

Change to Inline Grading (Annotation) in Blackboard's Assignment Tool

On Monday January 15, the annotation feature that enables Blackboard Assignment tool's inline grading will undergo some changes.

Why is this change happening?

Crocodoc, the supporting technology for annotating online assignments within Blackboard's inline grading, was acquired by After Box Inc. With the end of life date for Crocodoc approaching, Blackboard will transition to a new tool called New Box View by January 15, 2018.

Who will be affected by the change?

Only faculty who use or have used the annotation features of the Blackboard Assignment tool.

If you use Turnitin's Feedback Studio for marking using annotations, these will not apply.

What changes can be expected?

The ability to use digital rubrics or enter numerical grades for assignments submitted through the Blackboard Assignment tool will *not* be affected.

The main change is that fewer annotation tools will be available; only highlighting and point-based annotations will be possible. This means that strike-out and drawing will not be possible at this time.

Also, New Box View annotations will only be visible on screen; there is no feature to print or download assignment documents as pdfs that include New Box View annotations.

NOTE: Assignments that were annotated using Crocodoc will have those annotations preserved when saved as pdf files. However, changes to those annotations will not be possible.

Support

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Faculty Blackboard Support team at bbhelp@algonquincollege.com or call X2501.

What differences can I expect to see?

To see how annotations in the Blackboard Assignment tool works and see New Box View in action, watch this video:

Blackboard Assignment Annotations with New Box View

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnUg6BO0v2A>

The table below compares the two annotation services.

Functions and Details	Crocodoc	New Box View
File types for annotations	PDF, PPT, PPTX, XLS, XLSX, DOC, and DOCX	Over 100 different file types File Types and Fonts Supported in Box Content Preview
Videos and images displayed	No	Yes
Course areas	Blackboard Assignments	Blackboard Assignments
Annotation types	Text- and point-based comments, strike-out, highlighting, and drawing	Point-based comments and highlighting
Download	Users download a copy of a student file with the option to download in the original format or in a PDF version that includes the annotations	Users can download a copy of a student file, but annotations won't appear
Print function	No	Yes (but without annotations included)
Students	Can't add annotations to documents	Can't add annotations to documents