



What is a Wiki?

A wiki is a collaborative website that can be edited by anyone who has access to it. One significant feature of a wiki is that users can add text and multimedia directly onto their site without knowing web programming language or using web design software. Another important feature of a wiki is that anyone with access can add, change, or delete information on the wiki.

Each Blackboard™ course has one Central Course Wiki that the instructor can turn on or off, and a Blackboard™ course can contain an unlimited number of group wikis.

Configuring the Central Course Wiki

By default, the instructor is the only one who can edit and create the Central Course Wiki. To change settings for this wiki, the instructor uses the Configure Wiki Tool.

1. Click Control Panel>Configure Wiki Tool.
2. Select editing option. Choose "No" if the instructor will be the only person editing or creating pages. Choose "Yes" if students can participate.
3. Select purge control. Choose "Yes" if students are allowed to permanently delete pages.
4. Select comment control: Select "Nobody" to turn off the comments function, "Instructor Only" if the instructor will be the only person adding comments, or "Everyone in Course" if students will also participate.
5. Choose wiki editing dates: Specify the date range in which students can edit pages if editing should be restricted to specific dates.
6. Choose wiki view dates: Specify the date ranges in which students can view pages if viewing should be restricted to specific dates.
7. Select how students will be identified. If students are posting to the blog, use this option to specify how their names will appear on the screen.
8. Choose a primary text direction. If the blog uses a language that is read right-to-left, such as Arabic, you can set the primary text direction.

Creating Group Wikis

Group wikis are added in course content areas such as Assignments or Course Documents.

1. Go to the course Control Panel.
2. Choose a content area (i.e. Course Documents or Assignments) or create a new one.
3. Select the "Wiki" item from list in the right corner of the action bar.
4. Click the Go button which will connect to the Create Wiki page.

Wiki vs. Blog

Wiki

A website that allows users to add and edit content collectively.

Blog

A frequent, chronological publication of personal thoughts and web links.

Configuring Group Wikis

To configure a Group Wiki, follow the directions in the *Configuring the Central Course Wiki* section and add the following options while completing the steps:

1. Enter a wiki name and description.
2. Select members who will create the wiki. Wikis can be made available to either individuals or course groups.
3. Create a Gradebook entry. If the blog will be graded, complete the "Create a Gradebook Entry" option. To remove this entry from the Gradebook after creating it, do so from the Gradebook.

Wiki Uses

Q: How can I get my students to collaborate on online projects?

A: Group wikis are a great way for instructors to create group assignments. Students work cooperatively to develop, write, and publish their solutions in the form of websites. This process encourages them to think critically and analytically as they evaluate and organize content.

Q: How can I create a shared course resource?

A: Wikis allow instructors and students to collaboratively build shared knowledge within courses. Course members can maintain an up-to-date, online course resource by authoring content, linking to external resources, contributing opinions and analysis, and re-framing existing content.

Q: How can I assess group participation?

A: A wiki provides a course tool to help instructors assess the group project work they have assigned. This tool allows an instructor to view the individual contributions of each student and to track the evolution of a group's response during the problem-solving process.

