

User Interface Customization Techniques In Blackboard Learn™, Release 9

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What will you learn in this session?

- What do we mean by customization?
- Overview of Brands, Themes and Color Palettes in Blackboard Learn, Release 9.0
- Some other customization capabilities in 9.0 – login page, modules, tabs and tab groups
- See some specific examples of how early adopter clients are customizing their Learn installations
- Detailed code example of customizing a theme

Terminology

- **Customization** changing the default look and feel for all users or for a group of users
 - Changing course menu button styles or colors
 - Changing default portal module color schemes or tab layout
 - Changing the CSS on all pages
- **Personalization** changing the default look and feel for just me
 - Switching between list and tree view in a discussion forum
 - Changing tab color scheme on a personalizable tab
 - Changing font size or setting high contrast using browser tools

Brands, Themes and Color Palettes

- Brands – Community Engagement feature for creating separate experiences for different communities on campus
 - Using separate entry hostname, or using roles
 - Default brand – same experience for all users
- Themes – full Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) set for all Learn pages
 - 6 shipping themes, including themes tailored to legacy products
 - Can download and customize your own
- Color Palettes – a subset of the full theme, that just extracts all the colors
 - 15 shipping palettes, can be cascaded over any theme.
 - Can download and customize your own
 - Admin management UI for most common colors, easy to save customizations as a new palette

Other Customization areas

- Login Page – Enterprise feature for customizing the login experience
 - Supports alternative authorization/authentication services
 - Supports custom branding and HTML
- Tabs and Tab Groups – Community Engagement capability for grouping and organizing content for audiences
 - Leverages Institution Roles
 - Includes secondary tab bar “level” in 9.0
- Custom modules – Community Engagement capability for generating “box” content
 - Header and footer modules
 - Custom HTML
 - Can be deployed via Building Blocks
- Custom Text – Change help text or any text on the system to suit your support or branding needs

Client Examples

Used with Permission of (and Special Thanks to):

Donna Wicks, Kettering University

Santo Nucifora, Seneca College

Kate Boardman, Teesside University





Blackboard

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[High Contrast Setting](#)

Have an account?

Please enter your credentials and click the Login button below.

Username:

Password:

Login

Tuesday June 30, 2009

Undergraduate Drop/Add In Progress

Event Begins: 06/30/2009 12:01 AM

Event Ends: 06/30/2009 11:59 PM

Running Club Meeting

Event Begins: 06/30/2009 07:00 PM

Event Ends: 06/30/2009 08:30 PM

Block



Login Page

Kettering University



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Accessibility information can be found at
<http://access.blackboard.com>
[Installation details](#)



@BbWorld

College Services**SIRIS**

Student information and registration system.

Part-time Registration

Information, programs & registration for part time studies.

Seneca Libraries

Get books, articles and help with your research.

Centre for Distributed Learning

Part time students can access the Centre for Distributed Learning Website for information relating to parttime programs.

Browser Check

You are using Firefox 3 on Windows.

Your browser works with My.Seneca.

[More information...](#)

Login Here

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Seneca Students, Applicants, and Employees - Enter your username and password below to access My.Seneca, your one-stop online resource that allows access to Seneca College information and services.

[Password Service](#)

Username:

Password:

Login

My.Seneca - Information Technology Help

[Password Service \(Manage Your Password Here\)](#)

A tool for managing your My.Seneca (e-mail) password.

[Student Help Desk](#)

Students can access the Student Help Desk site for assistance with account problems, technical questions, and contact information.

[ITT Virtual Help for Seneca Employees](#)

Submit support requests online to

My Seneca - Announcements**College News:**

- [Media Release: Engineers without Borders co-founders to receive honorary Seneca degrees](#)
- [Seneca Alumni offering Rogers Cup tickets](#)
- [Media Release: Honorary degree awarded to Sonia Bata, O.C.](#)
- [Media Release: Seneca launches first Child and Youth Worker program in York Region](#)
- [FCET website address changes June 23](#)
- [Media Release: Seneca announces first "Green Business Management" graduate certificate in the GTA](#)
- [July Metropass on sale](#)
- [Pride Month at Seneca](#)
- [Notice: Newnham Fitness Centre closed June 24 and 25](#)
- [Newnham cafeteria seating area closed June 24, 25](#)
- [H1N1 flu pandemic information](#)
- [June Convocation ceremonies - dates, times](#)
- [Canada Millennium National In-Course Awards 2009](#)
- [Improve your health this summer with naturopathic medicine](#)

** All announcements shown*

My.Seneca - Directory Search**Employee Search**

You can search for Seneca College Employee and Faculty Contact information by typing in any part of a name, email address, phone # or department.

Go!

[Academic & Service Areas](#)

[Language Aid Network](#)

[Campuses & Satellites](#)

Portal Direct Entry

Seneca College

Add Module

Personalise Page

StaffLounge



Click on the icons to navigate around the Staff Lounge

E@T's tweets

▶elearningatees: Blackboard is changing! See our blog for more information - <http://bit.ly/3WGIF>

▶elearningatees: Latest E@T Lunch videos now online (Staff Lounge > Events) <http://tinyurl.com/bs>

▶elearningatees: Have had a demo of the Promethian ActivExpression handsets, they seem very flexible

▶elearningatees: about to hear Keepad people do a demo. yes, @andymee, we're videoing, as we are nex

▶elearningatees: [kate] saw some great examples of work today at ExpoTees - wish we could hire some



E@T Blog

▶ New TeesLife media

▶ One minute lectures - might they catch on?

▶ New Generation Technologies in Practice

E@T Recipe Sheets

Featured Recipe Sheets



[Adding a Podcast to Blackboard](#)

[Adding RSS to Blackboard](#)

[More...](#)

External Resources : Construction



Supporting Student Collaboration through the Use of Wikis - 11 months ago

Published by the University of Calgary, this document explores the possibilities of using Wikis as...



7 Things You Should Know About Blogs - 11 months ago

This document, produced by Educause Learning Initiative, explains what blogs are, how they work and...

[next](#)



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E@T Training



The E@T Workshop programme for November 08 - March 09 is now available and you can download it here. Remember in addition to the central workshop programme you can also request Bespoke or One-to-One training. To book a place on any of the workshops listed please contact olqe-workshops@tees.ac.uk

If you have any questions about sessions please drop us a line - elearning@tees.ac.uk

Training dates - ([PDF](#)) ([MS Word](#))

External Resources : Communication

E@T Podcasts

The Kitchen : e@t news blog



A real blur... - 2 days ago

There is a certain amount of industry hype around the new Xbox 360 Natal project, which takes a...



Virtual World Watch - 5 days ago

The latest snapshot of academic use of Second Life has appeared on VirtualWorldWatch.net. It's...



TED talks: Clay Shirky - 5 days ago

has a series of talks by inspirational people. Great for info, great for picking up presentational...

[next](#)



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E@T RSS



RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a means of having up-to-date news or information sent directly to you on a regular basis.

A selection of E@T RSS feeds are available which you can use to subscribe to our Podcasts, Recipe Sheets and Newsletters. Look for the orange RSS icons around the Staff Lounge pages.

Our [Guide to RSS Feeds](#) explains what an RSS Feed is and how you can subscribe to one.

Add Module

Module Administrator

Personalize Page

Hot Links

[Office of Institutional Research & Planning](#)

Supporting internal research, decision-making and reporting, and institutional planning.

[Office of Research and Innovation](#)

Furthering the academic vision and priorities of the College with respect to applied/academic research.

[Seneca Libraries](#)

Get books, articles and help with your research.

Seneca Libraries - Search

Books

Videos/DVDs

Journals/Mags

Articles

I'm looking for: Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Trade Publications etc.



- ☒ contains
☐ starts with
☐ exact match

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[Others](#)

Office of Research & Innovation - Showcase

Applications in Bioinformatics

The Biotechnology Centre for Applied Research & Training (BCART) provides research and development of human disease markers for diagnostic assays. In partnership with York University, St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto



My.Seneca - Surveys

Information

Feedback

Poll



WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

What area of research are you most interested in ?

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Applied research (contact ORI) | 901 / 32.74% |
| Institutional statistics (contact OIRP) | 385 / 13.99% |
| Research for course work (Seneca Libraries) | 784 / 28.49% |

Office of Institutional Research & Planning

[Office of Institutional Research & Planning](#)

The Office of Institutional Research & Planning (OIRP) offers resources and assistance to those interested in obtaining statistical information about Seneca College. It also offers help in those interested in undertaking research using College information and general assistance to those interested in the area of educational research and statistics.

[Survey Questionnaire Templates and Statistical Tools](#)

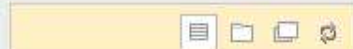
[KPI Quick Facts](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Looking Forward: Environmental Scan](#)

My Research Tab

Seneca College



» **MFGO-605: Global HR and Supply Chains - SPRING** »

- Announcements
- Syllabus
- Contacts
- Course Documents
- Communication
- Assignments
- Discussion Board
- Tools
- MFGO 605 Online

COURSE MANAGEMENT

» **Control Panel**

- » Course Tools
- » Course Links
- » Evaluation »
- » Users and Groups
- » Customization »
- » Packages and Utilities »
- » Help



Week One





Kettering University
Office of Graduate Studies

MFGO 605 / Global Human Resources & Supply Chains
A. Agarwal and D. Strubler

WEEK ONE

Course Objectives:

Be able to understand and apply practical principles of successfully:

- Communicate across cultures in a global manufacturing setting
- Identify and resolve human resource issues and principles in the international manufacturing enterprise
- Work with the complexities of international supply chains.
 -  [Module 1: Introduction](#) (46 minutes)
 -  [Module 2: Intercultural Competency Scale](#) (6 minutes)

Unit 1: Environmental Foundation - Chapters 1-3

Unit 1 Objectives:

- To assess the implications of globalization of countries, industries, firms, and communities
- To provide an overview of legal and regulatory environments for Multinational Corporations (MNCs)
- To examine global changes in the political environments of China, Russia, Europe and Central and Eastern Europe
- To examine major issues and problems of MNCs

**Course
Content
Page**

**Bb Classic
Theme**

**Edit Mode
Off**

**Kettering
University**

Customization demonstration

Bb Learn

```
body {
  font-family: "Lucida grande",
    Arial, Verdana, sans-serif;
}

.actionBar {
  margin:-1px 0 0;
  padding:6px;
  border-bottom:1px solid #EEDD99;
  background:#FFF1C5;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton {
  float:left;
  margin:2px 0 0 6px;
  font-weight:bold;
}
```

Bb Classic

```
body {
  font-family: "Lucida grande",
    Arial, Verdana, sans-serif;
}

.actionBar {
  margin:4px 0 0;
  padding:2px 8px 1px 8px;
  background:transparent!important;
}

.actionBar ul {
  margin:0 0 2px 0;
  padding:4px 6px;
  background:#EDED;
  border:1px solid #CCCC;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton {
  float:left;
  margin:0 0 0 4px;
  padding-right:1px;
}
```

WebCT Classic 2

```
body {
  font-family: Verdana,
    Arial, sans-serif;
}

.actionBar {
  position:absolute;
  top:9px;
  right:12px;
  bottom:12px;
  width:13em;
  background-color:#EDED;
  border:1px solid #CCCC;
}

.actionBar ul {
  margin:0 0 0 -1px;
  width:12.3em;
  padding:4px 4px 12px 4px;
  background-color:#EDED;
  border:1px solid #CCCC;
  border-bottom:0;
  border-top:0;
}
```

Customization demonstration (continued)

Bb Learn

```
.actionBar ul li.mainButton a {
  font-size:105%;
  display:block;
  text-decoration:none;
  padding:2px 9px;
  color:#FFFF;
  background:#819AC0
    url(images/gradient_black_short_bt.png)
    repeat-x 0 50%;
  border:1px solid #666E94;
  border-bottom:2px solid #444A6C;
  border-right:2px solid #444A6C;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:hover,
.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:focus {
  background:#444A6C;
  border-color:#444A6C;
}
```

Bb Classic

```
.actionBar ul li.mainButton a {
  display:block;
  text-decoration:none;
  padding:2px 9px;
  background-color:#EDED;
  border:1px solid #AAAAAA;
  border-bottom:2px solid #AAAAAA;
  border-right:2px solid #AAAAAA;
  color:#003366;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:hover,
.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:focus {
  background:#FFFFFF;
  border-color:#555555;
}
```

WebCT Classic 2

```
.actionBar ul li.mainButton {
  padding:0;
  margin:6px 0 6px 6px;
  font-weight:bold;
  position:relative;
  padding-right:1px;
  z-index:0;
  display:block;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton a {
  font-size:95%;
  text-decoration:none;
  padding:0;
  color:#000000;
}

.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:hover,
.actionBar ul li.mainButton a:focus {
  text-decoration:underline;
}
```


Questions?

dan.rinzel@blackboard.com

Firebug – Javascript and DOM debugger/analytics for Firefox browser

<http://getfirebug.com>

Andy Jacobson's BbWorld presentation on Learn text customization
in-product and offline

<http://vimeo.com/5614306>

Other great resources for Tag Library and Design Framework
documentation for Release 9 at

<http://www.edugarage.com/display/BBDN/Documentation>