

JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service

System Administrator FAQ Blackboard Plug-in

Tip Sheet

Number 5

■ **Q What versions of Blackboard are compatible with the plug-in?**

A The plug-in should work with any Blackboard installation which supports building blocks – this extends to Blackboard 6.x versions. Compatibility testing will also be carried out for Blackboard version 7.

■ **Q Which ports need to be open on the Blackboard server in order for the Blackboard plug-in to work?**

A Ports 80 and 443 will need to be open on your Blackboard server to allow the Blackboard and Turnitin systems to communicate.

■ **Q We want to upgrade from an old version of the plug-in to the newest one but what is the impact on existing Turnitin assignments?**

A Any assignments created using an older version of the Blackboard plug-in will remain in place when you upgrade the plug-in.

■ **Q When new versions of the Blackboard plug-in are released will old versions still work?**

A When an updated version of the plug-in is released any older versions still being used by institutions should continue to work. The older versions will still be supported however no new features or updates will be made for that version. It is therefore strongly recommended that institutions upgrade their plug-in to the latest stable release as soon as soon as possible.

■ **Q Does the Turnitin Building Block support Blackboard's course copy feature?**

A Yes, this was released in January 2006 during the Turnitin Winter Upgrade

■ **Q Will tutors be able to upload batch files through the Blackboard plug-in?**

A Yes, the upload options are exactly the same as the PDS options. Tutors can upload files using the following options:

- File upload
- Cut & paste
- Bulk upload
- Zip File

■ **Q Will tutors be able to download files through Blackboard and if so, in bulk?**

A Instructors can access their TurnitinUK Assignments (inbox) through the Blackboard Control Panel and select the files they want to download by clicking the check boxes and then 'download'.

■ **Q Can Peer Review, GradeMark and GradeBook be used with the plug-in?**

A GradeMark is currently available to be used with the Blackboard integration. In order to access the GradeMark facility the user clicks on the GradeMark icon which shows up next to each paper submission within the TurnitinUK assignment inbox. The Turnitin GradeBook is not available through Blackboard as it was determined that having access to both the Turnitin GradeBook as well as the Blackboard gradebook could prove confusing for users. The Blackboard gradebook may be used in conjunction with the plug-in however. When you click on the submission title within the Turnitin assignment inbox, you will either be able to type in a grade or a grade which has been previously entered will display. Assignment grades will appear against each submission on each row in the Turnitin Assignment inbox. Peer Review is not currently available through the Blackboard plug-in

■ **Q Do users get the same functionality using the plug-in as they would when logging direct into the Turnitin system? Is there a need to use both systems separately or can users just use one system?**

A The Blackboard plug-in provides users with full access to the Turnitin assignment inbox, originality reports and tools such as GradeMark. It is therefore not necessary, or encouraged, that users switch between systems. Faculty members and students who are accustomed to using Turnitin may still continue to access the system through the www.submit.ac.uk website.

■ **Q Why is a newly set up assignment always in student's view even if it has passed its due date and/or time with no later submission option?**

A The idea behind this is that even if the assignment option is set so that a student cannot make a late submission, they should still have access to view their originality reports (if this has been allowed) and they should also be able to download their original paper. This is why it is necessary for the student to be able to click through, even after the due date has passed.

Further information regarding the use of the Turnitin system is available at <http://www.submit.ac.uk>

For details of more tip sheets in this series see www.jiscpas.ac.uk