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Blackboard-Supported Browsers

By Chad Estrella

College of the Canyons is currently using Blackboard 9.1 SP14 as our Learning Management System (LMS). The following web browsers have been tested and certified by Blackboard Inc. to be compatible with this version of the LMS:

- Firefox v.24 - Windows 7 (32-bit), Vista (32-bit); Mac OSX 10.8, 10.7, 10.6
- Chrome v.30 - Windows 7 (32-bit); Mac OSX 10.8, 10.7, 10.6
- Safari 6.0.6 - Mac OSX 10.8, 10.7
- Safari 6.0.3 - Mac OSX 10.8, 10.7
- Safari 6.0.1 - Mac OSX 10.6, 10.7

Internet Explorer (IE) 10 and 11 are supported if compatibility view is enabled, but some configuration options for IE make some features of Blackboard Learn difficult to use. For that reason, Information Technology does not recommend the use of Internet Explorer with this version of Blackboard.

Are You Missing Emails That Matter Most?

By Mauricio Escobar

Don’t need an alert flashing on your iPhone’s lock screen every time you get an email? I’m right there with you. That said, maybe you’d like a banner, a buzz, or a beep whenever your spouse, a loved one, or (ugh) your boss sends you an email message.

If so, you might want to promote those in your inner circle to “VIP” status on your iPhone or iPad — and thanks to iOS 8, you’ll be able to set your iDevice to pop up an alert whenever someone on your VIP list sends you an email.

Here’s what you do...

- Open the Mail app on your iPhone or iPad, tap the “Back” button in the top corner of the display until you get to the main Mailboxes screen, find your VIP mailbox, then tap the little “i” button to view your VIP list.
- Tap “Add VIP” to add some names from the Contacts app to the list.
- Next, head back to the home screen, tap Settings, Notifications, Mail, then tap VIP. From there, you can determine the type of notification you’ll get whenever someone on your VIP list sends.

See Professional Development for a complete list of workshops.
**Techomogy Tips and Tricks**

**Wireless Troubles?**

By Tim Doyle

Are you constantly seeing your home Wi-Fi network drop or seeing a decrease in performance? This could be caused by congested Wi-Fi channels in your neighborhood. Choosing the best Wi-Fi channel on your router helps reduce interference and improve your Wi-Fi signal.

Depending on the IEEE 802.11 standard you are using (802.11 a/b/g/n/ac), wireless signals operate in the 2.4GHz or 5GHz ranges. The three channels most frequently used in the 2.4GHz range are 1, 6 and 11. These channels are the ones that don’t overlap with each other.

How can you determine which channels are being used? If you have an Android phone, you can download "Wifi Analyzer" from Google Play for free. This will give you an overview of all the neighbor wireless networks and their respective channels. The app will actually tell you which channels are better for your Wi-Fi network so you can go to your router’s web interface and select the ideal one.

Most routers are dual band, which support both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz ranges. If you are seeing too many nearby networks interfering with your signal, try using the 5GHz range. The 5GHz channels provide less interference and larger channels.

**World Backup Day!**

By Brian Weston

March 31 was World Backup Day. Did you remember to back up your machine? There are numerous reasons to back up your machine. Viruses, malware and accidental deletion can all damage the data on a hard drive. Hard drives are also prone to failure at a rate of about 3 percent of units in operation. Backing up your information does not have to be a scary task.

There are multiple ways to back up your machine. One way is with an external hard drive. This is by far the easiest way because of the simplicity of an external unit, the size, and price. Other options include DVD, internal hard drive, and online backup.

Now that you have your backup device, you can use the Windows 7 built-in backup program or drag-and-drop the files into the other device. Mac users also have a built-in program called Time Machine.