Why Choose Blackboard?

Blackboard knows that academic computing is a competitive, strategic and pedagogical imperative for all institutions to enhance the on-campus experience and to deliver distance learning. Regardless of whether or not your institution has the technology or staff in place, you understand the need to support courses online today.

As an Application Service Provider (ASP), Blackboard can bring your institution’s courses online quickly and easily. We provide standard to premium services depending on your institution’s needs. Blackboard ASP services are secure, quick and easy, and affordable. Most importantly, by using Blackboard as your ASP, your institution maintains complete control over your course Web sites and content.

Maintain Control of All Your Course Web Sites and Content

With Blackboard 5™, your institution’s instructors will be able to create and manage their own course Web sites quickly and easily – without learning HTML. Each course will be maintained on Blackboard’s servers at YourInstitutionName.blackboard.com (or whatever URL you choose), with a private gateway page featuring your institution’s unique look and feel.

Using Blackboard as your ASP is the same as owning Blackboard software and hosting it yourself. All of the customization tools within Blackboard 5 will be available to your faculty any time, any place. You will have complete control over all content and design, plus access to your course Web sites 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no limits to the number of course Web sites on your network nor the number of students per course. You will never need costly consultants to make course Web site changes. And there will never be a debate over who owns your course content – you do.

Blackboard ASP Features

- Blackboard manages software installation
- 10Gb to 20Gb storage space*
- 1Mb/sec to 10Mb/sec connectivity
- Redundant Internet connections through a minimum of three separate walls
- Fully redundant and conditioned power
- 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week monitoring
- Nightly tape backups
- Secure facility
- Greater than 99% guaranteed uptime

* extra storage space available for an additional fee

“Since we could not afford to run a large and redundant dedicated line on our campus and maintain 24/7 customer support for all of our worldwide students, we had to look at outsourcing. After extensive review of several companies, Blackboard was the clear choice. Since they began hosting our courses in May 1999, we have not had a single instance of downtime. Our troubleshooting has dropped significantly, allowing us to focus on providing excellent online curriculum. If I had to do it all over again, the choice would still be the same...Blackboard all the way.”

Rick Koch, Director of Instructional Technology Bellevue University
Your Course Web Sites will be Maintained in a Guaranteed Secure Environment

Blackboard maintains a fully dedicated server with redundant connectivity, comprehensive backup, RAID fault protection and four levels of power backup at a secured location with restricted access. You do not need to worry about the security or preservation of your institution’s course Web sites while using Blackboard as your ASP.

All of our machines are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our secure data facility. Network security is maintained through redundant network connections entering the buildings through a minimum of three separate walls. Power back-up is maintained through battery, on-site diesel generators, and mobile diesel generators for extended outages.

Quick Setup of Your Online Learning Environment

By using Blackboard’s secure servers to deliver your institution’s academic programs, you save both time and money. Your private area on Blackboard will be established immediately by Blackboard staff, with no delays caused by training or scheduling conflicts. We can create your institution’s private Blackboard area in just 24 hours. You do not need additional staff or hardware. If you choose, you can easily migrate your Blackboard installation to your own machines at a later date.

Simple and Affordable Pricing

Your vision is clear – to support education online. Your pricing plan should be simple and affordable to reflect your vision. Blackboard designed its application services exclusively for educational institutions.

Blackboard offers a simple pricing plan without costly per-student fees because we know how important it is to encourage and support education online. You only pay extra for disk storage above your initial allocation. After all, education is your business - and it’s Blackboard’s business, too.

For more information, or to sign up as a Blackboard ASP client today, please contact a Blackboard representative at 1-800-424-9299.