

Session 2: SaaS Planning Workshop

Customizations & Integrations

Blackboard®

November 2018



— Today

- Information Gathering
- System Preparation Items
- General Integrations & Building Blocks
- SIS, Grades and Authentication
- Other Stuff!
- Information Gathering

Information Gathering Workbook

Information Gathering

Migration Planning Checklist

Main System Report

Building Blocks

Other Integrations

Monument University: Information Gathering

This section will be used to capture and record key information as you plan your Path to SaaS

Question	Answer
<i>Institution/Contact Information</i>	
Client Institution Name	Monument University
Client Contact Person	Name
	Phone
	Email
Is your institution part of Internet2? (applicable for US customers only)	
Do you have any special requirements around hosting/data locations?	
if yes, please provide details:	
<i>Key Migration Aims</i>	
Do you plan to migrate Learn Production data to Learn SaaS?	
<i>if you answered no, leave the remaining questions in this section blank</i>	
Target go-live date for the Learn Hosting/SaaS environment:	

What should you be looking for?

- Release version
- Legacy Content
- Snapshot Integration (not SIS Framework)
- Custom, Legacy Authentication, or Shibboleth (not SAML)
- SOAP Web Services
- Custom and uncommon 3rd Party Building Blocks
- Interaction with the "back-end"
 - Updating values in the Blackboard database directly
 - Custom command-line tools/scripts/java libraries

Prepare for Migration – Release version

If you are not currently on a supported version of Learn, you will need to upgrade prior to the migration. Alternatively, you could consider a [course-based migration](#).

Supported versions are listed as *Full Support* in the Support Classifications section of the [Blackboard Learn Support Services Guide](#).

- Q2 2017 = January 2019
- Q4 2017 = June 2019
- Q2 2018 = January 2020

Prepare for Migration – Legacy Content

- Prior to migrating to Blackboard Learn SaaS, all legacy course file content needs to be migrated to our embedded Xythos file system. The CourseContentMove tool has been enhanced to convert legacy course content for all courses on the entire system.
- See KB article [Move Legacy Content to Content System \(Self-hosted Windows/Linux\)](#) on Behind the Blackboard for instructions and the migration tools package used to run this step.
- If you are a Managed Hosting customer, you can submit a ticket to Support to request that the Move Legacy Content Tool be run in preparation for your move to Blackboard Learn SaaS.

Will Our Other Integrations Work with SaaS?

Integration type	Learn 9.1 / Self & Managed Hosting	Learn SaaS Original experience	Learn SaaS Ultra experience
Building Blocks	Yes	Yes*	Yes**
SOAP Web Services +	Yes	Yes	No
IMS LTI	Yes	Yes	Yes
Partner Cloud	Yes	Yes	Yes
REST API	Yes	Yes	Yes

Prepare for Migration – Building Blocks

For migration, all building blocks must be upgraded SaaS supported version.

- Understand your building block usage and decide which building blocks you will be migrating.
- Ensure you have acquired the installation .war file for all building blocks you plan to use, ready to install when migration planning begins.
- For 3rd party building blocks, contact the building block vendor for information/assistance on migration options where applicable.

Prepare for Migration – Building Blocks

- Supported by Blackboard (core, add-on, ICM)
- Supported by Partner or 3rd Party
- Supported by your developer(s)

- Known to work
- Expected to work
- Known issues
- Known incompatible, defunct or not applicable
- Unknown

After Migration – Building Blocks

- Building Blocks can only be installed by Blackboard Support
 - Provide .war installer package via support request
- Software Updates module has been removed.
 - The Building Blocks delivered with Learn are updated as necessary with the platform upgrades
 - You do not need to keep track of Bb B2s versions
- You are still responsible for keeping track of 3rd party B2 versions and requesting updates via support requests

"Preparing Your Building Blocks For Learn SaaS and Newer Learn Versions"

- Guidance and engagement on Community
- No non-public API
- Database naming and PostgreSQL
- Shared content folder
- Logging
- Java and Tomcat version dependencies
- Ultra-experience deployments
- REST-based alternatives

The other stuff...

- SIS -> Learn Integrations
- Learn -> SIS Grade Integrations
- Authentication
- Non GUI access

SIS -> Learn Data Integrations in SaaS

Integration type	Learn 9.1 / Self & Managed Hosting	Learn SaaS Original experience	Learn SaaS Ultra experience
CLI Snapshot	No (since Q2 2017)	No	No
SIS Framework	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>ILP (Colleague & Banner)</i>	Yes	Yes	Work in Progress
<i>SAIP (PeopleSoft)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>BleL (Banner)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes

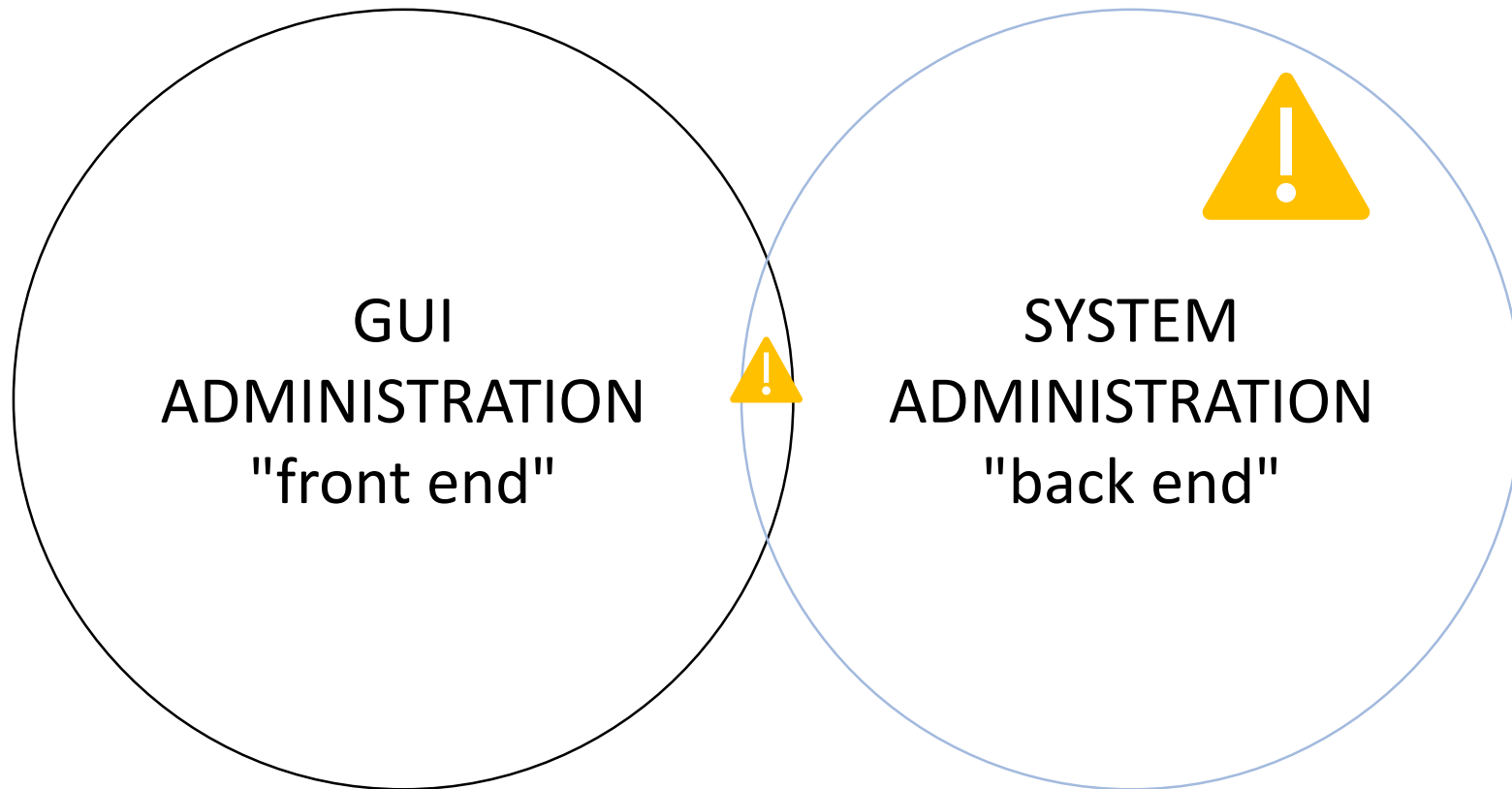
Grades -> SIS Integrations in SaaS

Integration type	Learn 9.1 / Self & Managed Hosting	Learn SaaS Original experience	Learn SaaS Ultra experience
Grades Journey	Yes	Yes	Work in Progress
SOAP Web Services +	Yes	Yes	No
REST API	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>ILP (Colleague & Banner)</i>	Yes	Yes	Work in Progress
<i>SAIP (PeopleSoft)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes

Authentication Integrations in SaaS

Integration type	Learn 9.1 / Self & Managed Hosting	Learn SaaS Original experience	Learn SaaS Ultra experience
Default	Yes	Yes	Yes
LDAP	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Shibboleth	Yes	No	No
SAML	Yes	Yes	Yes
CAS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legacy	Yes	Document/Test	Document/Test
<i>AutoSignOn v2</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes

Other Stuff?



Command Line Access

Document EVERYTHING you can think of

- Interactions directly with the database
 - Reading vs. **Writing**
- Interactions with the file system
 - Batch archives handled by support
- Local network interactions
- Special Security Requirements
 - SSL certificates

What Is Direct Data Access and How Does It Relate to OpenDB?



- DDA uses a read replica (exact copy) of the Production database
- Read replicas are updated usually within minutes of production
- DDA uses the OpenDB schema
- Queries and reports developed for OpenDB will generally work with DDA
- Accessed securely via SSL and IP-restricted addresses

If you plan to enable Ultra

If you are planning to enable Ultra, you should also document requirements for

- Multiple Hostnames
- Multiple Brands
- Institution Roles, Tabs and Modules

Information Gathering



Information Gathering Workbook

Enable/allow macros when working with the Information Gathering Workbook for best results.

Complete the sheets:

- ☐ Fill out the Information Gathering Tab
- ☐ Open and paste the CSV file contents into the corresponding tabs and complete the evaluation commentary.
- ☐ Fill out the Other Integration Tab
- ☐ Review the Migration Planning Checklist
- ☐ Send everything back to customersuccess@blackboard.com

Question		Answer	
Monument University: Information Gathering <i>This section will be used to capture and record key information as you plan your Path to SaaS</i>			
Institution/Contact Information			
Client Institution Name		Monument University	
Client Contact Person	Name		
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Is your institution part of Internet2? (applicable for US customers only)			
Do you have any special requirements around hosting/data locations?			
if yes, please provide details:			
Key Migration Aims			
Do you plan to migrate Learn Production data to Learn SaaS?			
If you answered no, leave the remaining questions in this section blank			
Monument University: SaaS Migration Planning Checklist <i>This section records key tasks and milestones throughout your Path to SaaS. Each is a collaboration between Blackboard and Monument University.</i>			
Days to Go-Live	Phases / Items	More Info	Item Complete
-180 Days	Information Gathering and Planning		
	Document implementation plans on the Information Gathering sheet	Go to Sheet	-
	Install Information Gathering B2 to obtain system and Building Block reports	Bb Help	-
	Review Building Blocks and document plans on the Building Blocks sheet	Go to Sheet	-
	Review other integrations and customizations and document on the Other Integrations sheet	Go to Sheet	-
	Send completed workbook to customersuccess@blackboard.com	Email	-
	Review workbook and SaaS migration plans with Bb Account Team		-
-160 Days	Other Pre-Implementation Considerations		
	Prepare to update/replace obsolete Building Blocks and integrations	Bb Help	-
	Prepare for other configuration changes as identified during information gathering	Bb Help	-
	Schedule upgrade to Fully Supported Release, if applicable (enter target date)	Bb Help	-
	Move Legacy Content to Content System (enter target date)	Bb Help	-
	Course Cleanup (Archive and delete old courses/content), if applicable (enter target date)		-

Next Steps

Join Thursday's Session:

David Soliday – Ohio Wesleyan University

Migration from Managed Hosting to SaaS

Questions:

Email: CustomerSuccess@Blackboard.com

Questions?

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