



Learning Technology Integrations

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YuJa, Perusall, McGraw Hill Education, Vista Higher Learning, Cengage, MacMillan Learning, and Top Hat are all examples of external tools that can be made available for students to use through Blackboard. While some are fairly basic textbook integrations that let you link to particular chapters or publisher-provided media, most include assessments – quizzes, games, and other assignable activities that automatically report back to Blackboard’s Gradebook upon completion. YuJa’s video quizzing is an example that we have been discussing quite a bit recently.

Because all these tools are hosted off-Blackboard, most of your work with these tools will be done on the hosting website: a YuJa Video Quiz is created on yuja.com, Perusall assignments are set up on perusal.com, Top Hat quizzes are built on tophat.com, and so on.

Unfortunately, this also means the CETL is often limited in our ability to provide you with assistance using these tools. Broadly speaking, we can help you with an integrated tool if the University is providing the tool (YuJa is the clearest, most common example of this). If the tool’s site has free account creation (like Perusall), we can often provide some assistance. However, the Center is mostly locked out of tools like Top Hat and those provided by textbook publishers. In these cases, while we still may be able to provide some general advice and tips, you will mostly need to depend on the tool provider’s tech support for specific issues.



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Once your assignments are set up, you will want to link them to an Ultra style course from Books & Tools (under the Details & Actions heading) or by clicking the “ADD CONTENT” button and choosing the Content Market, and finding the tool. For an Original style course site, you will find them under the Build Content, Tools, or Partner Content headings in any of your course site’s content areas. Just adding a web link to the tool site in Blackboard (or having the students navigate to the tool’s website on their own) won’t establish a connection between Blackboard and the tool site that enables things like gradebook sync.

When a student uses that special tool link for the first time, they make a connection between their Blackboard account and an account on the tool site. The tool site may invisibly create an account for them or it may prompt them to manually create and/or log in to an account. After that initial connection has been made, you’ll be able to see (and often track) the student’s participation on the tool site.

The system-level integration that lets Blackboard and the tool site communicate with each



other is set up by the CETL. If you see a tool listed in one of Blackboard's menus, the integration is all set up and ready for you to use. If you have a tool you'd like integrated, that isn't already listed on Blackboard, you should place a request with Ask-CETL@udmercy.edu. Please be aware, that it may take us some time to evaluate the tool, and while we try to accommodate as many requests as possible, several factors need to be considered before deciding whether to integrate a new external site into Blackboard.