New Features and Enhancements: February 2018

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra’s February 2018 release (version 18.2) will be implemented on us.bbcollab.com the evening of Saturday February 3. Information and illustrations of the new and enhanced features will be added to UST tutorial documentation at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

The following text is adapted from the Release Notes page on Blackboard’s Help site.

- You can now call into a Collaborate session without joining the session on a browser. Using the Blackboard or Blackboard Instructor app, from your list of sessions, select the name of the session you want to call into; then select the Anonymous dial-in information from the menu. Your device will now call into the session; enter the PIN when prompted. Collaborate will add you as a Participant with a generic name, such as Caller-1001.

- Want to give your recording a new name? Access Recordings from your scheduler on the Blackboard Collaborate Ultra page. Find the recording you want to edit. Click the Recording Options icon and select Edit name.
• See what your network connection is at-a-glance. If your connection is poor or broken, you see an alert associated with your profile picture. You see one bar for a poor connection, three for good, and four for excellent.

• Previously, when the browser reported a drop in available bandwidth, Collaborate would continue to prioritize the audio stream and send a lower quality application sharing stream, resulting in a blurry screen for the viewer. This usually lasted a few seconds, until the browser reported more available bandwidth. This was happening more frequently than true network capacity indicated. Now, we use additional measurements for a more accurate picture of network conditions, which will greatly reduce the frequency of the blurry moments.

• An enhancement from January, which improves the conversion process for uploaded PowerPoint and PDF files, had some initial problems that will be fixed in the February release.