Creating a Mashup Item

Mashups allow instructors to add content to a course that is from an external Web site. This content is used in a variety of ways within a course: a standalone piece of Course Content, part of a test question, a topic on a Discussion Board, or as part of an assignment. The content displayed in a course will still reside on the external Web site.

Mashups are added as a Content Item in a folder or added through the Text Editor. Adding a Mashup as a Content Item makes it a part of the information that you present to users for them to view. Adding a Mashup using the Text Editor means that you can put Mashups in places where users can interact with the content, such as in Test Questions, Discussion Boards, and Blogs.

This version of Blackboard, as designed for the University of St. Thomas, makes the following Mashups available for use:

- Flickr photos
- SlideShare presentations
- Blackboard Collaborate audio clips
- YouTube videos

Mashups are displayed in the following ways:

- **Embed**: The Mashup displays directly on the page when a student opens the item.
- **Thumbnail View with Player**: A small picture of the Mashup displays on the page with controls to launch it.
- **Text Link with Player**: A link to the Mashup is displayed on the page. Students click the link to launch the Mashup.

To create a Mashup Item:

1. Navigate to the Content Area of your Course to which you want to add a Mashup.
2. Point to **Build Content** on the action bar, and select one of the items in the Mashups category.

3. Search for content by typing keywords for the topic you are looking for the text box next to Keywords, then click **Go**.
4. Click **Preview** beneath a thumbnail to examine any items that might be appropriate.

5. Click **Select** for the most appropriate item.

6. If the Name supplied is not ideal, type a different one. Type a Description of the Mashup in the text editor.

7. Set the Mashup Options, including the preferred display mode. Different Mashup types will have different options.
8. Attach additional content files to the Mashup by clicking **Browse My Computer** or **Browse Course**.

9. Optionally, click **Yes** to Permit Users to View this Content, **Yes** to Track Number of Views. Use the **Display After** and **Display Until** date and time fields to restrict the availability of the Mashup.

10. Click **Back** to return to the previous screen, **Preview** to examine the Mashup, or **Submit** to finish posting it.
The Mashup will appear listed with other items in the Content Area.

To edit any Mashup item after creation, click its contextual arrow and select **Edit**. **Note:** The Mashup Options section does not appear on the Edit page, so you cannot change the way the Mashup is displayed in the content area. There are other options, including **Copy** and **Delete**.
To add a Mashup in a Text Editor box that allows it, click the **Mashups** button on the bottom toolbar, and select the appropriate type.