

Blackboard Compatibility with Internet Browsers and Operating Systems

Blackboard Version 7.2.

Based on information provided by the vendor for Blackboard, the following chart depicts the approved Internet browsers and operating systems that may be used to access the Northwestern hosted Blackboard system (Version 7.2) that will be implemented during the summer of 2007. There is **no guarantee** of system compatibility when using any combination of Internet browser and operating system that is not “Fully Tested and Supported”. The use of any other combination of Internet browser and operating system may produce unpredictable results. The user must assume all responsibility for the use of any combination of Internet browser and operating system other than those rated “Fully Tested and Supported”.

Internet Browsers and Operating Systems Compatibility with Blackboard Version 7.2					
Internet Browser	Windows Operating Systems			Mac Operating Systems	
	2000	XP	Vista	10.3	10.4
Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.2	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved
Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved
Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0	Not Fully Tested	Fully Tested and Supported	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved
Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0	Not Approved	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved	Not Approved
Netscape 7.1	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved
Netscape 8.0	Not Fully Tested	Fully Tested and Supported	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved	Not Approved
Firefox 1.0.X	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested
Firefox 1.5.X	Not Fully Tested	Fully Tested and Supported	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Fully Tested and Supported
Firefox 2.0.X	Not Approved	Not Fully Tested	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved	Not Fully Tested

Apple Safari 1.1	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Fully Tested	Not Approved
Apple Safari 1.2	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Fully Tested and Supported	Not Approved
Apple Safari 2.0	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Not Approved	Fully Tested and Supported

***The following information is provided in regard to the use of Internet Explorer Version 7.0 and Windows XP. Blackboard has tested Internet Explorer 7.0 and rated it as “Partially Compatible” with the version of Blackboard that Northwestern State University is running. As stated above, the user must assume all responsibility for use of any combination of Internet browser and operating system other than those rated “Fully Tested and Supported”.**

1. Trusted Sites.

To compensate for this lack of full compatibility, end users must add the NSU Blackboard server to their list of trusted sites in Internet Explorer 7.0. If the Blackboard server is not in the list of trusted sites, it will not function correctly.

Follow these steps to add the Blackboard server to the list of trusted sites.

1. Login to Blackboard
2. Determine if Blackboard is in the list of Trusted Sites. When accessing Blackboard a green checkmark will appear in the Status Bar with the label, Trusted Sites. If Restricted Sites (a red circle icon) or Internet (a globe icon) appears instead, the Blackboard server must be added to the list of Trusted Sites.
3. Double-click the Status Bar where the Restricted Sites or the Internet icon appears. The Internet Security Properties box will open.
4. Click on the Trusted Sites Icon under the Select a zone to view or change security settings heading.
5. Click Sites to open the Trusted Sites box. The URL of the Blackboard sever should appear in the Add this website to the zone field. If not, enter the following URL: <https://blackboard.nsula.edu>.
6. Click Add.
7. You will also need to add the secondary server <https://bbapp.nsula.edu>. Click Add.
8. Click Close.
9. Click OK on the Internet Security Properties box.
10. Refresh the page (press F5).

2. Annoying Prompts.

Testing has also revealed other settings that can be modified to reduce annoying prompts. The following setting changes are only suggestions:

a. Phishing Feature.

Internet Explorer 7.0 includes an automatic website checking feature for phishing sites. NSU recommends this feature be turned off while using Blackboard since this feature slows the loading of each page.

1. Click on Tools, 2. Click on Phishing Filter. 3. Click on Turn off Automatic Website checking. 4. Click OK. 5. Refresh the page (press F5).

b. Secure and Non-secure Items.

On certain pages, a Security Information prompt will present the information: “This page contains both secure and nonsecure items. Do you want to display the nonsecure items?” The setting to enable mixed (secure and nonsecure on the same page) content is below:

1. Click Tools 2. Click Internet Options 3. Click the Security Tab 4. Click Internet under the Select a Zone heading 5. Click Custom Level. 6. Scroll down the list of options until about halfway where there is a heading Miscellaneous. Under the option Display mixed content, change the button to Enable. Click OK. 7. Click Yes at the prompt Are you sure you want to change the security settings for this zone. 8. Click OK on the Internet Security Properties box. 9. Refresh the page (press F5).

c. Clipboard Prompt.

Another security prompt that will appear prompts “Do you want to allow this webpage to access your Clipboard? If you allow this, the webpage can access the Clipboard and read information that you’ve cut or copied recently.” In testing, this page appears on certain assessments and assignments. To complete the assessment or assignment, “Allow access” must be clicked. Blackboard has confirmed this is an annoyance and is currently working with Microsoft to find a solution to this prompt. For now, NSU recommends that you click "Allow access" every time this prompt is displayed. When Blackboard provides NSU a work around, it will be applied immediately.

If you encounter problems with Blackboard, please contact the Student Online Support at 318-357-6696.