A number of different learning technologies can be integrated into the Blackboard environment to enrich both the student and user experience. One of these learning technology integrations is called BigBlueButton (BBB) (http://bigbluebutton.org/).

BigBlueButton is a virtual classroom similar to Blackboard Collaborate, Adobe Connect, and other such technologies. Users enter the room and then interact with the instructor who is able to moderate the session. The instructor can share his or her own video webcam feed (with audio, of course), share the desktop, and share applications with students as well as use the electronic whiteboard.

The current implementation of BigBlueButton when combined with some peculiarities of modern web browser does lead to some inconveniences when using Blackboard and BigBlueButton together. This document will explain how to first set up the BigBlueButton tool inside of a Blackboard Course and then how to access the tool by changing a setting in the browser.

**CREATE A BIGBLUEBUTTON LINK**

1. Go to a Blackboard in which you are an instructor.

2. Navigate to a content area (e.g. “Content”).

3. Select the **Tools** drop-down menu at the top of the content page.
4. Select **BigBlueButton** from the drop-down list.

5. Type in a **Name** and a **Description** for the link to BigBlueButton (e.g. *Virtual Office Hours*).

6. (Optional) Add any attachments. **NOTE:** If this link will be used on multiple occasions as a recurring virtual classroom, one could add the most current lecture slides for each day’s session.

7. Select any Availability options. **NOTE:** As with any other content item, Adaptive Release rules can be used to control access to the BigBlueButton room.

8. Click **Submit** when finished.
ALLOWING BigBlueButton TO BYPASS BROWSER SECURITY

BigBlueButton is a service that runs “non-securely” in the browser, meaning it uses the prefix http:// for any session instead of the much more secure https://. This causes a minor problem when attempting to mingle a non-secure application (i.e. BigBlueButton) inside of a secure application (i.e. Blackboard). Modern browsers will try to protect you from potentially malicious content and will prevent the “unsecure” content from opening unless you actively take a couple of simple steps to let the content pass through to the secure site. The exact steps users need to take will vary slightly based on their browser.

Mozilla Firefox:

1. Within your Blackboard course, click the link for the BigBlueButton session.

2. Firefox will open a pop-up asking if you want to continue. Click Continue.

3. The page will still be blank. However, in the upper-left corner of the browser window, in the far left of the address bar, you will see a small gray shield icon. Click the shield icon.

4. By default, the option in the drop-down menu will be Keep Blocking. Instead, select Disable Protection on this Page.
5. You will be taken to the Home page for the Blackboard course. Navigate back to the Content area that has the link for BigBlueButton.

6. Click the link for BigBlueButton.

7. Click **Continue** (again!).

8. Now you will enter the session. If you have a webcam connected to your computer (or built-in), you will be asked if you want to use it for the session.

9. Feel free to test the audio for your session and click **Join Audio** if you want to participate with your microphone. A headset with microphone is recommended to help mitigate feedback problems. **NOTE:** The instructor/moderator has the ability to mute microphones if desired.

**Google Chrome:**

1. Within your Blackboard course, click the link for the BigBlueButton session.

2. The page will be blank. However, in the upper-right corner of the browser window, in the far right of the address bar, you will see a small gray shield icon. Click the shield icon.

3. Click **Load Unsafe Script**.

4. You will be taken to the Home page for the Blackboard course. Navigate back to the Content area that has the link for BigBlueButton.

5. Click the link for BigBlueButton.

6. Now you will enter the session. If you have a webcam connected to your computer (or built-in), you will be asked if you want to use it for the session.

7. Feel free to test the audio for your session and click **Join Audio** if you want to participate with your microphone. A headset with microphone is recommended to help mitigate feedback problems. **NOTE:** The instructor/moderator has the ability to mute microphones if desired.
Internet Explorer (IE):

BigBlueButton does not appear to be compatible with the version of Internet Explorer used here on campus (IE 11). The Educational Technology Department recommends the use of a modern web browser such as Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome.