

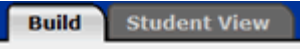
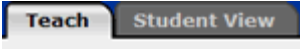

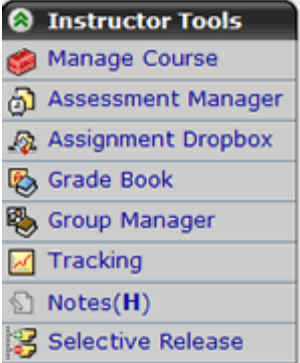


# Blackboard Vista 4.2 at a glance

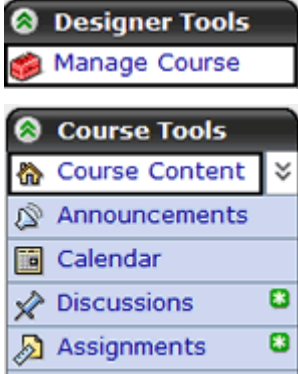
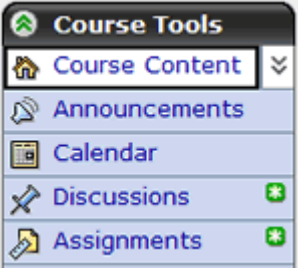
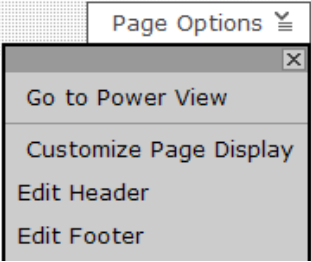
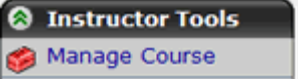
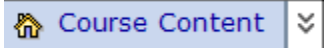
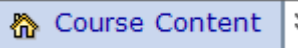

## Quick guide for designers and instructors

For Blackboard Vista 4.x

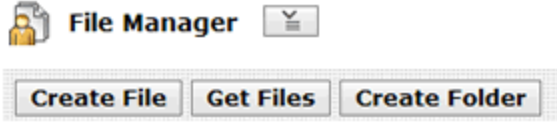




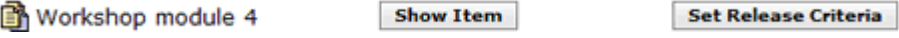
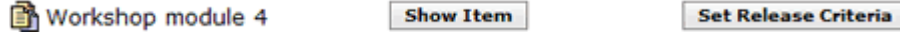
Highlighted here are the major changes in Blackboard Vista 4. For the user – particularly the designer and instructor – the new interface provides streamlined access to content and management tools and a more consistent and simple approach to the way these tools work. Most actions now take fewer steps than in Vista 3.

Changes for the Designer		Changes for the Instructor	
<b>What you see</b>		<b>What you see</b>	
	<p>No sub tabs – <b>Basic View</b> with What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) is the default view; <b>Power View</b> is now accessed via a <b>Page Options</b> menu on the top right of the main screen;</p> <p><b>Course Inventory</b> is subsumed as a Tools listing under <b>Manage Course</b> (see below)</p>		<p>No sub tabs. Default view is Course view; Tool View is subsumed in a Tools listing under Manage Course (see below)</p>
	<p>New <b>Designer Tools</b> menu (at the bottom left of the screen) – giving you access to the <b>File Manager</b>, <b>Selective Release</b> and a new <b>Manage Course</b> feature.</p>		<p>New <b>Instructor Tools</b> menu (at bottom left of screen), incorporating the old Course Management Toolbar items (Grade Book, Group Manager etc), plus other items – including <b>Manage Course</b> (see below)</p>

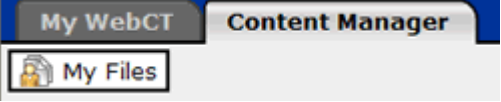








## Blackboard Vista 4.2 at a glance

	<p>New <b>Manage Course</b> facility, which is used to set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Course Content</b> menu (and hence instructor and student access to tools – equivalent to the old Course Toolbar), that sits above the <b>Designer Tools</b> menu</li> <li>Look and feel of the course (page layout, colours, icons, position of menus on screen etc).</li> </ul>		<p>New <b>Course Content</b> menu set up by the designer – equivalent to the old <b>Course Toolbar</b>, but now as a vertical column to the left of main screen</p>
	<p>New <b>Page Options</b> drop-down menu for the Home Page and folders (organizer pages – see below) where you can customise page appearance, headers, footers etc.</p>		<p>New <b>Manage Course</b> facility where you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hide/show tools in the Course Content menu (located above the Instructor Tools menu)</li> <li>Edit/customise course appearance</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Navigation</b> – no ‘Go to’ drop-down menu; replaced by an expandable/collapsible <b>Course Content</b> Map</p>		<p><b>Navigation</b> – no ‘Go to’ drop-down menu; replaced by an expandable/collapsible <b>Course Content</b> Map</p>
<p><b>Some name changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizer pages are now called <b>Folders</b></li> <li>URLs are now called <b>Web Links</b></li> </ul>		<p><b>Some name changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizer pages are now called <b>Folders</b></li> <li>URLs are now called <b>Web Links</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adding elements to a page (Home Page, folder, learning module)</b></p> <p>Old <i>Add to ...</i> left hand menu gone; now 3 buttons on the main screen:</p>  <p>(e.g. assessment, discussion topic)</p>			

## Blackboard Vista 4.2 at a glance

Adding & managing files with File Manager	File Manager
No more confusing directory of folders for which you have no interest (or control) – just a listing of folders in your section	You no longer have access to the File Manager
 <p>Much simplified upload process – with the <b>Get Files</b> facility you can seamlessly access files from your computer and other Vista sections for which you have designer privilege.</p> <p>From the <b>File Manager Action Link</b> you can choose to open your file manager as a web folder allowing you to drag and drop files from your desktop.</p>	
Setting up WebDAV – particularly for Windows machines using Microsoft Internet Explorer – is a breeze	
Sharing files/folders across sections easier, with a Template Manager and Repository	
Performing actions and accessing options	Performing actions and accessing options
Much more consistent across tools (e.g. with respect to buttons to click)	Much more consistent across tools (e.g. with respect to buttons to click)
 <p>Options at your finger tips through a clickable <i>ActionLinks</i>  icon next to the item that opens a drop-down list of options</p>	 <p>Options at your finger tips through a clickable <i>ActionLinks</i>  icon next to the item that opens a drop-down list of options</p>
Controlling access to links through the selective release map	Controlling access to links through the selective release map
 <p>Gone is the confusion between ‘Availability’, ‘Visibility’ and selective release; there are now just two conditions under your control – whether the item is visible (through the <b>Show Item/Hide Item</b> buttons), and whether it is subject to any selective release criteria.</p>	 <p>Gone is the confusion between ‘Availability’, ‘Visibility’ and selective release; there are now just two conditions under your control – whether the item is visible (through the <b>Show Item/Hide Item</b> buttons), and whether it is subject to any selective release criteria.</p>

## Blackboard Vista 4.2 at a glance

<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Question Database no longer a separately listed tool; accessed through the Assessments tool.	Managing assessments is a much more streamlined set of procedures for accessing and processing submissions.
<b>Quick start for designers</b>	
A 'Quick start' wizard can get your Home Page up and running.	
<b>Content Manager</b>	
 <p>Access your My Files folder from the new Content Manager tab. Note: The My Files folder is now independent of sections.</p>	
<b>New tools</b>	<b>New tools</b>
 <b>Goals</b> Create goals that list the qualitative and quantitative performance expected in your course.	 <b>Goals</b> Create goals that list the qualitative and quantitative performance expected in your course.
 <b>Grading form</b> Use a form to assist in grading assignments or discussions, and in providing feedback to students on performance.	 <b>Grading form</b> Use a form to assist in grading assignments or discussions, and in providing feedback to students on performance.
 <b>Blog</b>  <b>Journal</b> Discussions options now include blogs and journals.	 <b>Blog</b>  <b>Journal</b> Discussions options now include blogs and journals.
<b>New options</b>	<b>New options</b>
<b>Media Library Collection</b> <b>Web Links</b> There is now an option for designers to allow students to add media library entries and web links to a course.	<b>Web Links</b> There is now an option for instructors to allow students to add web links to a course.

## Need more information?

See the individual tool-based guides for further details and more minor changes.

### References:

Designer and Instructor Reference: Application Pack 2 for Blackboard Learning System – Vista Enterprise License (Release 4) 2006 Blackboard Inc.

Vista 4.2 Online Help (Blackboard Inc.)

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