

BbML

Scott Hurrey

Blackboard Markup Language BbML

Overview

BbML is a subset of HTML. The parameters of some methods accept BbML-formatted text. For more information about particular Learn REST endpoints, see the REST API documentation{target=“_blank”}

BbML specification - version 1

A BbML field accepts text containing either:

- Ultra experience courses: BbML
- Original experience: safe HTML
- Either experience outside of the context of courses: safe HTML

Valid BbML uses only following HTML elements and only the attributes accepted for each element. You can use attributes marked *Internal use only* as part of a REST API GET method when you are patching/updating an existing resource. Do not use them to create a resource from scratch.

- a
- br
- del
- div
- em
- h4
- h5
- h6
- img
- li
- ol
- p
- span
- strong
- sub
- sup
- ul

For more information about each accepted element, see below.

a

Attribute	Comment
-----------	---------

data-bbid	Deprecated Internal use only.
-----------	--------------------------------------

data-bbfile	Rendering control for use with Ultra UI.
-------------	--

	data-bbfile="{"render";"inline";"linkName";"1.jpg";"m
--	--

Attribute	Comment
data-bbtype	Internal use only.
data-mce-href	Internal use only.
rel[nofollow]	

Attribute	Comment
data-mce-bogus	Internal use only.

Attribute	Comment
data-bbid	Internal use only.

Attribute	Comment
align	
alt	
class	
data-mathml	MathML from which the image was created if applicable.
data-mce-src	Internal use only.
src	

Attribute	Comment
data-mce-style	Internal use only.
style[list-style-type: *]	

span

Attribute	Comment
data-mce-bogus	Internal use only.
data-mce-style	Internal use only.
style[font-style: <i>,font-weight: ,text-decoration:*</i>]	

strong

sub

sup

ul

Attribute	Comment
data-mce-style	Internal use only.
style[list-style-type: *]	

Examples

If one were to use the following as the input to a BbML field of a resource within an Ultra course context, such as an Ultra Document:

```
<!-- {"bbMLEditorVersion":1} -->
<div data-bbid="bbml-editor-id_9c6a9556-80a5-496c-b10d-af2a9ab22d45">
  <h2>Header Large</h2>

  <h5>Header Medium</h5>

  <h6>Header Small</h6>

  <p>
    <strong>Bold </strong>
    ><em
      >Italic
      <span
        style="text-decoration:
underline;"
      >Italic Underline</span>
    ></em>
  >
</p>

<ul>
  <li>
    <span style="text-decoration: underline;"><em></em></span>Bullet 1
  </li>

  <li>Bullet 2</li>
</ul>
```

```

<p><img /></p>

<p>
  <span
    >"Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod
    tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim
    veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris."</span
  >
</p>

<p><span>&lt;braces test="values" other="encoded values"&gt;</span></p>

<p>Header Small</p>

<ol>
  <li>Number 1</li>

  <li>Number 2</li>
</ol>

<p>
  Just words followed by a formula
  <img
    align="middle"
    alt="3 divided by 4 2
root of 7"
    class="Wirisformula"
    data-mathml="Â«math
xmlns=Â" [http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathMLÂ"Â»Â«mnÂ»3Â«/mnÂ»Â«moÂ»/Â«/moÂ»Â«m
nÂ»4Â«/mnÂ»Â«mrootÂ»Â«mnÂ»7Â«/mnÂ»Â«mnÂ»2Â«/mnÂ»Â«
/mrootÂ»Â«/mathÂ»] (https://community.blackboard.com/external-link.jspa?url=htt
p%3A//www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML%25C2%25A8%25C2%25BB%25C2%25ABmn%25
C2%25BB3%25C2%25AB/mn%25C2%25BB%25C2%25ABmo%25C2%25BB/%25C2%25AB/mo%25C2
%25BB%25C2%25ABmn%25C2%25BB4%25C2%25AB/mn%25C2%25BB%25C2%25ABmroot%25C2%25BB
%25C2%25ABmn%25C2%25BB7%25C2%25AB/mn%25C2%25BB%25C2%25ABmn%25C2%25BB2%25C2%2
5AB/mn%25C2%25BB%25C2%25AB/mroot%25C2%25BB%25C2%25AB/math%25C2%25BB) "
  />
</p>

<p>
  <a
    href=" [http://www.blackboard.com] (https://community.blackboard.com/external-
link.jspa?url=http%3A//www.blackboard.com/)"
    >Blackboard</a
  >
</p>
</div>

```

Render

It would render as follows in Ultra UI:

Header Large

Header Medium

Header Small

Bold *Italic* Underline

- Bullet 1
- Bullet 2



Blackboard

"Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris."

<braces test="values" other="encoded values">

Header Small

1. Number 1
2. Number 2

Just words followed by a formula $3/4^2\sqrt{7}$

[Blackboard](#)

Figure 1: BbMLrender.png

Uploaded files

When creating content using the Learn Public REST API, it is expected that any related file content be uploaded prior to creation. Uploading files can be done using the upload file endpoint documented at <https://developer.blackboard.com/portal/displayApi>

Once a file has been uploaded, the upload file endpoint will have provided an Id which will be used to reference the associated file.

Using the upload file id withing the Learn Public REST API, any BbML anchor tag href attribute can be used to associate the uploaded file using the following notation:

```
<a href="bbupload://<uploadFileId>">filename.ext</a>
```

For proper formatting and rendering within the ULTRA environment, it is recommended to also include a data-bbfile attribute. An example value of this can be seen above in the BbML specification section. However, to describe it a bit more, the data-bbfile attribute's value is an HTML encoded json string:

HTML encoded:

```
`{"render":"inline","linkName":"1.jpg","mimeType":"image/jpeg"}`<br />
```

HTML decoded:

```
`{"render":"inline","linkName":"filename.ext","mimeType":"image/jpeg"}`
```

- render: At this time, it is recommended to only use 'inline.'
- linkName: The filename of the uploaded file.
- mimeType: The MIME type of the uploaded file.'

The end result of all this would be as follows:

```
<a
  href="bbupload://<uploadFileId>"
  data-bbfile='{"render":"inline","linkName":"filename.ext","mimeType":"image/jpeg"}'
>
    filename.ext
</a>
```

File Type Documentation

The editor recognizes the following values for data-bbfile, with the arguments it accepts for data-bbtype. For each plugin, the bbml element is given (usually a); the value of data-bbtype which selects that plugin; and the fields of data-bbfile which are expected. (data-bbfile is a JSON-encoded object.)

For example, for the Attachment plugin, the generated bbml is as follows (minus unnecessary whitespace I've added for easy viewing):

```
<a
  ↪ href="https://ultra-integ.int.bbpd.io/bbcswebdav/pid-486306-dt-content-rid-13383141_1/xid-13383141_1"
  data-bbtype="attachment"
  ↪ data-bbfile='{"extension":"pdf","linkName":"1-23MB","render":"inline","alternativeText":"1-23MB.pdf",""
>
  1-23MB
</a>
```

Tags without a data-bbfile attribute, or with an unrecognized value for data-bbfile, are displayed normally.

Plugin Name: Attachment

element:

data-bbtype: attachment

data-bbfile:

- linkName - the name of the file

- **render** -
 - “inline” to render images/video/audio/etc inline
 - “attachment” to show as a block
- **alternativeText** - alt text for accessibility
- **contentType** - the mime type of the file
- **isDecorative** - a flag indicating whether the image is decorative. Currently always false for images generated in Ultra.

Notes:

1. The **href** attribute is the download url for the document.
2. Attachments can be add from the local file system or the cloud (via Kloudless). After the item has been added, there is no way of distinguishing this.
3. Attachments, whether displayed inline or not, are full-width.

Plugin Name: Block Images

element: ``

data-bbtype: image

data-bbfile: alt - the image alt text

Notes:

1. Displays an image as a full-width block (instead of inline.)
2. All images generated by Ultra are full-width blocks, but images converted from Learn are regular `` elements.
3. The **href** attribute in the bbml tag becomes the **src** attribute of the **img** tag.
4. Mathml images (as generated by Wiris) are regular **img** elements that have the **data-mathml** attribute. It is beyond the scope of this document to describe the wiris service; however, no additional processing beyond that of a regular **img** tag is required to render mathml images.

Plugin Name: Custom Class

element: `<a>`

data-bbtype: customClass

data-bbfile: className

Notes:

1. Transforms into ``.
2. This type will never be encountered in saved bbml; it is generated at runtime to modify the editor display.

Plugin Name: Embedded Video

element: `<a>`

data-bbtype: video

data-bbfile: src - The link for the embedded video

Notes:

1. Links to an embedded video from Youtube or Video which is shown in an iframe.
2. Only links from Youtube or Vimeo are allowed.

Plugin Name: LTI Content Market

element: a

data-bbtype: lti

data-bbfile: Placement

- **linkType** - ‘resource/x-bb-bltiplacement’
- **linkRefId** - The PK of the placement record
- **Partner Cloud**
 - “linkType” - ‘resource/x-bbgs-partner-cloud’
 - “linkRefId” - The partner tool ID. Usually some concatenation of partner ID + the tool ID
- **LTI Link**
 - “linkType” - ‘resource/x-bb-blti-link’

- “linkRefId” - The PK of the parent IMS Deep Linking placement. Used to look up key/secret at launch
- “url” - LTI Tool Url
- “launchInNewWindow” - Whether to launch in an iframe or new window
- “customParameters” - Custom parameters to pass with the launch as JSON

Notes:

1. It is beyond the scope of this document to describe LTI links.

Plugin Name: Video Everywhere (aka Collab Integration; aka Collab Video; aka Video Integration)

element:

data-bbtype: collab_video

data-bbfile: video_uuid - The uuid of the collab video.

Notes:

1. **src** is a relative image link returned by the collab service.
2. **title** is the description of the video.
3. **alt** is the alt text of the image.
4. It is beyond the scope of this document to describe the collab service api.