



**Get Started with Blackboard 9 at**  
<https://blackboard-test.american.edu/>

### **How will you log into Blackboard 9?**

Your same username and password from earlier versions of Blackboard will work in Blackboard 9. Your students for your summer courses were imported into Blackboard 9 when they registered for their summer courses.

### **Why is the University migrating to a new version of Blackboard? (Probably over the December 2009-January, 2010 break if testing goes well.)**

Blackboard 9 offers many new features which faculty have requested such as blogs for group work and journals where students can post private responses to readings. The graphics are also much improved. Blackboard 9 makes good use of color to highlight your choices as you build your courses. Finally, Blackboard 9 is designed for you to build your courses as quickly as possible.

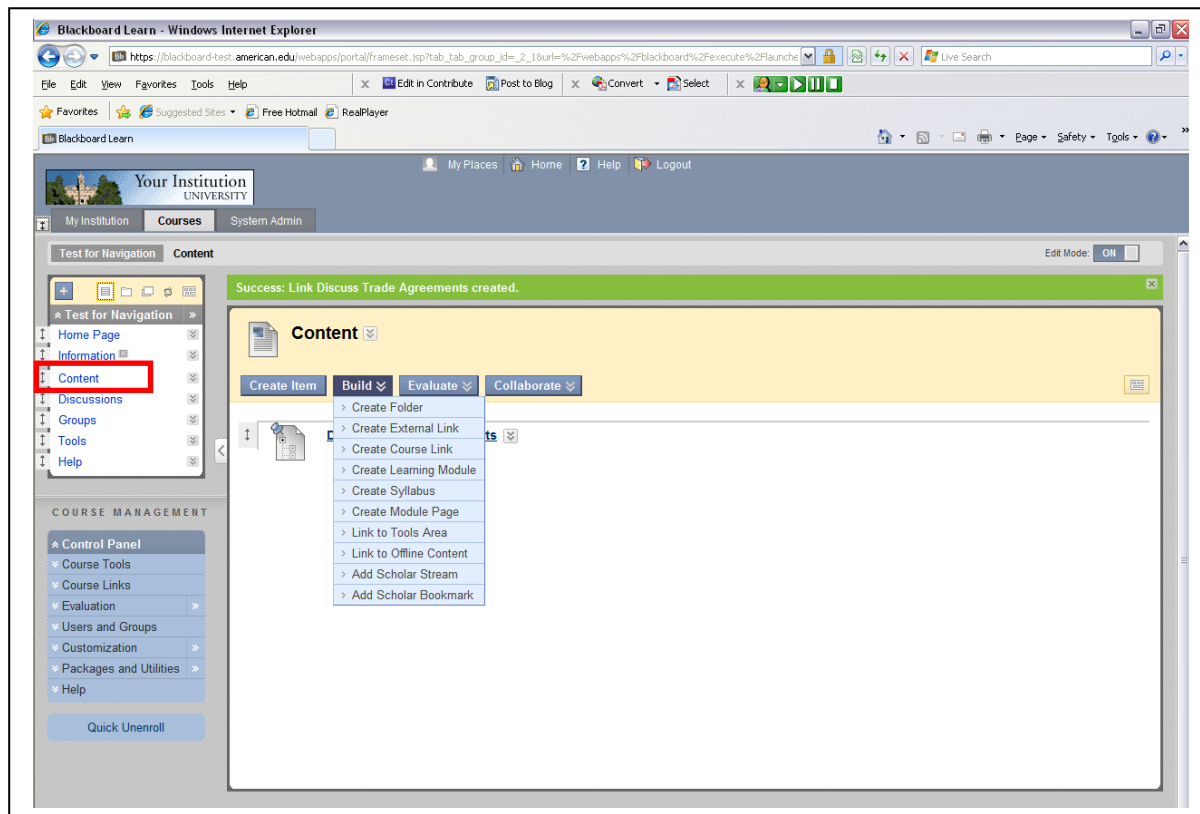
For example, if you would like chronological folders such as Week 1, Week 2, etc., these folders can be built with fewer clicks in Blackboard 9 than with earlier versions of Blackboard.

### **What is the first step in using Blackboard 9 effectively? (You must turn editing on)**

However, the interface is different and presents a challenge or two. The first thing to do is turn editing ON. This step is only necessary once for each course you are teaching. After you turn editing on the first time, the next time you open your course, the editing option will be left ON.

So to start with Blackboard 9, please click on the OFF button on the right to turn editing to ON.

By clicking on CONTENT, then BUILD, EVALUATE, and COLLOBORATE, you can now see choices that used to be scattered in many different places in Blackboard.



Blackboard 9 adds blogs, journals and a new grading center; Blackboard 9 has eliminated the Digital Dropbox and replaced it with the [Assignment Manager](#). In addition, as mentioned, some features have been moved and concentrated in the CONTENT area.

### **How long will I need to be comfortable with the new interface in Blackboard 9?**

In universities which are already using Blackboard 9, trainers write that it takes most faculty about an hour to adjust to the new features and locations of old features in Blackboard 9.