



# Blackboard 7 Quick Start Guides



## Getting Started:

### Recommended Browsers for Blackboard 7.1 and Plug-Ins

Since Blackboard courses are taken and delivered entirely over the Internet, all you need to access them is an Internet browser. The table below lists browsers that may or may not be compatible with Blackboard, 7.1, sorted by operating system. Browsers not listed below (AOL, MSN Explorer, etc.) are not supported, and may encounter problems with Blackboard. You can find this information regarding browsers, plug-ins and more technical support at: <http://www.distancelearning.org/techrequire.html>.

### Recommended Browsers for Blackboard 7.1

Operating Systems		Web Browsers										
		Microsoft® Internet Explorer				Netscape® & Mozilla®			Apple® Safari			
		5.2	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.1	8.0	Firefox 1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	2.0
Windows®	2000	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	C	C	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	XP	N/A	N/A	✓	P	C	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Macintosh®	10.2	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	TBD	C	C	N/A	N/A	N/A
	10.3	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	TBD	✓	N/A	C	✓	N/A
	10.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓

#### NOTES:

- Browsers marked with a "✓" are Certified by Blackboard (fully tested and supported).
- Browsers marked with a "C" are Compatible (key application areas tested)
- Browsers marked with "N/A" are not tested (specified browser is not supported for the operating system).
- Browsers marked with "P" will test on Beta versions of new platforms and browsers.
- Browsers marked with "TBD" mean that not enough information is known at this time to determine an appropriate designation.

## Note on Windows Vista

Windows Vista operating system and Internet Explorer 7.1 are now being tested by Blackboard. They have not yet been certified or deemed compatible with Blackboard system, so at this time we do not recommend upgrading any computer that will be used to access courses to Microsoft Vista or Internet Explorer 7.1.

### Browser Plug-Ins: (suggested)

You may or may not need the plug-ins, depending on what type of files your instructor shares with you via Blackboard. The plug-ins are free downloads.

- Apple Quick Time 6:  
<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/mac.html>

"The free QuickTime Player is an application for playing, interacting with, or viewing any video, audio, VR, or graphics file that is compatible with QuickTime. This includes MPEG-4, the new standard for digital media, new in QuickTime 6." (Apple Web site)

- Macromedia Shockwave & Flash:  
<http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

Macromedia's Shockwave and Flash Player plug-ins let you experience automation and entertainment in your Web browser. The new Shockwave 7 provides auto-updating of the player.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader: <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>

View and print millions of documents on the Web with the free Adobe® Acrobat® Reader.

- Microsoft Media Player:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/library/errorpages/smartererror.aspx?404;http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/players.asp>

Windows Media Player supports Windows Media (WMA,ASF), MP3, WAV, MIDI, AVI, and other formats.

## **Check Browser and Plug-Ins:**

A browser tune-up is essential to ensure that you will be able to reliably access your online course and see all the elements correctly. The latest version of any browser will not necessarily be supported by Blackboard, which makes it especially important to access and use their tune-up website at <http://www2.blackboard.com/tuneup>. On that page you will also be able to download compatible browsers and plug-ins if necessary.