



# Blackboard Discussion Board

ISSUE/SCENARIO	REASON	SOLUTION	RESULT
<b>Scenario #1:</b> When copying a previous semester's Blackboard site, previous students' discussion board entries are copied and included in the new site and listed as having been posted by "Anonymous."	In version 7.1, Blackboard changed the functionality of the Discussion board. Now when copying discussion boards, all forums <b>and</b> each thread entry are copied. (Replies to threads are not copied.)	Create the initial thread in the forum and post the discussion question there. Have students <u>reply</u> to your first thread posting that contains the question rather than having each student create a new thread. (See "Steps to Set Up Discussion Board" below.)	Each semester when the discussion board is copied, the initial thread posting containing the question will be copied, and all student responses will be deleted.
<b>Scenario #2:</b> A faculty member wants to continue using the existing discussion board setup.		None. Continue to allow each student to create threaded responses to discussion questions.	Each semester, the faculty member will have to open <i>each</i> discussion board forum and delete all thread postings by previous semester students.

## Steps to Set Up Discussion Board Forum to Prevent Deleting Threads in Future Semesters

Since the upgrade to Blackboard version 7, there were significant changes to the functionality of the Discussion Board feature. A detailed description and instructions for using the new Discussion Board interface can be found in the pdf document "New Discussion Board Features in Bb 7.1." This file can be found on the Internet at [http://www.pgconline.com/pdf/Blackboard\\_7.1\\_DB.pdf](http://www.pgconline.com/pdf/Blackboard_7.1_DB.pdf).

Now, when a course is copied, all of the forums **and the first-level threads** are copied into the new course site. This means that all initial responses posted by students will copy semester to semester if students create DB responses as individual threads rather than as replies to an initial thread posting created by the instructor.

**Solution: IMPORTANT:** To prevent having to delete all student responses to discussion boards each semester, you **MUST** put the DB question in the first thread and instruct students to reply to that beginning thread. In addition, you would remove the option for students to create new threads in that forum.

### ***How to do it?***

1. Create the first thread in the discussion board forum, and include the discussion question there.
2. Instruct students to "Reply" to your question thread (rather than to create a new thread themselves).
3. Disable "Add New Thread" in the discussion forum.

**Note:** *This forces students to reply to the posted thread instead of creating new threads. When the course is copied, only the first thread containing the discussion question will be copied into the new Blackboard site.*