Piloting the University's new Learning Management System, Canvas

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The University of Melbourne is moving to a new LMS (Canvas), which will be implemented as a program of work through 2019. After a pilot in semester 2, 2019 involving selected subjects, Canvas will be hosting all subjects from the beginning of 2020.

What is the Semester 2 Canvas LMS pilot?

During Semester 2, 2019 a small number of subjects from each Faculty/Graduate School will be hosted in the new Canvas LMS.

Each Faculty/Graduate School has been invited to propose the subjects they consider to be most suitable for the pilot.

The purpose of the pilot, for Faculties/Graduate Schools and the project team, is to build our knowledge of what is required for subjects to be taught in Canvas. This will inform both local and central planning for the migration of all subject and community spaces from the Blackboard LMS to the Canvas LMS during 2019.

Why get involved?

Involvement in the pilot will provide many opportunities, including

- Early insights into Canvas functionality: opportunities to identify what is required to build subjects for your Faculty/School in Canvas and assist planning for subjects that will be taught at a later period.
- All staff involved in the Pilot will be provided with opportunities to learn about using Canvas, through workshops and online resources.
- Learning Design support will be available throughout the process of reshaping migrated content and building new activities in Canvas.
- Detailed preparation of pilot subjects will enable the project team to understand any complexities or unique requirements of subjects within your Faculty/Graduate School, which in turn assists with developing and configuring Canvas.
- Templates can be developed so that all subjects within a Faculty/Graduate School can have a consistent look and feel.
- Faculties/Schools will be able to share experiences and example subjects with colleagues.
- Participants in the pilot will have the opportunity to give feedback on their experience to help the larger migration.

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University Services
Learning Environments and
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What's involved?

The scope of the subjects agreed upon for pilot will determine exactly what is involved. For example, redesigning a subject may require more time that adjusting a subject that was migrated using a similar structure.

As a guide, it is anticipated that there will be approximately 10hrs of involvement from teaching or support staff per subject. This includes requirements gathering, validating content migration and subject build, determining if the subject is ready for use, and providing feedback to the project on how it is being used in Canvas.

Selecting Subjects for the Pilot

- Approximately 10 subjects per Faculty/Graduate School (Note: Faculties/Graduate Schools do not have to select 10, this number is just a guide).
- Subjects that are taught in study periods commencing in the second half of 2019
- Include a diversity of subjects, such as numbers of students and staff, learning design, learning resources (presentation, file types, video resources etc), assessment and feedback activities, communication and collaboration activities.
- Nominated subjects will be reviewed for suitability by the migration team. While every endeavor to include as many of your nominated subjects as possible will be taken, some may not be included due to the complexity of integration with other systems that is required, or other timing concerns.

Go / No-go

With any software implementation there needs to be a fallback if for any reason the environment is not ready. The subject coordinator may also consider that the subject is not yet in a suitable form for their teaching and learning requirements.

The fallback is that the subject will be taught in the Blackboard LMS and will continue to be developed in readiness for the larger project migration to Canvas.