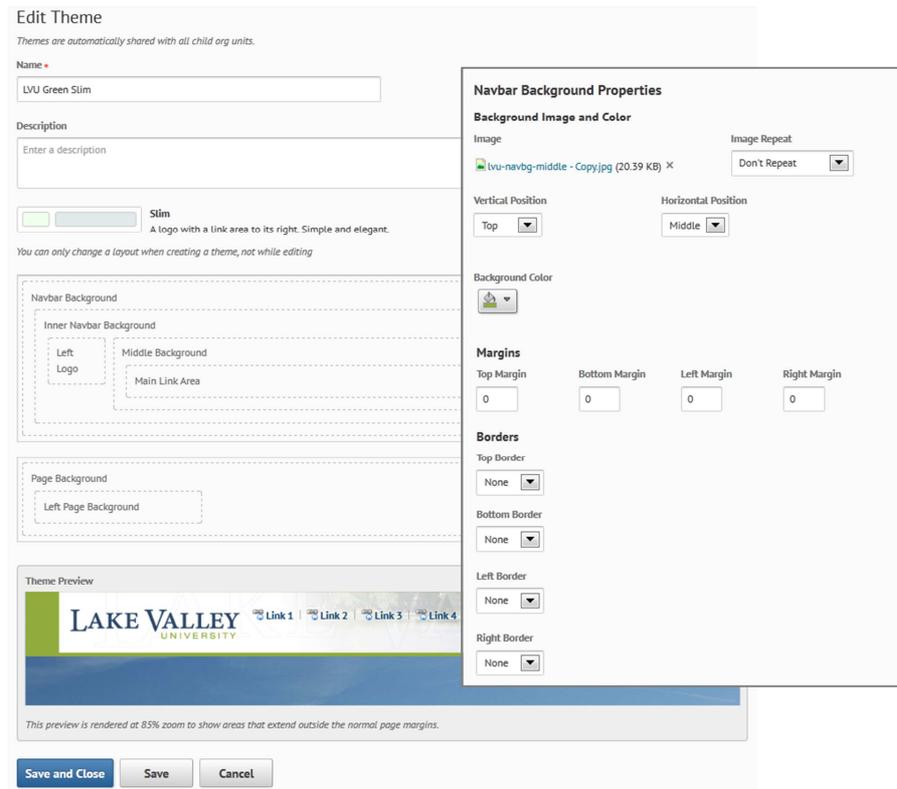
In addition to the new minibar, the main organization and course navigation bars are now simpler and sleeker. The management interfaces for navigation bars and themes (called templates in previous releases) have been updated significantly with lots of flexibility and with support for drag and drop link placement and file upload and accessible keyboard controls. A number of navigation bar layouts are included in this release to give users control over where logos are displayed, where links are placed, and how course and organization branding is applied within the navigation bar template and in the areas to the left and right of it through images and background colors.

The option to group links in dropdown menus in order to support slimmer layouts has been introduced in the Custom Links management area. Link groups can contain both system and custom links. There is even an included link group that contains the links from the My Admin Tools widget, allowing you to include the Admin Tools link on the navigation bar and remove it from the homepage, freeing up valuable homepage real estate.

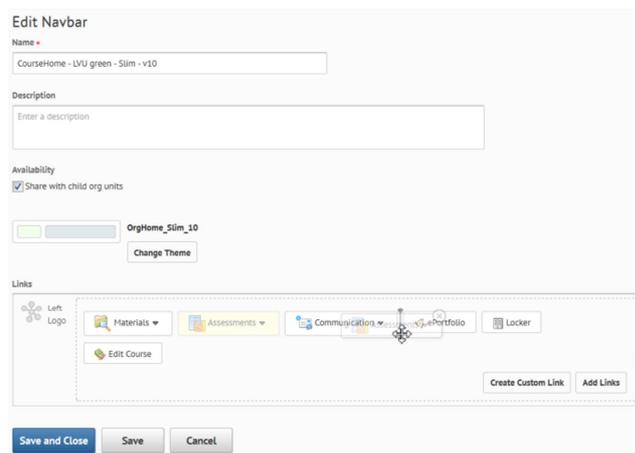


Existing navigation bars will continue to render correctly upon upgrade, but will be displayed within the 960 pixel grid, and thus may wrap depending on the number of links you have included – as they would in previous versions for users viewing on tablets, in small browser widows, or on screens and projectors with 1024 pixel resolutions.

Any effort you put in to take advantage of the navigation bar changes in this version will be worth it! You'll be able to get rid of links such as My Home, Course Home and Logout that are now available in the minibar, and you can easily create and share meaningful groups of links.



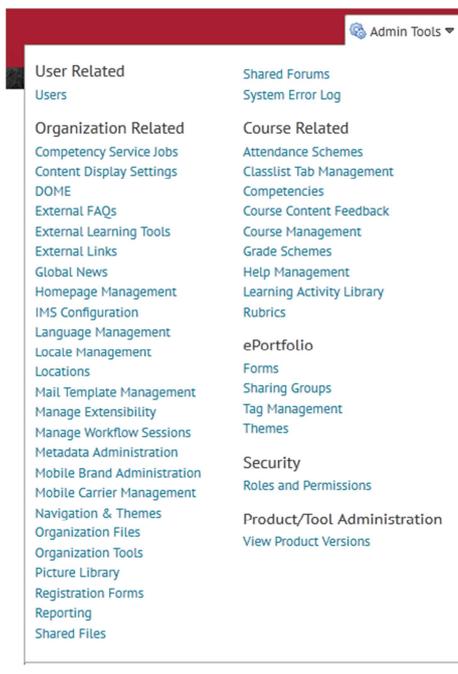
Theme Management



Navigation Bar Management showing drag and drop link reordering



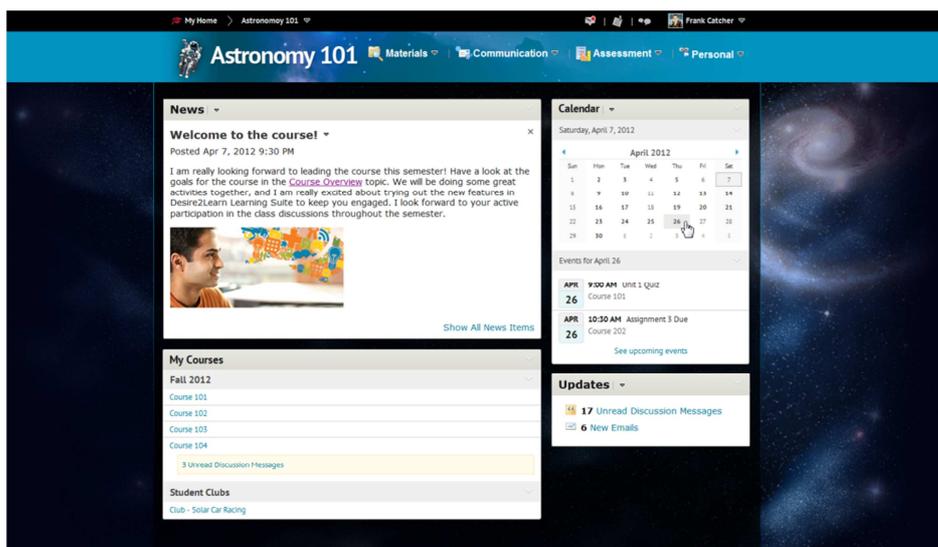
Link Groups

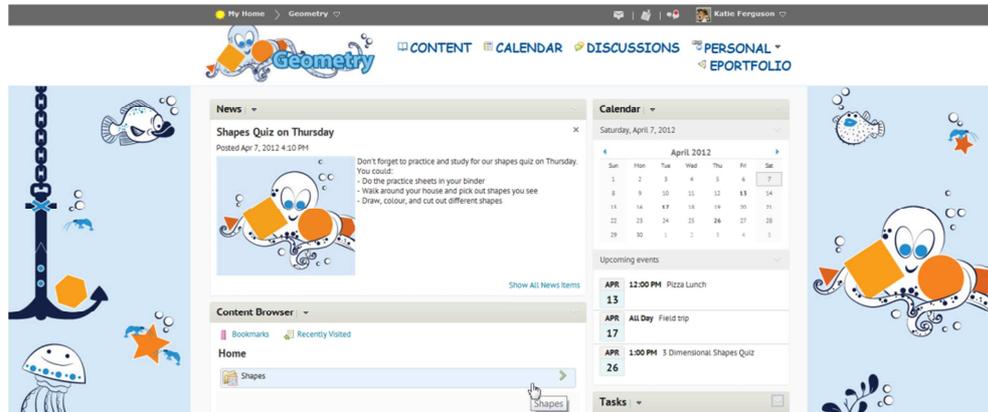


Admin Tools System Link Group

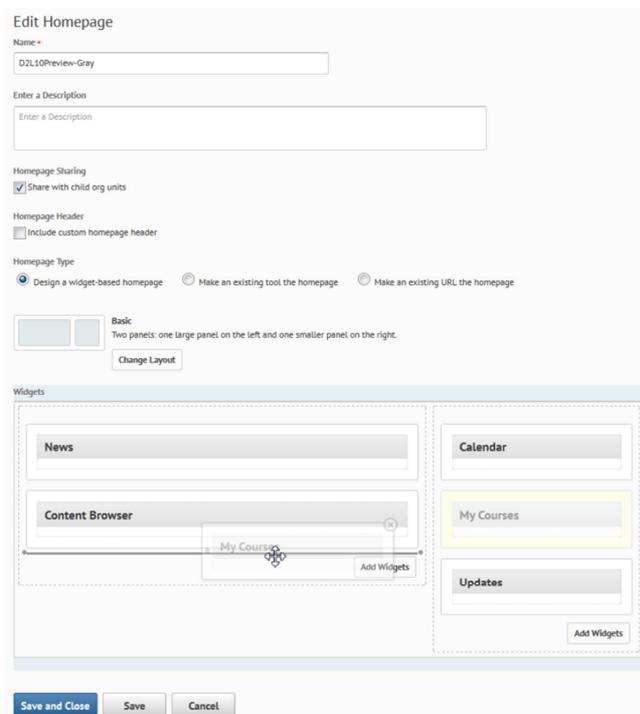
Redesigned homepages and widgets

The updated homepage management tool allows you to pick from a variety of layouts for widget placement and to use drag and drop or keyboard controls for arranging widgets. The placement of widgets on homepages incorporates the new 960 pixel grid system, and the screen space to the left and right of the centered 960 pixel layout offers further branding opportunities through images and background colors, all configured in the navigation bar template. You can also choose to include a custom homepage header, typical the course name, to be displayed below the navigation bar and above any widgets.

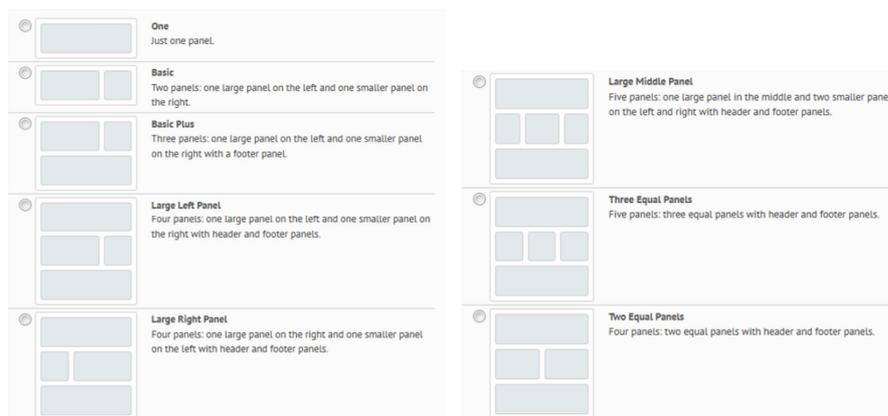




Branded Course Homepages

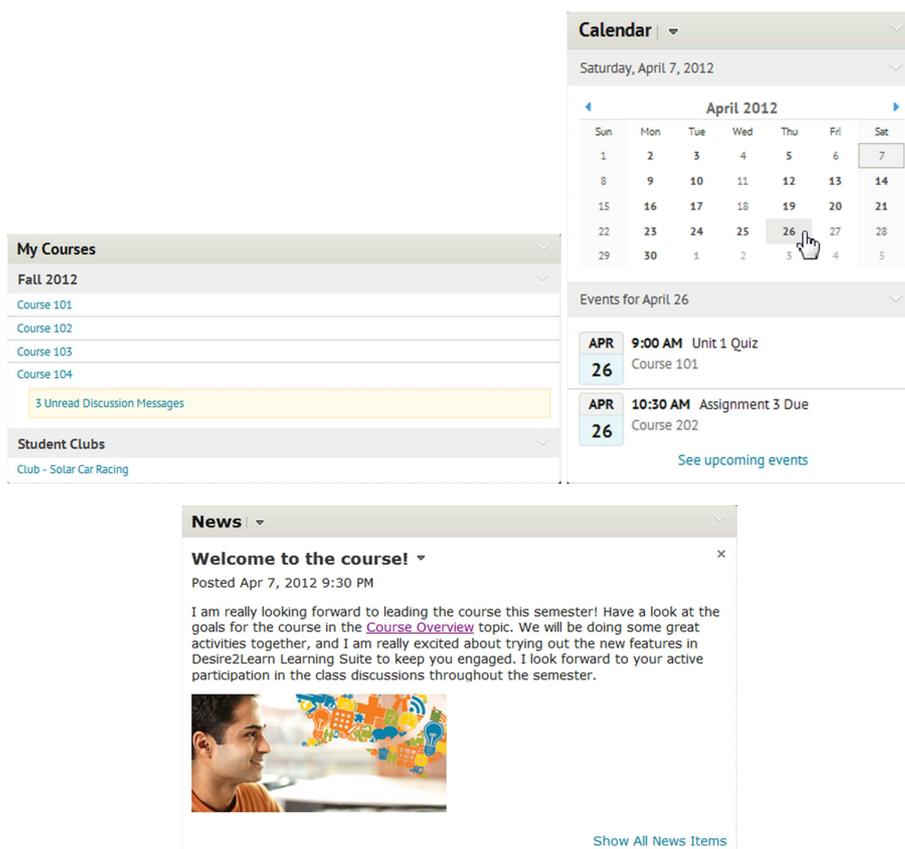


Homepage Management showing drag and drop widget rearranging



Available Homepage Layouts

You'll also notice a facelift to popular widgets such as News, Calendar/Events (which have been combined into one widget), and My Courses. The new designs look more modern and hide permission-dependent widget actions in a convenient context menu next to the widget name, and item-specific actions in a context menu next to the item name.



Updated Widgets

More notifications for students

In the past, users received notifications about News items, Discussion postings, course Events, and Dropbox due dates. Building on the Notifications tool from more recent releases, students can now subscribe to receive notifications on approaching quiz end dates and grades as they are released or updated. There is also a customization option that allows students to choose if they also want their grade values sent within these notifications, which administrators can disable this option if they do not want users to have grades displayed in SMS and email notifications. Other new customization options include the ability to set whether past, future and inactive course can send notifications.

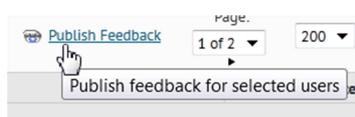
Notifications are now available in the alerts area of the minibar so that students can monitor cross-course activity as they complete work in a particular course.

Updated Notifications Settings

New workflow for publishing Dropbox feedback

In previous releases, as soon as feedback was entered and saved for a student's dropbox submission, that feedback was immediately available to students. Unlike other assessment tools such as Quizzes and Discussions, Dropbox feedback could not be withheld. Now instructors can withhold feedback so they can review and revise grades, rubrics, comments, and attachments. Publishing feedback allows students to see feedback from their submission history in the dropbox and updates any associated grade items. Instructors can publish feedback to all students simultaneously after they have finished assessing submissions or on a student by student basis.

This new workflow provides instructors with a consistent feedback experience that supports detailed and meaningful reflection.



Dropbox Publish All Selected Users Icon

More flexible completion logic in competency structures

When creating distributed competency and learning objective structures where activities span across multiple courses, instructors and course designers now have more flexibility to define how competencies are “achieved” across courses.

In many cases, a variety of courses can cover the same learning objectives, but students would typically take just one of those courses. In such scenarios, competencies can be set up at the organization or department level, shared with multiple courses, and configured with an option that specifies students would achieve specific competencies if they complete the objectives and activities within any of these courses.

Alternatively, if a student needs to complete a competency in all of the courses to which it is shared, those structures would be configured with the option to only be “achieved” if the student completes everything in all courses to which the competency is shared.

This flexibility is a huge benefit. It offers complete control over completion logic that supports a wide range of scenarios, and provides meaningful data on objective-based student performance for accreditation.

In previous versions, only the logic equivalent to “achieve when achieved in all org units where it exists” would allow for automatic shared competency completion.

If you are upgrading to Learning Suite 10, this option remains for existing shared competencies, but they can easily be changed from the interface, triggering a re-evaluation as well. Since the “achieve when achieved in any one org unit” is the most commonly desired behaviour, this is the default option for new competencies.

Competencies tool pages have been updated to better indicate competencies and learning objectives that are available to a course through sharing.

Make Competency Available To

The Course Offering: **Course 101** ❌

The Course Offering: **Course 102** ❌

The Course Offering: **Course 103** ❌

Achievement Criteria

This competency will be achieved when it is achieved in:

any one org unit
 all org units where it exists
 any one org unit

Competency Achievement Updates

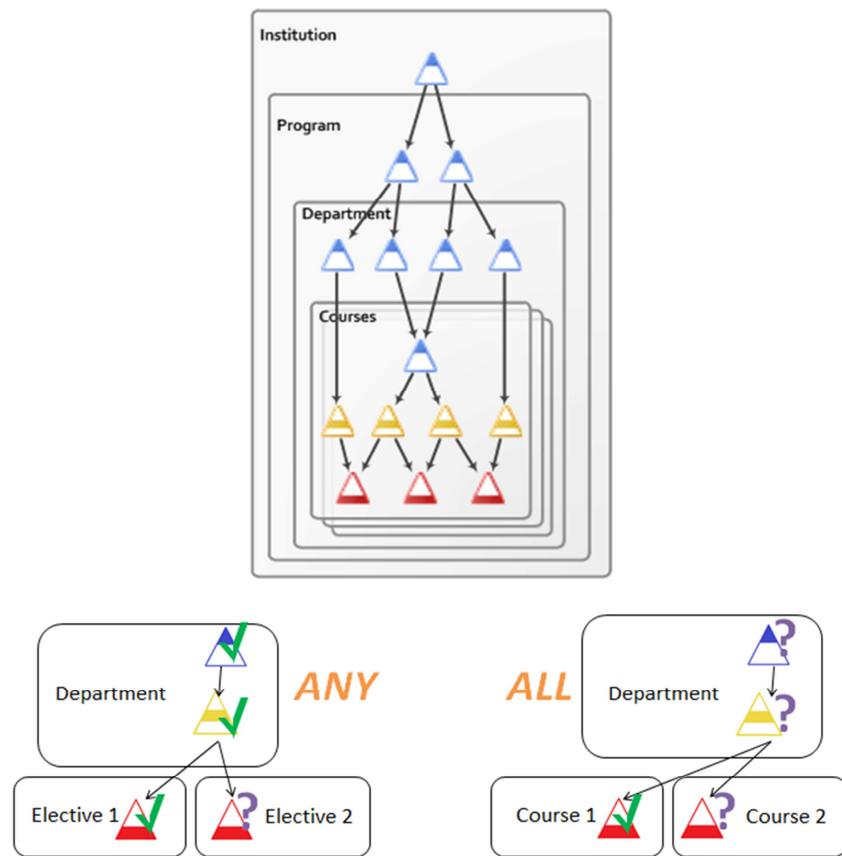
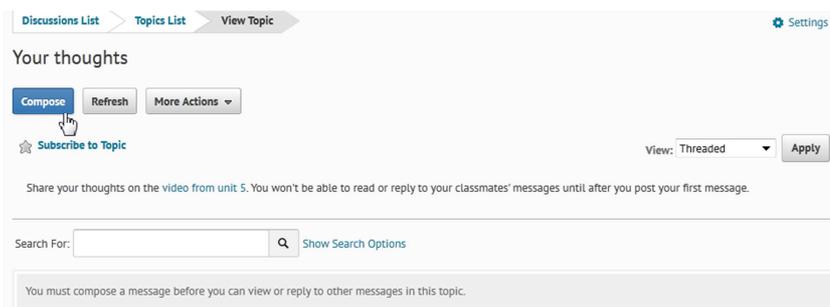
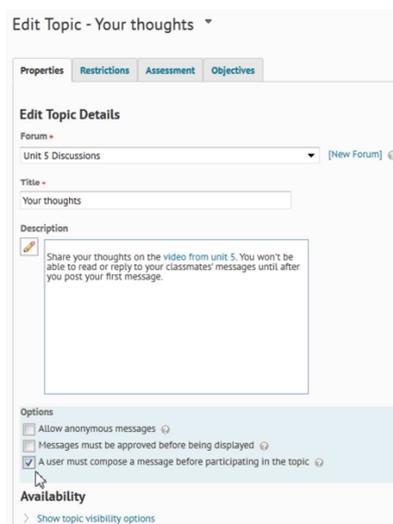


Diagram Showing Updated Competency Achievement Workflow

“Must post-first” option in Discussions

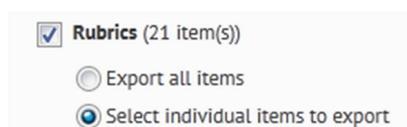
A new option in Discussions now enables you to enforce participants to post their opinion first before reading others’ posts. This encourages original thought without influence from other existing messages. Users can now have access to a topic but they must post a new message prior to having access to other classmates’ posts. With this option – available when creating or editing topics – users can access a topic, but all they will be able to do on first access is to post a new message. Only after they have done so, either from the desktop or mobile web, will they be able to read and reply to other messages posted to the topic by classmates. This “must post first” option enables a powerful new type of learning activity, building on the many types of activities facilitated by discussions.



New Student View of Post-First Discussions Option

Import/Export support for Rubrics

Instructors and course designers can now export and import rubrics in Desire2Learn XML packages from your organization and courses using Import/Export/Copy Course Components, or Bulk Course Export and Bulk Course Create. Instructors and course designers can now easily share rubrics with colleagues at the same institution (where there aren’t any shared enrolments between them to facilitate copying), and also enables sharing between institutions. This capability promotes the sharing of effective evaluation strategies and saves time previously spent on recreating rubrics in different environments.



New Export Rubrics Options

Grading from iPad

Using the Desire2Learn Assignment Grader for iPad, available from the Apple App Store, instructors can grade and leave feedback wherever they go, even when they're offline. In case they don't regularly search the App Store for "Desire2Learn", instructors are given a configurable message and link to learn more about the app right from the Folder Submissions page in Dropbox.

To learn more about Desire2Learn Assignment Grader, visit <http://www.desire2learn.com/products/mobile/assignment-grader/>



Desire2Learn Assignment Grader



New Dismissible Assignment Grader Message

One-click access to tool items and submissions from Grades

This release includes a number of changes to the Enter Grades pages (both the Standard user list, and the Grade by User views), providing instructors with useful indicators of the current state of user submissions, and access to user submissions and assessment item pages through icons, links, and context menus. These changes will save instructors time

and make it easier to navigate from Grades directly into properties or user submissions within assessment tools.

		Unit 1				
Last Name ▲, First Name		Ideas Conference ▼	Forms Bus. Own. ▼	Business Plan ▼	Test 2 ▼	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aarons, John	-%	-%	-%	-%	- / -, -%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adamski, Maximo	100 %	95 %	-%	100 %	29.5 / 30, 98.33 %
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alessi, Wayne	90 %				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aumiller, Katelyn	95 %	50 %	-%	100 %	24.5 / 30, 81.67 %
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baptiste, Liza	70 %	80 %	-%	100 %	25 / 30, 83.33 %
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beattie, Fran	80 %	85 %	-%	100 %	26.5 / 30, 88.33 %

New View Submissions Options in Grades

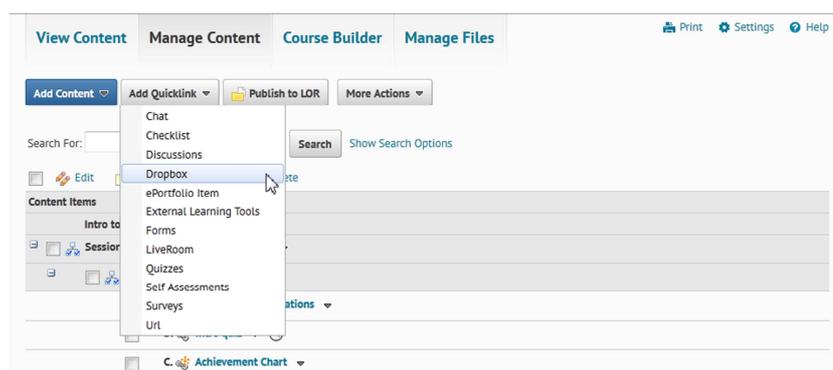


New View Submissions Options in Grades

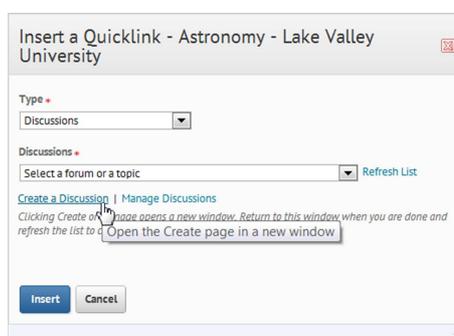
Also, from the Enter Grades page, users with permission to export grades can now choose to export in either .csv format (format supported in previous releases, useful for saving, editing, and re-importing) or .xlsx format (useful for opening in Microsoft Excel for saving, reviewing, formatting, and printing).

Streamlined content creation steps and more display options

A number of time-saving improvements have been made in Manage Content and Course Builder to streamline the creation of content and quicklinks. First, the action buttons in Manage Content for creating content have been included in a single button with a dropdown, enabling the action selection right from the main page. Next, a new Add Resource button with a context menu has been added to streamline the quicklink creation process.



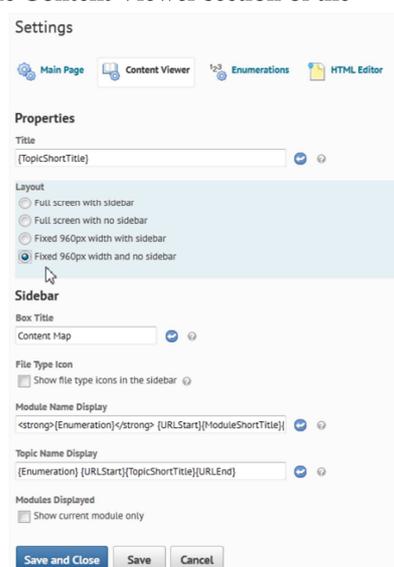
In addition to more efficiently being able to select an existing course resource to link, users can initiate the creation of a new item right from the quicklink dialog. This functionality is available everywhere quicklinks can be added, including Course Builder and the HTML Editor.



A link to Course Builder has also been added to the new top area navigation of Manage Content, providing an obvious entry point into the tool and improving its discoverability for those users who have permission to access the tool.

For viewing content, instructors and course designers have four options for how to display the content of their course, chosen from the Content Viewer section of the Settings area in Manage Content:

- View Content in full screen, with the content map sidebar on the left and without the course navigation bar (as typical for full screen pages)
- View Content in full screen, without the content map sidebar and without the course navigation bar
- View Content in the 960 pixel grid, without the content map sidebar but with the course navigation bar
- View Content in the 960 pixel grid, with the content map sidebar and with the course navigation bar

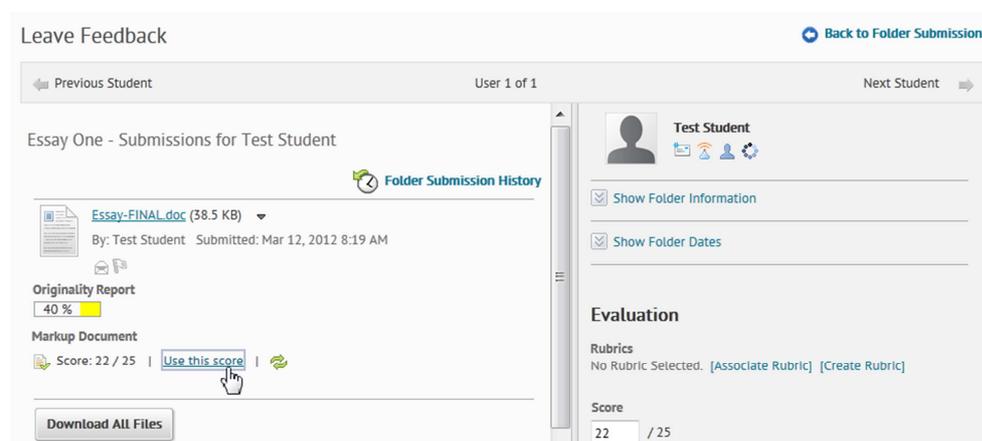
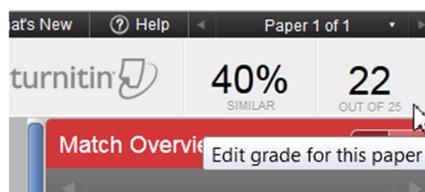


The setting choice ultimately depends on the preferences of the instructor or designer, and the type of content in the course.

To free up some vertical space in the content viewer, you can also have an empty value for the TITLE property, which will not display the topic title above the topic when students are viewing it. This configuration works well for layouts that include the content map sidebar.

Turnitin integration updates

The deep integration between Turnitin and the Learning Environment Dropbox tool has been extended in this release with a number of key enhancements. First, a dropbox folder's "Out Of" score is used when creating assignments in Turnitin for online markup (GradeMark) usage. If an instructor gives a student submission a score through online markup, this score will be shown on the Leave Feedback page in Learning Environment, and instructors can choose to use this score for the student's folder score, or simply use it as one data point when determining the student's overall mark.



Entering score from online markup; viewing and using score in Dropbox

The logic for allowing students to see marked up submissions has been updated as well. When creating folders, instructors can choose the date when online markup should be available to students through a standard date/time picker in the Advanced Originality Checking Options area (called Advanced Plagiarism Detection Options in previous releases). Coupled with the Publish/Draft workflow in Dropbox that is new in this release, instructors have full control over when markup and other feedback is available to students.

Online Markup Available to Students

3/11/2012 4:00 PM Now

Canada - Toronto

Configuring Online Markup Available Date/Time

Grammar check options can be set from Advanced Originality Checking Options as well. Clients with access to these features from Turnitin can enable this through a new DOME configuration option, and then instructors can configure the settings for individual folders as required.

Grammar Check Settings

Enable Grammar Check

Select Handbook
Advanced

Select English Dictionary
Both US and UK English Dictionaries

Categories Enabled by Default

Spelling

Grammar

Usage

Mechanics

Style

Other Options
[Edit Other Options in a new window](#)

Grammar Check Options

In addition to these options included on the New/Edit Folder page, instructors can also access additional assignment properties through the Turnitin interface via an Edit Other Options link which appears at the bottom of the Edit Folder page once the assignment is successfully created in Turnitin. This link provides access for instructors to configure rubrics in Turnitin prior to students submitting work, provides access to confirm assignment settings or update them with guidance from technical support, and will also expose future assignment options when made available by Turnitin.

All Advanced Originality Checking options configured from the Edit Folder page can now be edited after initial folder creation, and the associated updates will be made to the assignment in Turnitin. These options are now also copied along with other folder options when copying folders from one course to another using both Copy Course Components through the web interface and the offline Copy Course Batch tool, and assignments are automatically created in Turnitin.

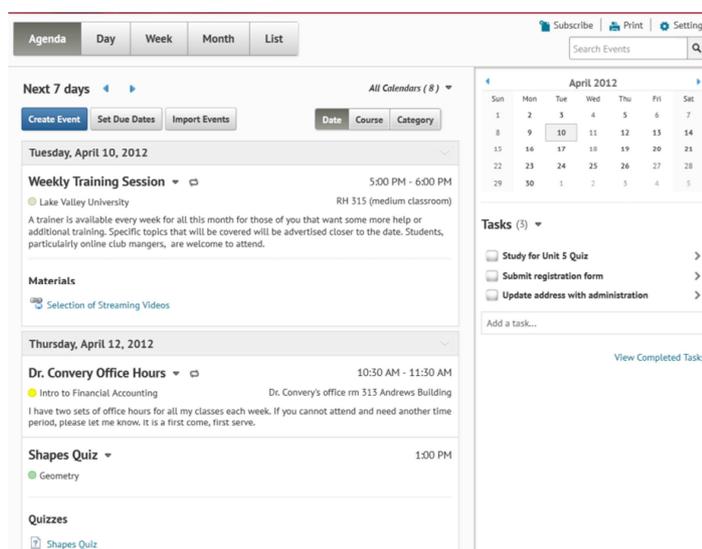
Learning Environment will check for updated originality scores for submissions whenever the instructor accesses the Leave Feedback page so that updated originality scores are displayed throughout the system.

Turnitin has also recently launched an administrator option for allowing all submissions to an account to be viewable by all instructors in an account, eliminating the need to requests access to view matching papers where the matching paper is associated with the

same Turnitin account as the instructor. Clients may want to enable this option for their account from the administrator page from the Turnitin website.

Calendar Updates

Learning Environment 10 introduces some great interface and functionality updates, building on the momentum of other Calendar improvements in recent releases. Calendar now displays in a two-column layout with the calendar selector, used for adding, removing, and filtering to specific calendars, has been moved from the left side of the screen into a flyout menu for quick access which improves the overall clarity and usability of Calendar.



Updated Calendar

In addition, the following changes have been added to Calendar:

- Hidden events are clearly recognizable in the Day/Week/Month views with a 2 pixel dotted border and descriptive alternative text
- Filters are remembered as users view items from the List view and return to the filtered list
- Calendars for all current courses where the user is explicitly enrolled are added and enabled by default, saving users the effort of individually adding calendars, and allowing cascading users to add only the specific calendars they care about
- A new print option has been introduced that allows users to control whether or not page breaks are added after every event when printing
- The events displayed as a result of searching and filtering from the List view can be printed

- When deleting a repeating event, options are available to delete the series, the current occurrence, or the current occurrence and future occurrences
- Task headings now indicate the number of incomplete tasks

Seating Chart Updates

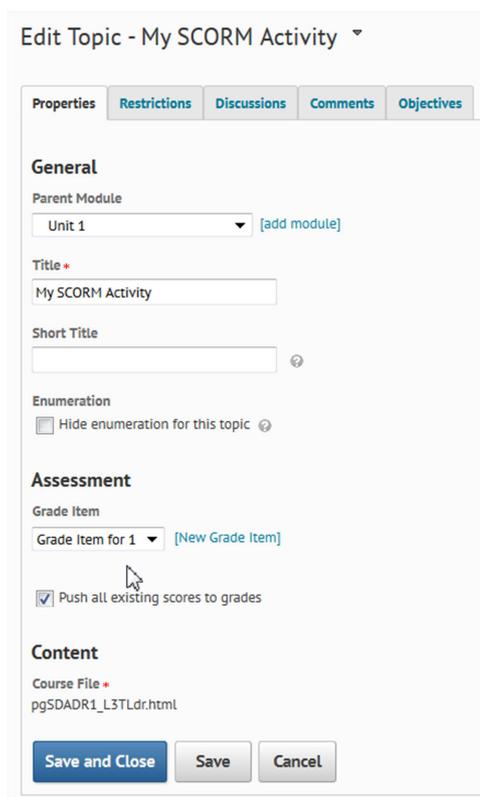
Like Calendar, Seating Chart has been updated in Learning Environment 10. The “assign all” functionality has been expanded to provide more control over the seat distribution and order that users are assigned seats. Users can choose to randomly distribute seats, assign from the top left or right, assign from the bottom left or right, and choose the order that users are assigned (First name, Last name, Random). Layout improvements to improve the search positioning and clarity have been added, and navigation links between Seating Chart and the Locations tool have been added for easier management of layouts and to make it easier for users to get started with the Seating Charts.

Automatic population of grades from SCORM Results

Many clients use SCORM objects –content that can include interactive materials and assessments built in Flash or other technologies – as activities in their Learning Environment courses. SCORM objects that include assessments and generate scores send scoring information to Learning Environment through standard SCORM APIs. Previously, instructors could only see these scores, along with other information such as number of attempts and time spent, from the SCORM Reports page of Manage Content.

Now, scores from SCORM objects automatically push to Grades. Instructors and course designers can now create and associate SCORM objects with grade items before students interact with them. Instructors and course designers can do this from Course Builder too. This proactive association allows them to configure grade items with the desired weighting towards final grade, points value, category, grade scheme, and visibility restrictions.

Alternatively, the grade can be created automatically once users start interacting with the SCORM object. In this scenario, default values for grade items are determined from the topic name with default options so that automatically created grade items do not contribute to a user’s final grade and are not visible to students. Instructors can always edit the grade item properties afterwards to update the name, weight, points, visibility, and even point it to other grade items and have existing scores automatically transferred.

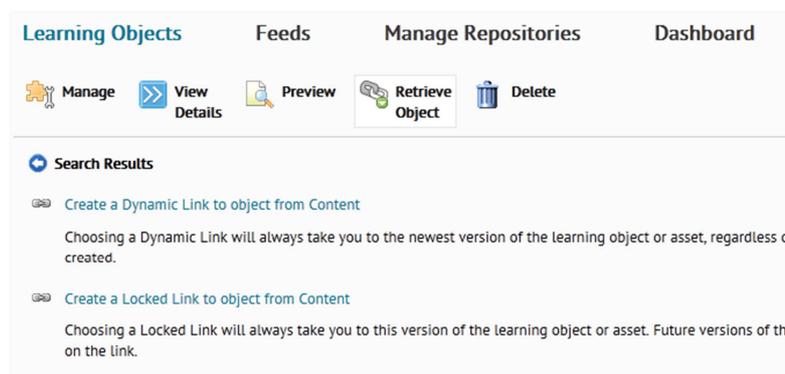


The screenshot shows a web interface for editing a SCORM activity. The title is "Edit Topic - My SCORM Activity". There are five tabs: "Properties", "Restrictions", "Discussions", "Comments", and "Objectives". The "General" section includes a "Parent Module" dropdown set to "Unit 1" with an "[add module]" link, a "Title" field containing "My SCORM Activity", a "Short Title" field, and an "Enumeration" checkbox labeled "Hide enumeration for this topic" which is unchecked. The "Assessment" section has a "Grade Item" dropdown set to "Grade Item for 1" with a "[New Grade Item]" link, and a checked checkbox labeled "Push all existing scores to grades". The "Content" section shows a "Course File" field with the value "pgSDADR1_L3TLdr.html". At the bottom are three buttons: "Save and Close", "Save", and "Cancel".

New SCORM Options for Associating a Grade

Link to SCORM activities in Learning Repository

In previous releases, SCORM objects could be stored in Learning Repository, and imported for use in multiple courses. In this release, there is no need to retrieve and copy these objects into courses, which typically include large media or Flash files. Instead, instructors and course designers can link to them, just like other resources in Learning Repository. When SCORM objects are linked, the SCORM API calls still access the SCORM runtime in the course for results tracking and interaction, including reporting and publishing grades, which is not possible with other systems. Linking to SCORM objects is a great way to save disk space through sharing and reuse, and to facilitate centralized updates.



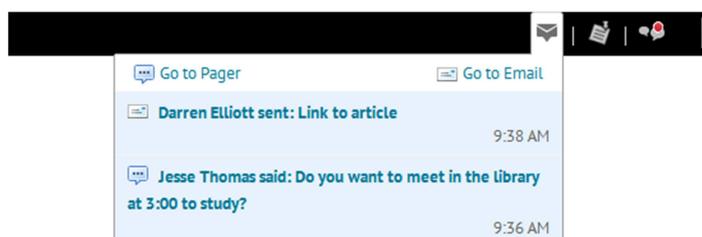
Pager additions

In addition to some styling updates, Pager has been updated with a few commonly-requested changes. From a new Settings area within Pager, users can control the filtering and sorting behavior of the various areas of Pager.

In addition to the ability to add friends directly by username (not controlled by a new role permission), users can now search for other users to add to their Friends list by username, first name, and last name according to their Organization level permissions that control searching for users in specific roles.

Changes were made to how Pager messages are stored in the system, and senders and receivers of messages can now delete Pager messages.

Alerts of new Pager messages now appear in the minibar alerts area for messages, which also provides a persistent link to access Pager. With this change, the settings for users to choose whether or not to show the Pager notification icon in the navigation bar, and to select a sound for an audible notification of a new Pager message have been removed.



Pager message and access link in minibar

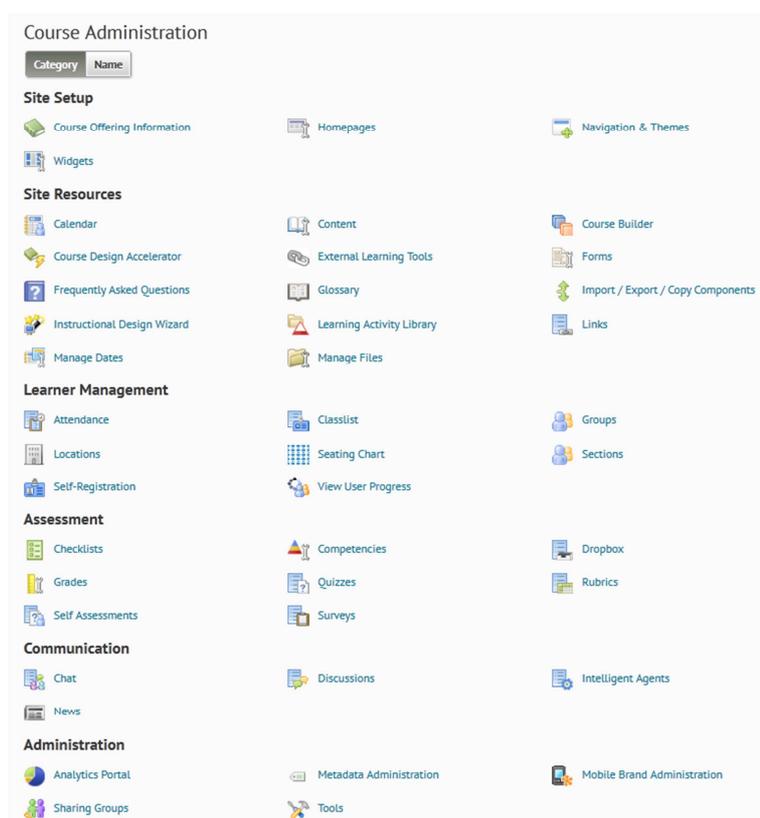
REST-based Calendar API

Adding to the available REST-based web services API in Desire2Learn Valence, interfaces for interacting with Calendar are available in this release to enable custom applications and extensions.

To review the specific attributes and actions in the Calendar API, visit <http://docs.valence.desire2learn.com/res/calendar.html>. To learn more about Desire2Learn Valence and to review all of the APIs and resources on the Developer Community, go to <http://docs.valence.desire2learn.com/about.html>.

Redesigned Course Administration tool

The Course Administration tool, typically accessed through the Edit Course navigation bar link, has been redesigned to enable easy access to many more tools, which reduces the need to have these tools added individually to the navigation bar. Users can sort the links on this page by category or by name.



Course Administration

Copying Attendance Registers

Instructors who use Attendance Schemes and Attendance Registers in their courses will experience some great time savings with the new support for copying Attendance Schemes and Registers in Copy Course Components and Copy Course Batch.

Choose Components to Copy

- Select All Components
- Attendance Registers** (29 item(s))
 - Copy all items
 - Select individual items to copy

User Homepages, Articles, and Journal Sunset

The User Homepages, Articles, and Journal tools are no longer available in Learning Environment as of this release. For suggestions on migration paths and steps, refer to the Learning Environment 9.4.1 Features Guide.