New Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1.2016Q2
(Installed 8/9/2016)

1. Course Environment:

- **Virtual Classroom and Chat Tools**
  - Support for Virtual Classroom and Chat course tools has ended and will no longer be included in this and future releases. This change is due to browsers no longer supporting the technology (Java applets) behind these tools and Oracle discontinuing support for the Java plugin in the latest and future releases of Java.

  * We recommend using Adobe Connect as an alternative to the above. UCM has a site-wide license for use by all faculty and staff. For more information on Adobe Connect, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at ctl@ucmo.edu or 660-543-8528.

- **Content Editor**
  - Due to Google’s discontinuation of YouTube’s webcam record feature, the “Record From Webcam” option has been changed to “Browse YouTube Videos.”

  * As a replacement for Record From Webcam we recommend the use of UCM’s MediaL streaming service. The MediaL tool is located under Mashup in the Visual Text Box Editor. For more information on MediaL, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at ctl@ucmo.edu or 660-543-8528.

2. Improved Browser Support:

   The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

   - Microsoft Edge (on Windows 10 operating systems)
   - Safari 9
   - Mac OS X 10.11
   - Chrome OS (Chromebooks)

   No longer supported:

   - Internet Explorer 10 and earlier
   - Firefox 30 and earlier
   - Chrome 35 and earlier
   - Safari 5.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
   - Mac OS X 10.7 and earlier
   - Java 5, although it may continue to work
   - Windows Vista and earlier

   *Note: “No longer supported” does not indicate software will no longer function properly with Blackboard, but rather Bb no longer supports those software with the use of Bb. You may continue to use unsupported technology successfully, but we will be unable to help you if issues arise when using unsupported technology.
New Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1.2015Q4
(Installed 12/15/2015)

1. Course Environment:

- **Goals Performance Dashboard**
  - A competency-based education tool to map goals to courses within Learn. The Goal Performance Dashboard evaluates evidence of competencies individually, allowing for true measurement of mastery.

- **Announcement Email Header**
  - The From header now includes the sender's full name in course announcement emails.

- **Thread-to-Thread Navigation in Discussion Boards**
  - Users will be able to navigate to the next or previous thread in a discussion from the Thread Detail page without having to navigate back up to the Discussion Forum page.

- **Announcement Date Restriction Default**
  - When creating an announcement, "Not Date Restricted" is now selected by default.

2. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

- Microsoft Edge (on Windows 10 operating systems)
- Safari 9
- Mac OSX 10.11
- Chrome OS (Chromebooks)

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 10 and earlier
- Firefox 30 and earlier
- Chrome 35 and earlier
- Safari 5.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.7 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work
- Windows Vista and earlier

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New Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1.201410
(Installed 12/14/2014)

1. Course Environment:

- **Calendar Formatting Enhancements**
  - In different regions, people tend to organize their calendars differently even if they use the same calendar format. For example, in the United Kingdom, Monday is generally considered the first day of the week and presented as the left-most column in a calendar; in the United States, it is Sunday. Both countries use the same Gregorian calendar. Blackboard Learn already accommodates these differences in supported language packs. This enhancement allows individual users to personalize their experience and choose the way in which the calendar is organized.

- **Calendar Course List Filter**
  - A connection now exists between the “show/hide” capability in the My Courses and My Organizations modules with the calendar course list filter.

- **Content Editor Spellcheck**
  - The spellcheck option’s default state is now set to “on”.

2. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

- Safari 8
- Mac OSX 10.10

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 8 and earlier
- Firefox 3.6 and earlier
- Safari 5.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.6 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work
- Windows XP

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New Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1.201404

(Installed 5/13/2014)

1. Course Environment:

- **Anonymous and Delegated Grading**
  - Anonymous Grading adds another layer of fairness and impartiality to Grading capabilities. Without knowing who submitted the assignment, a Grader is not influenced by a student's previous performance, class participation, conflicts, race, gender, or perceived student aptitude.
  - Delegated Grading promotes reliability and removes bias by using grades and feedback from more than one Grader. These features may be used together or individually to meet grading requirements.

- **Assessments**
  - Significant Figures - Blackboard has improved Calculated Formula Questions by adding the ability to define the significant figures required and used in the creation of answers and the automated grading process.

- **SafeAssign**
  - The SafeAssignment content type is now removed from content areas, and SafeAssign becomes an additional feature available when creating native Blackboard Learn Assignments. All Blackboard Learn Assignment features are available in tandem with SafeAssign services.

- **Student Preview**
  - The new Student Preview feature provides the capability for an instructor to see the course exactly as a student would see it. It accomplishes this by allowing the Instructor to easily transition into and out of a system-managed preview account that is automatically enrolled in the course as a student. This provides all the advantages of a “dummy” account while absolving the instructor and System Administrator of the management overhead. The edit mode toggle can still be used for a quick check of content and tool availability.

2. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

- Internet Explorer 11 (on Windows 7 & 8 operating systems)
- Safari 7
- Mac OSX 10.9

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 8 and earlier
- Firefox 3.6 and earlier
- Safari 5.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.6 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work
- Windows XP
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Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1 SP14
(Installed 12/26/2013)

1. Course Environment:

- **Grade Center**
  - Define “Score Attempts Using” setting from Test and Assignment Options pages. Allows the instructor to set which attempt will be used to calculate the grade on a test or assignment set for multiple attempts from the test and assignment options pages.
  - Test Total Points Adjustment: Instructors can again set (override) the total points possible on a test grade column independently of the test itself.
  - Grade Schema Mapping: Instructors can now make the uppermost value in a Grading Schema as large as desired. This means that the instructor can make the percentage 150%, 200%, or any other percentage larger than 100%.

- **Inline Grading**
  Instructors now have a consistent grading sidebar within assignments, blogs, discussions, journals, and wikis. This grading sidebar allows them to grade a submission, post, and entry without leaving the page.
  - Assignments: Instructors can view student-submitted files “inline,” meaning in the web browser, without requiring any plug-ins, applets, or client-side applications. Additionally, annotations tools are available as part of the inline viewer, enabling Instructors to provide feedback – comments, highlights, and even drawing/annotation – directly on the inline view of the document.
  - Blogs, Journals, Discussions and Wikis: The collaborative communication tools have a consistent sidebar for grading on the post/entry page for each user.

- **Video Everywhere (Webcam Record)**
  Video Everywhere is a feature enhancement of the Content Editor Building Block. A new icon is added to the content editor that controls a user’s webcam. When activated and made available, users can record video and upload it directly to YouTube. The feature provides the ability for faculty and students to:
  - Record a video on the fly using a webcam and have it seamlessly embedded in course materials, interactions, and feedback through the content editor.
  - Reuse previously recorded videos by choosing from one’s own “library” of videos.

- **Achievements Tool**
  The Achievements tool allows instructors and course designers to designate criteria for issuing rewards to students in the form of both Badges and Certificates.
  - Students can see which rewards they’ve earned and what is required of them to receive additional rewards.
  - Students are able to publish badges to the Mozilla Open Backpack, transporting evidence of their learning outside of Blackboard Learn.
  - Instructors can easily see which students have reached learning milestones.
  - Printable certificates can be awarded for course completion.
2. My Blackboard:

- **My Grades**
  Student can now sort/order the information in MyGrades by course, last activity or due date. Information can also be filtered by All, Graded, Upcoming and Submitted activities.

- **Course Message Notifications**
  Course Messages have been added to the Notifications framework.

  The addition of course Messages to the Notifications framework provides all users the ability to:
  - View notifications for Course Messages on the Updates page.
  - View notifications for Course Messages in the What's New module, both on institutional module pages and on Course module pages.
  - View notifications for Course Messages using individual email.
  - View notifications for Course Messages using daily email digest.
  - Manage notification preferences for Course Messages.

3. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

- Internet Explorer 10 (on Windows 7 & 8 operating systems)
- Windows 8
- Safari 6
- Mac OSX 10.8

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 6 and 7
- Firefox 3.6 and earlier
- Safari 4.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.5 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work

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Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1 SP13
(Installed 8/13/2013)

1. Course Environment:

- **Test Availability Exceptions**
  Test availability exceptions are a set of new settings on the Test Options page, available only after the test is added to a content area. Select one or more groups of students and make a number of exceptions to the already established availability settings. Exceptions can be used to provide an accommodation to a disabled student, or provide accommodations for technology and language differences. Exceptions can be created for:
  - Number of attempts
  - Timer
  - Availability
  - Force completion

- **Test Results and Feedback Display Options**
  Instructors can set the release of progressive feedback to keep test results secure and prevent cheating by setting up rules. Rules occur in the order they appear.

  For example, you can choose **After Submission** to present **Score, All Answers, Correct, Submitted, Feedback** and **Show Incorrect Answers** to show students their scores along with all answer options. Students also see their submitted answers marked as correct or incorrect and any feedback provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback Mode</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When</strong></td>
<td>Sets the time when test results and feedback are shown to students:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One-time View</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On Specific Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Due Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Availability and End Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After Attempts are Graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Score</strong></td>
<td>Shows the final score out of points possible to students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Answers</strong></td>
<td>Shows all answer options for certain question types such as multiple choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Correct</strong></td>
<td>Shows the answers the student answered correctly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submitted</strong></td>
<td>Shows all the student’s submitted answers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feedback</strong></td>
<td>Shows instructor generated feedback messages for each question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Show Incorrect Answers</strong></td>
<td>Shows the answers the student answered incorrectly or partially incorrectly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Exporting Test Questions**
  All questions are now retained in exported and imported tests, including questions that originate outside the exported test, such as Question Sets, Random Blocks, and Question Links. When the user exports a test and imports it back into a different course, all questions are now present irrespective of their origin.

• **Test Access Log**
  Teachers and proctors can verify student activity or lack of activity during a test using the new Access Log. The Access Log is available from the Attempts page of a test and provides detailed information on student’s test attempt interactions.

• **Test Due Dates and Late Submissions**
  A new setting allows the instructor to decide whether to allow a student to take a test after the due date has passed. If students are not allowed to take a test after the due date has passed they will receive a messaging telling them the test cannot be completed because the due date has passed.

  When late submissions are allowed, they are clearly marked on the Needs Grading page, the View All Attempts page, the Review Test Submission page, and the Grade Details page.

• **Group Management**
  The prevalence of larger courses is predicted to increase, and being able to provide group experiences in courses with large numbers of students is critical to a more personal and user-friendly student experience. Even instructors who do not use large numbers of groups will find value in the many improvements included.

  The Groups Management Building Block provides the ability to:
  - Easily see which students are in which groups, including which students are not in any groups.
  - Easily see and modify group memberships. Avatars are now available to distinguish among users.
  - Choose and manage membership for group sets with an improved workflow.
  - Import and export groups and group memberships.
  - Sort columns, perform bulk actions for deleting groups, and create Grade Center smart views for one or more groups on the All Groups page.
  - Optionally, manage tool availability for all groups on the All Groups page.

2. **Improved Browser Support:**

   The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

   • Internet Explorer 10 on both Windows 8 and 7 operating systems
Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1 SP11
(Installed 5/14/2013)

1. Course Environment:

- **Mobile Support for Mashup Tools**
  Mashup tool content (YouTube, Slideshare, Flickr, NBC Learn, etc) will now play on mobile devices.

- **Video Everywhere (Webcam Record)**
  Video Everywhere is a feature enhancement of the Content Editor Building Block. A new icon is added to the content editor that controls a user’s webcam. When activated and made available, users can record video and upload it directly to YouTube. The feature provides the ability for faculty and students to:
  - Record a video on the fly using a webcam and have it seamlessly embedded in course materials, interactions, and feedback through the content editor.
  - Reuse previously recorded videos by choosing from one’s own “library” of videos.

- **Improved Calendar Tool**
  The calendar tool has been redesigned and modeled after Google’s calendar. The new calendar tool can be accessed from My Blackboard (global menu in the upper right corner), the Tools link on the My Learning tab and within the course.

  Features include:
  - A single calendar is used to manage institution, course, organization and personal events in one view. Calendar events are color coded to indicate which place/entity they are associated.
  - Toggle between day, week and month views of the calendar.
  - Easily add calendar events by clicking on a date and adding an item.
  - Items with due dates automatically appear on the calendar. Instructors can move calendar events by dragging and dropping them to a new date. The due date on the associated item is automatically updated.
  - Instructors and students can click through calendar events directly to the associated item.
  - Calendar honors adaptive release and availability rules.
  - External calendars (like Google calendar) can subscribe to events created on the Blackboard Learn calendar through an iCalendar feed.

- **Improved Discussion Board Tool**
  Discussions have been updated in two primary ways: the “Thread Detail” page has been thoroughly redesigned while maintaining all of its current functionality. We have also added new functionality to support specific pedagogical needs for the use of discussions. Selected highlights include:
  - All Posts on One Page and Instructor Highlighting - all of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page. Posts now also contain the users’ course role and forum role.
  - Inline Replies - when replying to a post, the content editor used to write a response appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.
  - Post First Discussions – This setting allows instructors to require students to post to a discussion before seeing other students’ posts.
• **Retention Center (formerly known as the Early Warning System)**
  The Retention Center provides an easy-to-use data visualization and pre-configured rules for identifying at-risk students in a course. Because it requires no set up on the part of the instructor or administrator, it automatically calls out students who may need the instructor’s attention, making it easy for instructors to catch and respond to risk factors quickly, while there is time to help the at-risk students succeed in the course.

  The Retention Center provides the following pre-configured rules to automatically call out potential risk. These rules can be modified and additional rules can created:
  - Default Course Access Alert: It has been 5 or more days since the user last logged in.
  - Default Activity Alert: Course Activity in the last week is 20% or more below the course average.
  - Default Grades Alert: Grade in the External Grade column (generally the Total column) is 25% or more below the course average.
  - Default Missed Deadlines Alert: 1 or more deadlines have been missed.

  In addition, the Retention Center helps instructors become more aware of how their own behavior is contributing to student success (or not), with information such as:
  - Instructor’s last login
  - Time lag for grading student submissions
  - Instructor’s participation in interactive components of the course
  - Recent announcements
  - Fresh course content

• **No-Print/No-Copy option on Bb Tests**
  The no-print/no-copy option is a 3rd party developed scriptlet that prevents users from copying and/or printing the browser window while taking or reviewing a Blackboard test.

• **Qwickly Module for the My Learning tab**
  The Qwickly module is a 3rd party developed tool that:
  - Presents a list of current semester courses and allows instructors to make sections within the list available for student access.
  - Allows instructors to send an email message to single or multiple courses within the list of current semester courses.
  - Allows instructors to post “Not Date Restricted” announcements to single or multiple courses within the list of current semester courses.

2. **My Blackboard:**

  New social tools are now available in My Blackboard (accessed through the global menu in the upper right corner).
  - Spaces – Facilitates peer-to-peer learning by allowing any user to create a "Space" as needed for communication and collaboration within the institution or across institutions.
  - Messages – Facilitates user-to-user communication within the institution or across institutions. Note: The course tool called Messages is separate from this new feature and still exists for those instructors who leverage it for communication within a single course.
3. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers and operating systems will now be considered compatible

- Internet Explorer 10
- Windows 8
- Safari 6
- Mac OSX 10.8

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 6 and 7
- Firefox 3.6 and earlier
- Safari 4.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.5 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work

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1. Global Navigation:

Global navigation refers to the set of links that appear at the top of the Blackboard Learn environment. This set of links has been streamlined and becomes the entry point to My Blackboard and social learning tools. Access points to critical academic information are organized in one place to provide a consistent quick and easy way to find information.

- When users first log in to SP10, they see an overlay that highlights the new features. After the first login, when users click on the global navigation link, a drop-down menu appears.
- Components of global navigation include:
  - The user menu – Provides access to settings that previously were accessed through My Places. My Places has been eliminated. Home and Help links reside here. Clients who license community engagement capabilities will find global links here as well.
  - My Blackboard – Provides icons and links to various areas of Blackboard. The icons signal the presence of new information, such as new messages and new posts.

2. My Blackboard:

My Blackboard aggregates information from across the Blackboard Learn system for users. Users access My Blackboard using the Global Navigation menu at the top of the screen.

My Blackboard has a navigation panel that quickly connects to different tools in the system. The tools you have access to depend on whether the cloud is turned on and if your school licenses community engagement capabilities. These features are available in My Blackboard:

- My Blackboard Profile – Users have access to view and edit their profiles as well as to post to their profile wall.
- Profile Cards – Information in profiles is shared when users post to blogs, journals, wikis, and the discussion board. Profile cards are shared in the roster tool and people tool.
- My Blackboard Posts – Aggregates posts and comments from blogs, journals, wikis, and discussion boards in courses.
- My Blackboard Updates – Aggregates all notifications that users have elected to receive.
- My Blackboard Grades – Displays recent grades for all courses users are enrolled in.
- My Blackboard People – Provides access to a person’s academic network.

3. Course Environment:

- **New Content Editor**
  The newly designed content editor vastly improves the user experience for adding text and other forms of digital content to Blackboard Learn. The new content editor is based on the industry
standard TinyMCE WYSIWYG editor.

- **User Profiles**
  Information in profiles is shared when users post to blogs, journals, wikis, and the discussion board. Profile cards are shared in the roster toll and users screen.

4. Assessment Improvements:

- **Assessment Item Analysis**
  Item analysis provides statistics on overall test performance and on individual test questions. This data helps you recognize questions that might not adequately discriminate between students who understand the material and those who do not. You can use this information to improve questions for future tests or to adjust credit on current attempts. Ineffective or misleading question are identified easily, corrected in the Test Canvas, and are re-graded automatically.

- **Assessment Fill-in-the-Blank Question Enhancement**
  Fill in the Blank and Fill in Multiple Blanks questions now offer contains and pattern match (using regular expressions) as grading options for answers. Instructors no longer have to rely only on exact match for grading and manually enter every possible correct answer. Instructors can also make the answers case sensitive.

5. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers will now be considered compatible

- Internet Explorer 9
- Google Chrome 23 (stable channel)
- Firefox 17 (final release channel)

*Note 1: The Firefox Release Channel is the fully tested version by Mozilla and intended to be the most stable. This channel is updated roughly every 6 weeks.

*Note 2: The Chrome Stable Channel is the fully tested version by Google and intended to be the most stable as the name implies. This channel is updated roughly every 2-3 weeks for minor releases and 6 weeks for major releases.

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 6 and 7
- Firefox 3.6 and earlier
- Safari 4.0 and earlier, and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.5 and earlier
- Java 5, although it may continue to work

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Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1 SP9
(Installed 8/3/2012)

1. Course Environment:

- **Course-to-Course Navigation**
  Course-to-Course Navigation allows students and instructors to jump from course to course while retaining the context of the page or task from the original page of any recently accessed course.

- **Course Structures**
  Course Structures are pre-built menu structures that focus on specific aspects of a course including Activity, Communication, Content, Systems, and Time. Other Structures mimic the ANGEL and WebCT legacy platforms. These structures re-align the left navigation to match the pedagogical needs of the particular course type.

2. Assessment Improvements:

- **Automated Re-grading**
  Instructors can now fix problematic questions by simply editing the invalid question directly and having all necessary updates flow automatically to the Grade Center. For any assessment question, Instructors can drop, give full credit, change point value, or change which answer is marked correct. After the question has been updated, Blackboard Learn recalculates the score of all submitted assessments that included the updated question, reflects the updates in the Grade Center, and provides notification to both the Instructor and optionally to the Student for all impacted submissions.

- **Negative Marking**
  Negative Marking allows Instructors to apply negative point values for incorrect answers on assessment questions.

3. Activity Reporting:

Activity Reports provide reporting on how instructors and students are utilizing their Blackboard Learn courses and course materials. Reporting features have been expanded to now include student time-on-task, so instructors can see how much time students spend in their course. Access information is now aggregated on a single page, rather than generating single reports for individual content items or activities.
Features/Enhancements in Blackboard 9.1 SP7
(Installed 12/13/2011)

1. Grade Center and Assessment Improvements:

- **Needs Grading**
  Gradable Blogs, Journals, Wikis, and Discussion Board activity can appear in Needs Grading status in the Grade Center and on the Needs Grading page. When an instructor chooses to make an interactive tool gradable, they will also have the option to choose how many interactions will place the item in needs grading status. A Discussion Board forum, for instance, might be set to only appear in Needs Grading status for every three posts made by a student, rather than with each individual post.

- **Timed Assessments**
  Attempt information for timed assessments includes details on how much time the student spent on the attempt versus how much time was allotted. Instructors can choose to make the timed assessment save and submit automatically when the timer expires, or to allow the assessment to continue beyond the allotted time. Tests will also now auto-save every minute during the student attempt.

- **Interactive Rubrics**
  When creating a rubric, instructors can assign weights to categories, allowing the same rubric to be used across multiple items with different possible points. Rubrics can be imported and exported for use across courses.

  Instructors can associate rubrics when creating gradable content items, including Blogs, Journals, Wikis, Discussion Boards, Assignments, and short-answer, file-response, or essay questions in tests and pools. Rubrics can be associated with multiple items, and all associations can be viewed from the Rubric tool. Multiple rubrics can be associated with an item, but only one can be used for grading. The rubrics can be visible to students at any time, or only after grading has been completed.

  Instructors can interact with any associated rubric for grading in a grid or list view, and Feedback can be typed for each criteria as well as the entire assessment. Grades calculated using rubrics can be overridden. When a rubric has been used for grading, a report is available to view the results of all content graded with that rubric.

2. Announcement Email:

You will again be able to email announcements to students while creating the announcement. The email sent will come from your email address and all replies to the announcement email will return to you.

*Note: This cannot be used for announcements scheduled for future release. The email will be sent only for announcements that will be available immediately upon submission.*
3. Improved Browser Support:

The following browsers will now be considered compatible

- Internet Explorer 9
- Google Chrome 18 (stable channel)
- Firefox 12 (final release channel)

*Note 1: The Firefox Release Channel is the fully tested version by Mozilla and intended to be the most stable. This channel is updated roughly every 6 weeks.

*Note 2: The Chrome Stable Channel is the fully tested version by Google and intended to be the most stable as the name implies. This channel is updated roughly every 2-3 weeks for minor releases and 6 weeks for major releases.

No longer supported:

- Internet Explorer 6 and 7
- Firefox 1.x, 2.0, 3.0, and 3.5
- Safari 2.0, 3.0, 3.1, 3.2 and any version on Windows
- Mac OS X 10.3, 10.4 "Tiger"
- Java 5, although it may continue to work

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