Major Features in D2L 2020 Upgrades (January to December 2020)

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Overview

As of June 2, 2018, Minnesota State D2L Brightspace environments have been migrated to D2L’s cloud hosting services, and moved onto D2L’s continuous delivery (CD) model. On D2L’s CD model, we receive monthly updates for our D2L Brightspace Production environment.
These D2L Brightspace 2020 upgrade release notes are available at our D2L Support site (view the how to login instructions PDF). After each upgrade, users will see these new and updated features in D2L Brightspace.

- Starred (🌟) items are feature changes that all users will experience.
- Remaining items are features that are available to faculty only.

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Announcements

Display author information (March 2020 release) 🌟

- When creating or editing an announcement, teacher can select the ‘Display author information’ checkbox, displaying their first and last name to students in an announcement item.

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Assignments

New Assignment List View (January 2020 release)

- Teachers see the new Assignments list view by default, and can no longer opt-out of the new list view.

Streamlined access to assignment inline feedback (February 2020 release) 🌟

- When students view assignment inline feedback, the link directly opens the annotated PDF instead of redirecting to the assignments feedback page.

Assignment Grader banner removed (March 2020 release)

- From the assignment’s Submissions page in the Assignments tool, the Download Assignment Grader banner has been removed

New column renamed to New Submissions (April 2020 release)

- From the Assignments tool screen, teachers will see the “New” column listed as “New Submissions”. No functionality has been added or changed.

New create and edit assignment creation experience (June 2020 release)

- Teachers may see the new assignment creation experience when creating or editing an assignment folder. Watch this short video that illustrates the opt-in experience and how to toggle it on and off.

Annotations toolbar options renamed (June 2020 release)

- When annotating a student’s assignment submission, teachers will see renamed options from the Pen toolbar: Drawing (previously Pen), Freeform Highlight (previously Highlighter), and Text Highlighter (previously Highlighter). No functionality has been added or changed.
Add competencies in the new assignment creation experience (July 2020 release)
- Teachers may now add competencies to an assignment folder when opting into the new assignment creation experience.

Release conditions in the new assignment creation experience (August 2020 release)
- Teachers may now add new or attach existing release conditions to an assignment folder when opting into the new assignment creation experience.

Individual assignment folders can be copied (August 2020 release)
- Teachers can now copy an individual assignment folder from the Assignments tool.

Special Access in the new assignment creation experience (September 2020 release)
- Teachers may now add manage special access and email notifications for an assignment folder when creating or editing an assignment in the new assignment creation experience.

New date picker in the new assignment creation experience (November 2020 release)
- Teachers will now see a new date picker when adding a start, due, or end date to an assignment folder when opting into the new assignment creation experience.

Brightspace Assignment Grader App
Assignment Grader app is no longer supported (August 2020 release)
- As of August 15, 2020, the Assignment Grader mobile app is no longer available to new users and will no longer be supported by D2L.

Brightspace ePortfolio Mobile App
ePortfolio mobile app is no longer supported (August 2020 release)
- As of August 15, 2020, the ePortfolio mobile app is no longer available to new users and will no longer be supported by D2L.

Brightspace Learning Environment
Internet Explorer no longer supported (January 2020 release)
- As of January 1, 2020, Internet Explorer is no longer supported; users accessing D2L Brightspace with Internet Explorer will need to switch to a supported browser.

Chromium-based Microsoft Edge browser support (January 2020 release)
- As of January 15, 2020, D2L Brightspace will support the new Chromium-based Microsoft Edge browser. Refer to the Microsoft Edge page for further details.
**Major Features in D2L 2020 Upgrades (Jan to Dec 2020)**

**Geolocation data warning when uploading jpg images (February 2020 release) ★**

- When users upload .jpg files in any file upload area within D2L Brightspace, a data warning may appear informing the user that the file may contain geolocation data.

**Firefox ESR is no longer a supported browser version in D2L Brightspace (July 2020 release)★**

- As of July 16, 2020, Firefox ESR (extended support release) is no longer a supported browser in D2L Brightspace. Only the latest versions of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Apple Safari, and Mozilla Firefox are supported browsers in D2L Brightspace.

**Refreshed visual design of user interface components (September 2020 release)**

- Several user interface components, such as toggles, have been improved to the latest technologies, updated to accessibility recommendations and security best practices.

**Additional file types added to restricted upload list (October 2020 release) ★**

- Additional file types have been added to the restricted list, and cannot be uploaded as files within D2L Brightspace. Learn more in the October 2020 release notes.

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**Brightspace Pulse App**

**Pulse reflects additional language preferences on your device (January 2020 release) ★**

- Brightspace Pulse is now available in additional languages to reflect the language preferences on the user’s device.

**Pin or unpin courses in Brightspace Pulse for iOS (April 2020 release) ★**

- You can now pin or unpin courses from the Courses screen in Brightspace Pulse for iOS.

**Pin or unpin courses in Brightspace Pulse for Android (May 2020 release) ★**

- You can now pin or unpin courses from the Courses screen in Brightspace Pulse for Android.

**Switch between multiple D2L Brightspace sites in Brightspace Pulse (May 2020 release) ★**

- You can easily switch between multiple D2L Brightspace sites without logging out from Brightspace Pulse.

**Enabled Dark Mode for Android/iOS in Brightspace Pulse (November 2020 release)★**

- Dark mode now displays in Brightspace Pulse when Dark mode is enabled on your Android device. Dark mode is also support on Brightspace Pulse for iOS.

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**Calendar**

**Bulk delete calendar items (May 2020 release)**
- In the Calendar tool, you can select and delete multiple calendar events from the List view > More actions column.

**Checklist**

**Individual checklists and checklist items can be copied (August 2020 release)**
- Teachers can now copy an entire checklist or individual checklist items in the Checklist tool.

**Classlist**

**New pagination defaults for the Classlist tool (April 2020 release)**
- When viewing pagination (‘per page’ menus) in the Classlist tool, you may see the option to display a larger list of students on the Classlist pages.

**Content**

**User interface improvements to content statistics (October 2020 release)**
- The summary view on the Content Statistics page now appears horizontally, rather than vertically. No changes to the statistics have been noted.

**Enhancements to course content statistics (November 2020 release)**
- Teachers will see enhancements to content topic and module statistics, including whether date-restricted and conditionally release content is “available to” individual students.

**Course Reset**

**New Course Reset tool to empty a course shell (February 2020 release)**
- With assistance from your D2L campus Admin, teachers can now reset a course back to its empty shell using the new Course Reset tool

**Discussions**

**Bulk Publish and Retract Feedback when assessing discussions (January 2020 release)**
- Teachers have new multi-select options to “Publish Feedback” and “Retract Feedback” to make scores and/or feedback visible to students or save draft/retract from the students’ view, replacing the “Save” and “Save and Close” buttons.
Visual word count for discussion posts (September 2020 release)

- In a discussion topic, teachers and students will now see a visual word count when composing a thread or replying to a post. The word count is dynamically displayed while typing in the discussion post field when using the Reading View (but not the Grid View). Learn more in the September 2020 release notes.

Email

Email provides message if a quiz is in-progress and email is disabled (May 2020 release)

- If you have a quiz attempt in-progress and that quiz prevents sending email (the setting "Disable Instant Messages and Alerts" is enabled) and you attempt to access or send email in D2L Brightspace, you will see a message explaining why the email tool is inaccessible with a link to the in-progress quiz.

Second Send button available when composing an Email message (September 2020 release)

- Teachers and students will now see a second Send button on the bottom-left of the Compose New Message email screen. This feature builds on functionality that was introduced in the August 20.20.08 release.

Groups

Set self-enrollment start date and edit self-enrollment capacity (January 2020 release)

- Teachers can set a start date, and increase or decrease the capacity of self-enrollment groups.

Set self-enrollment start time and expiry time (March 2020 release)

- When setting up groups that allow students to self-enroll, teachers can now add an exact time when enrollment opens, and an exact time when self-enrollment expires.

Grades

New pagination defaults for the Grades tool (April 2020 release)

- When viewing pagination (‘per page’ menus) in the Grades tool, you may see the option to display a larger list of students on the Enter Grades page.

New unreleased all final grades option (August 2020 release)

- Teachers can now easily undo the release of final grades for a course using the “Unrelease All” option from the Final Grade item screen.

Total points display for grade categories and final grade (November 2020 release)

- Teachers will now see the total points and/or weight when viewing grade categories and the final calculated grade from the Manage Grades page in the gradebook.
Import/Export/Copy Components

**LTI links preserved in Copy Components (March 2020 release)**
- LTI links are preserved when copying components into a course, which eliminates the need to delete and re-add LTI links in copied courses. Now, LTI links in newly copied courses should work as expected as long as the LTI follows this best practice.

**The course code included in exported course file names (May 2020 release)**
- When exporting course components to a file, you’ll now see the course offering code (orgunitcode) in the file name. This is intended to help recognize the course file by the ISRS semester and ISRS course section number(s).

**Export Components renamed to Export as Brightspace Package (June 2020 release)**
- The existing Export Components option has been renamed to “Export as Brightspace Package” at the course level. No functionality has been added or changed.

**Additional option to export course package as Common Cartridge (October 2020 release)**
- When exporting a course using Export Components, teachers can now choose to export as an IMS Common Cartridge, allowing you to share or export your course independent on a LMS.

**New minibar alert when export course package is ready for download (October 2020 release)**
- When exporting a course using Export Components, teachers will receive a minibar notification when your package is ready to download.

Profile

**Limit to Personal Info long text fields (January 2020 release)**
- In the Profile, the Personal Info long text fields are limited to 4000 characters each.

**Character limit enforced for Personal Info long text fields (July 2020 release)**
- In the Profile, the character limit enforces the 4000 character limit for each Personal Info long text field.

Quick Eval

**Temporarily or permanently dismiss activities from Quick Eval (January 2020 release)**
- Teachers can select activities in their Quick Eval list and dismiss them temporarily or permanently.

**Dismiss activity until next submission and course level filtering (February 2020 release)**
- Teachers can select an activity in their Quick Eval list and dismiss it until the next student’s submission.
• When accessing the Quick Eval tool from the course navbar, teachers can view items that are only available in the course

Support for anonymous marking in assignments (March 2020 release)
• Assignments created with the “Hide student names during assessment” option selected now display in Quick Eval with learner names and profile images hidden

Quick Eval available from the Course Admin page (October 2020 release)
• Teachers can now access the Quick Eval tool from the Course Admin screen.

Quizzes
Import questions from Brightspace LOR (March 2020 release)
• As part of the new Quiz Builder experience, users may be able to import quiz questions stored in Brightspace Learning Repository (LOR).

Export questions to the Brightspace LOR (April 2020 release)
• As part of the new Quiz Builder experience, users may be able to export quiz questions to the Brightspace Learning Repository (LOR).

New Quiz Builder Experience (July 2020 release)
• Teachers will now see the new Quiz Builder experience by default when creating or editing questions in a quiz. Learn more in the July 2020 release notes.

Enable attachments or embedded images for Written Response questions (August 2020 release)
• Teachers may enable students to attach file documents or embed images when responding to written response questions in Quizzes and Surveys. Learn more in the August 2020 release notes.

New message communicates effect on student attempts when editing questions (August 2020 release)
• Warning messages now appear when editing a quiz question with previous attempts to clearly communicate to instructors that editing quiz questions does not affect the content or automatically change the score of students’ past attempts.

Enable attachments for Arithmetic & Significant Figure questions (September 2020 release)
• Teachers may enable students to attach file documents when responding to arithmetic or significant figure questions in Quizzes. Learn more in the September 2020 release notes.

Search for and select Sections in Quizzes, Question Library, & Surveys (September 2020 release)
• When browsing for questions from a quiz, survey, or question library, you may search for a section by its name and add the entire section.
**Enhanced question reordering in Quizzes (September 2020 release)**

- When editing a quiz, you may quickly move multiple questions to the top or bottom of a quiz, or within a section in a quiz using the new “Move To” menu.

**Improvements to adding questions from the Question Library (October 2020 release)**

- Teachers can choose to import questions to the top of the quiz, bottom of the quiz, or into a quiz section when selecting existing questions from the Question Library.

**Improvements to editing question points for submitted quiz attempts (October 2020 release)**

- Points for all submitted quiz attempts are no longer automatically modified when subsequent edits are made that affect the overall points and/or the grading calculations for a quiz. Teachers may continue to update the question point values for submitted attempts using the Update All Attempts process from the Questions tab on the Grade Quiz page. Learn more in the [October 2020 release notes](#).

**Quiz preview available when creating and editing questions (November 2020 release)**

- Teachers can now quickly navigate to the quiz preview when creating and editing questions in a quiz. This is the same preview experience, but this change makes the preview quiz option more visible to teachers.

**Retake incorrect questions in subsequent attempts (November 2020 release)**

- Teachers can now allow students to only retake incorrectly answered questions in subsequent quiz attempts, and calculate partial marks for questions that weren’t answered correctly on the previous attempts. If enabled, students may see the option to retake a quiz with only the incorrectly answered questions from previous quiz attempts. Learn more in the [November 2020 release notes](#).

**Rubrics**

**Confirmation message for partially unevaluated rubrics (March 2020 release)**

- The publishing workflow in the new Rubrics grading experience includes a confirmation message that warns the teacher when the rubric is not fully evaluated

**Overall Score levels calculated after rubric criteria completion (March 2020 release)**

- The Overall Score level is now only calculated after all criteria in the rubric have been assessed

**Hidden rubric feedback can be made visible to students in assignments (May 2020 release)**

- When a rubric is set to hidden, there is now a checkbox to indicate that you want the criterion feedback to be visible to students in when viewing an assignment assessed with a rubric from the Assignments tool.
Hidden rubric feedback can be made visible to students for grades (June 2020 release) ★

- When a rubric is set to hidden, there is now a checkbox to indicate that you want the criterion feedback to be visible to students in when viewing grade item’s assessed with a rubric from the Grades tool.

Video Assignments

Bongo Video Assignment release delayed (March 2020 release)

- Bongo (the vendor) delayed their March release due to COVID-19 support.

New overview screen for Bongo Video Assignment gradebook (July 2020 release)

- Teachers will see an updated gradebook page in Bongo Video Assignment when assessing students.
- Teachers will be able to quickly navigate to other students from a new left-hand panel, and be able to see a progress dashboard to view submissions that are ready to evaluate.

Upload your own captions for Bongo Video Assignment (July 2020 release) ★

- Teachers and students will see an option to upload their own caption files after adding a video to a Bongo Video Assignment.

Virtual Classrooms

Changes to free version of Bongo Virtual Classrooms (April 1, 2020) ★

- As of April 1, 2020, there have been significant reductions in limits for maximum number of participants, maximum length of recording, and session recording for Virtual Classrooms. These changes were made by the vendor, Bongo.

Changes to free version of Bongo Virtual Classrooms (August 20, 2020) ★

- As of April 20, 2020, there have been updates to improve the user experience in Virtual Classroom sessions, including: presentations, audio, video, participants and chat, and other. These changes were made by the vendor, Bongo.

Widgets

My Courses and Updates widgets display unevaluated assignments (June 2020 release)

- The My Courses widget and the Updates widget now display new, unevaluated assignment submissions instead of unread assignment submission files to teachers. This change aligns the widgets with the Assignments page and the Quick Eval tool to consistently notify teachers of unevaluated submissions.
**My Courses widget Pinned tab displays manually pinned courses (July 2020 release) ⭐**

- In the My Courses widget, teachers and students can now filter your courses to show only your manually pinned courses using the new “Pinned” tab. You can switch back to view all courses with the “All” tab.

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**Wiggio**

**End of Life (February 2020 release) ⭐**

- Effective February 2020, Brightspace Wiggio is no longer available to users. Refer to [February 2020 knowledge articles](#) for additional information, as well as steps to export content from Wiggio.

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