

# What's New in edX Studio and the Learning Management System

EdX continually introduces new features, enhancements, and bug fixes to Studio and the Learning Management System (LMS). The following sections describe these changes, listed according to the date that they were introduced on [edx.org](http://edx.org) and [edge.edx.org](http://edge.edx.org).

You can get more information and support help directly through Studio. Select the **Help** menu, then one of the following options:

- **Studio Documentation**, to download a PDF file with instructions on using Studio. Note that this document is not updated for the current version of Studio. Documentation will be updated in the near future.
- **Studio Help Center**, to access the forums and knowledge base. You can use these resources to find answers to common questions, or ask your own questions.
- **Contact Us**, to open a form with which you can directly post a question in the forum.

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## December 3, 2013

### edX Studio

#### Changes and Updates

The following Studio changes are included in this release:

- As part of a database architecture change and the implementation of a RESTful interface, URLs in Studio are changing to use a new period-separated locator syntax. This change currently affects a subset of pages in Studio. In future releases, the other pages in Studio will be changed to use the new URL syntax.
- Video transcripts now load correctly even if any part of `https` is in capital letters. (BLD-496)
- The Problem component now includes a template for creating checkbox problems. (BLD-193)
- In Internet Explorer 9, Save notifications now appear correctly when a user locks or unlocks assets. (STUD-815)

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### edX Learning Management System

#### Changes and Updates

The following changes are included in this release:

- Discrepancies in how the number of enrolled students were calculated in the Instructor Dashboard and the Beta Instructor Dashboard are fixed. Now, in all cases, the number represents the *currently* enrolled students. (AN-115)
- Incorrect student responses to problems are now saved after the student clicks **Check**. (LMS-469)
- JavaScript errors are now fixed in the Reset Password pages. (LMS-1265)
- The Wiki Changes page is now accessible to screen readers. (LMS-1309)
- Course staff can now set granular permissions for Wiki articles. In the main Wiki page, you can click **Settings** to see and set permissions. (LMS-1355)
- In the Instructor Dashboard, the **Edit Course in Studio** link now correctly opens the course in Studio. (LMS-1455)
- Taking a photograph for a verified certificate now works correctly. (LMS-1487)

- Links within videos no longer have a white background or obscure part of the video content. (BLD-521)
- In checkbox problems, using bold and italics no longer causes display problems. (BLD-449)
- The speed change option now works correctly in all video configurations. (BLD-457)
- A spinning icon now shows users with slow connections when a video is loading. (BLD-502)
- In the Forums, an AJAX request that results in a 500 error now informs the user to try again, instead of silently timing out. (FOR-37)

## Technical Changes

Contributors to the open source edX Platform should note the following change:

- A `handler_url` function has been added to the Learning Management System runtime. (LMS-229, LMS-230)

# November 6, 2013

## edX Studio

### New Features

#### Improved Course Export page

The Course Export page has a new layout, with enhanced help text.

### Changes and Updates

The following changes are included in this release:

- The **Forgot Password** link on the Studio Sign In page now works correctly. (STUD-689)
- In the **Create a New Course** page **Organization** field, text now suggests the generic UniversityX, instead of MITx. (STUD-885)
- The **Create a New Course** page **Course Run** field, text now suggests the using the year and trimester (for example, 2014\_T1), instead of the year and season. (STUD-916)
- Studio now continues working correctly when a YouTube video in the page fails to load. (STUD-472)
- To avoid potential problems with browser security, you can no longer enter video URLs with <http://>. You must use <https://>. (BLD-408)
- By default, the options to add a **Problem Written in LaTeX** and a **Problem with Adaptive Hint in LaTeX** are no longer included in **Advanced** tab of the **Problems** component. In addition, the option to add **E-text Written in LaTeX** is no longer included in the **HTML** component.

To enable these options, open the **Advanced Settings** page and set the value of the `use_latex_compiler` policy key to **true**. (BLD-426)

## Technical Changes

Contributors to the open source edX Platform should note the following change:

- The **Course Export** page is updated to use a RESTful interface. (STUD-846)

## edX Learning Management System

### New Features

#### Upgrading the Course Track

A student in the Honor Code or Audit track can now upgrade to the Verified Certificate track. (LMS-1127)

## Changes and Updates

The following changes are included in this release:

- After registering for a course, a student could use the browser's Back button to return to the Registration page and change the registration type. Now, if the user tries to go back to the Registration page, the Learning Management System redirects the student to the courseware, where the student must unregister first to change the course mode. (LMS-1062)
- When a student fails verification for the Verified track, the Learning Management System now notifies the user through the Student Dashboard, and prompts them to retry. The student must send another set of photos, but does not have to pay again. If the student does not retry, they can get a refund. (LMS-1133)
- In the Beta Instructor Dashboard, the layout is improved and the Pending Instructor Tasks section now functions correctly. (LMS-1242)
- You can now tab through the Wiki pages without getting stuck in the content area. (LMS-1307)
- Default settings now include the generic email address @example.com instead of @edx.org. (LMS-1363)
- The user experience and help text during course registration and upgrading are enhanced, and the last day to register for verified certificates is more clear. (LMS-1384)
- Keyboard navigation is now updated in the Wiki to skip repetitive content, allowing users to go directly to unique content on a page. (LMS-1387)
- Errors that prevented the **Progress** page from successfully loading are fixed. (LMS-1388)
- In the **Sign Up** page, the **Public Display Name** field was renamed to **Public Username**. (LMS-1393)
- Errors when creating a new account are resolved. (LMS-1418)
- A typo was removed from the course registration email template. (LMS-1419)
- The **Saving a Word Cloud** component generated an error message. This problem no longer occurs. (BLD-205)
- When viewing a video, if a student clicked on the video timeline before or after the specified end time, the video jumped to the beginning. This problem is resolved. (BLD-392)
- Students can now change the video speed when the video is paused. (BLD-424)
- Several problems with the video player are resolved:
  - The Start time did not work in Flash mode.
  - Students could not change the speed before the video started.
  - The end point in the video slider was inaccurate for short videos.
  - The video slider showed the incorrect position after the video stopped. (BLD-468)
- Sorting of the forums thread list now works correctly when a topic is selected from the drop-down menu. (FOR-224)
- Forum follow buttons are now accessible to screen readers, have the ARIA checkbox role, and activate with the space or Enter key. (FOR-240)

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## Analytics

### Changes and Updates

The following changes are included in this release:

- The user\_id field is added to tracking events. (AN-213)

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## October 29, 2013

### edX Studio

## New Features

### **New video editing interface, enabling an enhanced workflow for adding timed transcripts to videos (BLD-238)**

When you enter a video URL in the **Editing: Video** dialog box, the system checks if a timed transcript for that video exists on edX, and if so, automatically associates the transcript with the video. If no transcript is found, you click **Upload New Timed Transcript** to locate and upload the .SRT file for the transcript.

When there is an associated timed transcript, you can click **Download to Edit** to download a local copy of the .SRT file. You can then modify the transcript and upload the new file.

For YouTube videos, you can also import a timed transcript from YouTube, overwriting the version of the transcript on edX with the version from YouTube.

Backwards compatibility with the other transcript workflow is maintained with a tabbed interface.

## Known Issues and Workarounds

### **Uploading a large number of files (STUD-813, STUD-837)**

When you go to the **Files & Uploads** page, if your course has a large number of files, the **Files & Uploads** page can time out before it lists all the files. The page becomes unresponsive, and you cannot upload more files.

**Workaround:** To upload new files when the **Files & Uploads** page is timing out, limit the number of files that appear on the **Files & Uploads** page by adding **start** and **max** parameters to the URL. For example, you can append the following parameters to the URL in your browser:

<https://studio.edge.edx.org/assets/organization.course-number.course-name/branch/block/course-name?start=5&max=15>

This example tells the page to load a maximum of 10 files, starting with the 6th file. You can use other values as needed, as long as the list is not so long that the page does not load successfully. Note that file counts begin at 0, not 1, and that files are listed chronologically, with the most recent first.

## Changes and Updates

The following change is included in this release:

- Because Course IDs are not case sensitive, all Course IDs must be unique regardless of capitalization. For example, you cannot have both edX101 and EdX101 as course IDs. (STUD-873)

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## **edX Learning Management System**

### Changes and Updates

The following changes are included in this release:

- The cheatsheet available when you are adding a new Wiki article is now accessible to screen readers. (LMS-1303)
  - In the Wiki, active links are now displayed as bold, and have additional text labels, to be accessible to screen readers. (LMS-1306)
  - In the Wiki, when you navigate through links with the Tab key, the active link is updated in the same way as when you hover over it with the mouse pointer. (LMS-1336)
  - Default Wiki permissions are updated so that only course staff can delete Wiki pages. (LMS-1355)
  - The **Reset Password** and **Password Reset Confirmation** pages are updated to use styles consistent with the system. (LMS-1357)
  - In certain situations, students received a 500 error when viewing the **Progress** page. This problem was resolved in a patch on October 23, 2013. (LMS-1367)
  - A visual indicator has been added to the video player to indicate which part of the video will play, when it is not the default. (BLD-391)
  - Forum views are updated to improve performance. (FOR-250)
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# Analytics

## Changes and Updates

The following change is included in this release:

- Course exports are included with weekly data dumps delivered to university data representatives. (AN-57)
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## October 23, 2013

## edX Studio changes

### New Features

#### Improved import experience (STUD-595)

When you import a course, the Import screen now provides real-time status updates. The Import screen tells you when the import is in the following stages:

- Uploading
- Unpacking
- Verifying
- Updated Course
- Success (Complete)

#### Improved drag and drop experience in course outlines (STUD-575)

The ability to drag and drop sections, subsections, and units in the course outline is enhanced in the following ways:

- The visual representation of where you are moving the course element to is improved, with a pointer and blue line indicating the new position.
- You can more easily drag units from one subsection to another.
- When you cancel a drop, the course element returns to its original position.
- You can no longer drag a course element below the **New Unit** button, which was causing confusion.

#### Text customization capability

You can now customize some of the UI text that your students see. You do this through the **text\_customization** key in the **Advanced Settings** for the course. (However, edX recommends that you contact your Program Manager before you modify the **text\_customization** key.)

#### JavaScript loading performance

JavaScript loading is changed in ways that should improve the performance on some pages.

Code contributors should note that JavaScript is now loaded through **require.js**.

## Changes and Updates

The following fixes are also included in this release:

- In a course outline, you can no longer drag and drop a unit below the **New Unit** button. (STUD-152)
- Course update content outside of HTML tags is no longer erroneously removed. (STUD-590)
- In a course outline, dragging a unit over the **Units** label no longer causes the unit to be removed. (STUD-755)
- Support text in the **Assignment Types** section of the **Grading** page is updated to clarify that you enter an integer, not a percent, in the **Weight of Total Grade** field. (STUD-771)
- Certain component errors no longer prevent the course from saving correctly. (STUD-786)
- When you delete a Discussion component, the discussion is completely removed from the course. (STUD-811, STUD-817)

- When you are editing a course update, the update no longer disappears if you click outside of the Edit window. (STUD-822)
  - When you enter the integer 7 in the **Total Weight of Grade** field, the value is no longer changed to a decimal. (STUD-826)
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## Learning Management System changes

### New Features

#### **Fixed views in Internet Explorer 9.x**

Problems with pages in Internet Explorer 9.x are resolved.

#### **Disabled downloading data for large courses**

For courses with over 200 students, downloading large data sets could fail. The Download Data button on the Instructor Dashboard is now temporarily disabled to avoid this problem.

#### **Improved Beta Instructor Dashboard**

You can access the Beta Instructor Dashboard from the current Instructor Dashboard by clicking **Try the New Beta Dashboard**. The Beta version continued to evolve with a streamlined design and improved architecture. Both dashboards are currently available.

#### **Improved video and transcript experience (BLD-420)**

When you are playing a video with the transcript hidden, you can display the transcript by hovering the mouse pointer over the **CC** button. You can then click a paragraph in the displayed transcript to move to that point in the video. When you move the pointer off the **CC** button, the transcript is hidden.

#### **Improved Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) (BLD-330, BLD-347)**

You can now use multiple LTI tools per page. You can also have an LTI module load external content in a new window.

### Changes and Updates

The following changes are also included in this release:

- The link to open and close the calculator has additional aria attributes for accessibility. (BLD-164)
  - The Hints panel for the calculator is now accessible to screen readers. (BLD-165)
  - Students can now download video subtitles. (BLD-245)
  - Multi-speed video playback now works in Firefox browsers as expected. (BLD-287)
  - Window resizing no longer cuts off videos. (BLD-289)
  - Video HD control is now handicap accessible. (BLD-387)
  - You can now export courses that have LTI modules. (BLD-389)
  - A malformed custom parameter in an LTI component no longer permanently breaks the unit. (BLD-390)
  - The styles and text for the download links for videos and transcripts are updated for clarity and accessibility. (BLD-403)
  - The CC button in the video player now includes explanatory text that is accessible with a screen reader. (BLD-404)
  - LTI with the Piazza platform now works as expected. (BLD-405)
  - The **Close** button on dialog boxes is now defined as an HTML button and is accessible to screen readers. (LMS-582)
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## Forum changes

The following changes to forums are included in this release:

- The color contrast of the **Report Misuse** link is updated for accessibility. (FOR-200)
- The **Report Misuse** link now includes a tooltip that is accessible to screen readers. (FOR-201)
- The **Report Misuse** link is now included in the page tab order, for keyboard accessibility. (FOR-209)