



ITAC ~ February 7, 2002: Blackboard 5.5 Update

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Recent Update:

In December 2001 the Blackboard Project Team (CIT, OIT), with consultation from Blackboard, Inc. Professional Services:

- Updated hardware
 - Production: Sun 420 application server (4 GB RAM), Sun 420 database server (4 GB), connected to Shark Array for disk space
 - Test: Sun 220 application server (2 GB); Sun 420 database server (4 GB), Shark
 - Failsafe database: on one of the Sun 420 database servers
 - Upgrade/development: Sun 220 (2 GB), application/database combined
- Installed new Blackboard version, with SSL
- Migrated CourseInfo data to new Blackboard servers
- Installed Kerberos authentication module

Current Status:

Blackboard 5.5.1 Build 139

Courses Created for Spring 2002	
Arts and Sciences	490
[Graduate]	4]
Divinity	36
Medicine	28
Pratt	28
Nicholas	26
Nursing	1
Total	613 (567 unique)

Spring 2002 Student Enrollments	
# Blackboard courses	# Students
1	2166
2	1954
3	1382
≥4	1390
Total distinct Ss	6892

Total distinct other users, Spring 2002: 902
Total distinct faculty users, Spring 2002: 496

Plans for Spring/Summer 2002:

- Upgrade to Blackboard 5.5.1 Build 150
- Increase integration with PeopleSoft, University systems
- Form Blackboard Advisory Group composed of representatives from across campus
- Provide user feedback e-mail list, voluntary subscription
- Resolve Blackboard policy issues identified by CIT, users, Blackboard Team

Issues Arising Through Increased Use of Blackboard on Campus:

- Open vs. closed site and faculty control of course site content
- Faculty beginning to consolidate course materials in one place
- Space for course projects not tied to one instance of a course
- Use of Blackboard's portal features: for courses, for more?