What’s new in Brightspace by D2L
10.7.0 – 10.8.8
New and Updated Features

- General updates
- Supported Browsers
- Homepages, widgets, navbars
- Content
- Grades
- Assignments
- Rubrics
- Quizzes
- Discussions
- HTML Editor
General Updates

- **No maintenance downtimes** starting spring 2019
- **Continuous Delivery (CD) starts in 2019**
Supported Browsers

- Recommended Browsers:
  - Latest versions of:
    - Google Chrome
    - Firefox
    - Edge is supported
    - MAC computers: Safari
  - *Internet Explorer* – any version – is not recommended and not supported
Homepages, Widgets, Navbars

- Widgets get the **container style**: widgets are displayed prominently against homepage background
  - Can be toggled on/off for **custom** created widgets only, but not for the system widgets (My Courses, Announcements, etc.)

- Improvements to the My Courses widget (?):
  - New pushpin icon on the course images in the My Courses widget is for **unpinning courses only**: do not click it unless you want to unpin the course:

- Change course banner image from within a course (not only from the My Courses widget)
Homepages, Widgets, Navbars

- Users can now apply a color behind the link area on course navbars and set the text color scheme to either light or dark.
  - It can be done by creating and applying a new course theme.

- Instructors can change or delete homepage banner title (not recommend.)
Homepages, Widgets, Navbars

- Visual updates to My Courses Widget:
  - There will be a new status badge on the course tiles: *Inactive* or *Closed*

- You also might see the warning at the top of the My Courses Widget:
Content

- New icons in the Table of Content:

- You can re-arrange (drag-drop) modules by clicking and holding the dot icons in the left navigation Table of Contents column
Content

- **Print** function is added to documents: Word, HTML, PPT, Excel files (except PDF files):
  - Users can download and **print** documents from Content:
  - PDF documents have the Download option only
Content: Copying Courses

- There is a new option – **Offset Dates** – when the course content is copying to the other course:

![Offset Dates Form](image)
Grades

- Locked Name column and header row in Enter Grades while you scrolling (!)

- Add feedback in bulk. If you click the down arrow next to any grade item (from within Enter Grades), you’ll find this option:
Assignments

- New assignment types in addition to the File Submission Type (works in the existing and new assignments):
  - Text Submission
  - On Paper Submission
  - Observed in Person

- Do not require students to attach and submit files and can be evaluated in the system:
  - **Test Submission**: students can type the text right in a Text Submission box and submit
  - **On Paper Submission**: are completed by students offline and submitted directly to instructors
  - **Observed in Person**: such as class presentations, do not require written work to be submitted but can be evaluated using the tools available in the Assignments tool
Assignments

- “On paper” and “Observed in person” assignment submission types can now be created directly from Content: click the Upload/Create button.

- NOTE: If no student submissions have been made to an assignment, instructors can change the assignment type and submission type. This allows for existing assignments to be modified without the need to create a new assignment.
Assignments

- OneDrive and Google Drive attachments – available for instructors
  - Instructors can attach files from OneDrive and Google Drive to assignments
- Instructors can evaluate submissions by clicking a student’s name
  - On the Submission page, click the name to access the Evaluation Submission page
- To download a submitted file, instructors can click on the submission’s file name
- The Publish and Save Draft buttons now display at the bottom of the Evaluation page
Rubrics

- New interface for previewing rubric definitions
- Control rubric visibility for students
- Display graded rubric feedback in Grade book
- User Progress displays general feedback, scores, and graded rubrics for Grades, Discussions and Assignments
- Feedback displays to students as soon as instructors save the rubric and overall feedback assessment
- Content tool for Discussions displays general feedback, scores, and graded rubrics. This replaces the previously displayed Instructor Feedback
Rubrics

- Improvements to rubrics grading experience in Assignments
  - Ability to assess rubrics individually or assess all rubrics in the same grading workflow
  - Separate rubric Total and Overall Score areas:
    - Total is a numeric value that is automatically calculated, and the value is populated in Grades
    - Overall Score indicates level of achievement and is editable by the instructor
New: **Auto-save** questions during quiz taking

- Students’ responses are saved automatically
- Text-input questions auto-save every 15 seconds

The “Save All Responses” and “Go to Submit Quiz” buttons have been removed

There will only be the button **Submit Quiz**, but twice, and the **Done** button

When a student clicks Start Quiz, the navbar disappears, which gives more space for questions

**NOTE:** Newly created quizzes are INACTIVE by default (to make it active, click the Restriction tab).
Quizzes

- Additional confirmation buttons to start and submit a quiz have been removed
- **Due Date** available in the Restrictions tab
- **Dynamic preview** of question pools (Quiz > Add/edit Questions > New button > Question Pool)
  - The Preview displays questions randomly selected from the current pool
  - A refresh button allows to navigate through several selections to ensure the question pool works as expected

- **New option**: When you create or edit a quiz, on the Properties tab in the Optional Advanced Properties area: “If you turn on this option, users cannot access the Email tool, Instant Messages tool, or their alerts if they have a quiz attempt in progress”
Discussions

- Instructors can post to all groups at once, if there are multiple groups.
- Instructors can associate existing discussion topics to a new group or section during the group/section creation process.
- Instructors can associate existing discussion topics to groups or sections not associated with any other discussion topic.
  - Can only choose existing topics that have no existing discussion posts for association.
- It’s useful for creating groups or sections after copying a course, or if discussion topics are accidentally created before groups/sections.
HTML Editor

- Allow paste from MS Word
- Chemistry equation writing and handwriting functions are available in the Equation Editor (note that this doesn’t enable handwriting graphs)
- Unsaved changes prompt appears
- Advanced image editing
- Emoticons available