

Announcements

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Below are the latest news and announcements from LSC-Online, as seen in the D2L Announcements widget. This page will be regularly updated, with the newest information at the top.

LSC-Online also provides other outlets of helpful information, including an [email newsletter](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/newsletter-archive) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/newsletter-archive>), a [video newsletter](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/the-online-update) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/the-online-update>), and an [event calendar](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events>).

May D2L Update Posted in D2L on May 23, 2023 9:00 AM

The next update for D2L is scheduled for **May 26th**.

Important information regarding the update:

Email

- There is now an option to **[Report Spam]** in your D2L email inbox.
- When reporting spam, the email remains in your Inbox, so consider deleting it. When you report a D2L email as spam, it generates a report sent to D2L. Actions taken by D2L are based on case-by-case evaluation, considering the volume of reports and the circumstance.
- Please refer to the [Read Email in D2L](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a077) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a077>) article for more details.

New Archive/Restore Course Tool Posted in D2L on May 12, 2023 11:00 AM

We are pleased to announce that faculty can now archive and restore D2L courses themselves using the new [Archive/Restore Course Tool](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/restore-archived-course) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/restore-archived-course>). This tool can be found in the [VTAC Support](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/article/link/vtac-support) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/article/link/vtac-support>) Self-Service area. Previously, there was a form and faculty had to wait on a technologist to do the work manually. This new tool is fully automated and instantaneous.

If you restore an old course but don't see it in your [My Courses widget](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a159) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a159>) in D2L, click on the View All Courses link and use the search and/or sorting functions.

AI Conference Recordings Posted in D2L on May 9, 2023 8:00 AM

LSC-Online is sharing the recording of the Virtual AI Conference for those who were not able to attend. We invite you access the recorded sessions and explore innovative AI strategies and best practices within the Lone Star College Community by visiting the [AI Conference page](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/ai-conference) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/ai-conference>).

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those who made this conference possible and assisted with the planning, executing, and presenting for the conference. We would also like to thank all of those who attended and helped to make this a successful event.

AI Virtual Conference Posted in D2L on May 2, 2023 3:30 PM

Join LSC-Online for an engaging one-day virtual conference exploring innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategies and best practices within the Lone Star College community. This conference offers a dynamic blend of presentations, workshops, and roundtable discussions, designed to foster collaboration, and inspire new ideas for implementing and integrating AI in higher education.

This unique event provides an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues, share experiences, and learn from experts in the field. Don't miss this chance to expand your knowledge and contribute to the future of AI in higher education.

Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MyWorkShops Registration

(https://myworkshops.lonestar.edu/psc/elmprd/EMPLOYEE/ELM/c/LM_OD_EMPLOYEE_FL.LM_CRS_DTL_FL.GBL?Page=LM_CRS_DTL_FL&Action=U&ForceSearch=Y&LM_CI_ID=4218)

Visit VTAC to [view the agenda, workshop topics, and additional information](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/ai-conference)

(<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/ai-conference>).

Set Up MFA for All Employee Accounts Posted in D2L on Apr 27, 2023 2:15 PM

To: All Faculty and Staff

This is a friendly reminder that starting on April 28, all faculty and staff will be required to set up the new Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) two-step verification process to access LSC email or other services when not on the LSC network. Please take 5 minutes and set up your account now.

Go to [LoneStar.edu/MFA-Setup](http://lonestar.edu/MFA-Setup) (<http://lonestar.edu/MFA-Setup>) to set up your verification options. This additional verification step is to increase the security of your account.

Once MFA is required and I have not set it up, what happens?

- If you access email via a browser (<https://portal.office.com>), you will be prompted to set up MFA and will not be able to access email when not on the network or away from campus until you set it up.
- If you access email via a client app (e.g. Outlook for android/iOS, Mail for iPhone, etc.), you

will not receive a prompt to set it up. Instead, **you will stop receiving email while not connected to the network or off-site until you register for MFA.** Based on our pilot group findings, you will also need to log out and log back into the client app once you register.

- **NOTE:** You should continue to receive email normally when on-site and connected to the LSC network.

For the full job aid and step-by-step instructions, go to
Setting Up Multi-Factor Authentication on Your Lone Star College Account
(https://lonestar.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB000201303)

Need IT assistance?

The OTS Service Desk never closes. We're available 24/7/365 (366 days during leap years!), and we're happy to help.

Go to [LoneStar.edu/ServiceCenter](https://lonestar.edu/ServiceCenter) (<https://lonestar.service-now.com/sp>) or call 832.813.6600 (toll-free 866.614.5014).

April D2L Update Posted in D2L on Apr 25, 2023 9:00 AM

The next update for D2L is scheduled for **April 28th**.

Important information regarding the update:

Discussions

- Preview the **New Discussion Creation Experience** that brings the same look and feel as Assignments and Quizzes to Discussion Topics.
- This new experience can be toggled on or off at any time until **Spring 2024**.
- Please visit the [Introducing the New Discussion Creation Experience](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/introducing-the-new-discussion-creation-experience) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/introducing-the-new-discussion-creation-experience>) VTAC article for more info.

Quizzes

- D2L will now show a dialog box to students who attempt to leave an in-progress quiz early which will warn them of any consequences of leaving the quiz early.
 - If the quiz has a **Time Limit**, they will be warned the time limit will **NOT** be paused while they are away.
 - If the quiz has an **End Date** but no time limit, they will be warned they must return before the end date.
 - If the quiz's **End Date** has passed while the quiz attempt was in-progress, the student will be warned they will not be able to return to the quiz.
- Please visit the [Submitting or Leaving a Quiz](https://vlac.lonestar.edu/help/submit-or-leave-a-quiz) (<https://vlac.lonestar.edu/help/submit-or-leave-a-quiz>) VLAC article for more details.

Add a User Form

- The **Add a User to a Course** form has been updated, enabling Faculty to lookup users by their **Employee Email** as well as **ID number** and **Username**. See the [form instructions](#)

(<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a136>) in VTAC for more details.

Request for Feedback Posted in D2L on Apr 18, 2023 7:00 AM

The Lone Star College Libraries are asking for your feedback!

Please take this brief survey about the library to help us evaluate our services.

Click to begin survey. (<https://forms.office.com/r/DAKjzbLkFb>)

SoftChalk Hands-on Training Posted in D2L on Apr 12, 2023 7:00 AM

Friday, Apr. 21st, from 10:00 a.m - Noon.

Are you looking to make course content more engaging for your students? Lone Star College faculty and staff can do just that using SoftChalk, the interactive content authoring software and learning object repository provided by the college.

The content you create with SoftChalk integrates into D2L Brightspace and student scores report directly to the D2L gradebook!

During this 2 hour hands-on event, you will learn how to create, manage, discover, and share interactive learning materials using SoftChalk Cloud, that can be delivered to your students in D2L Brightspace. **This event requires each person to register and have their own computer during the training to follow along.**

Webinar Registration (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YOAVw2xgTBGrITw8F-8dUw)

MyWorkshops Registration

(https://myworkshops.lonestar.edu/psc/elmprd/EMPLOYEE/ELM/c/LM_OD_EMPLOYEE_FL.LM_CRS_DTL_FL.GBL?Action=U&ForceSearch=Y&LM_CI_ID=4110) (Code: LSC-4131)

For more information on activating your SoftChalk account with LSC's temporary 30-day trial, visit the **Virtual Teaching Assistance Center** (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/softchalk-account>).

AI Writing Detection Posted in D2L on Apr 11, 2023 2:00 PM

We are pleased to announce that Turnitin now includes AI writing detection. They claim it identifies 97% of ChatGPT and GPT3 authored writing, with a very low (less than 1%) false positive rate. The new functionality operates within the existing Turnitin workflow so that you will be able to analyze content and use feedback tools in the same user experience as before.

Turnitin also published an [AI writing resource page](https://www.turnitin.com/solutions/ai-writing) (<https://www.turnitin.com/solutions/ai-writing>) to support educators with teaching resources and to report its progress in developing AI writing detection features. The technology is constantly evolving and just a few weeks ago, OpenAI announced the release of GPT-4 with broader access to the web and third-party sites. Turnitin plans to adapt and respond to the next iterations and innovations in AI writing, putting the safety of students and the needs of educators and institutions first.

For more information about using Turnitin, visit the [Virtual Teaching Assistance Center](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/use-turnitin-with-assignments) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/use-turnitin-with-assignments>).

RESOLVED: VTAC/VLAC Outage & Slowness Posted in D2L on Mar 24, 2023 10:13 AM (Edited)

The issue with the support sites for [VTAC](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/>) and [VLAC](https://vlac.lonestar.edu/) (<https://vlac.lonestar.edu/>) due to a 3rd-party server issue with the hosting site **has now been marked as resolved** by the vendor. Functionality for both VTAC and VLAC has fully returned.

Original Message:

Currently, the support sites for VTAC and VLAC are experiencing intermittent slowness/outage due to a 3rd-party server issue with the hosting site. Please refer to their [status page](https://knowledgeowl.statuspage.io/) (<https://knowledgeowl.statuspage.io/>) for further updates.

For details from the vendor regarding the issue, see this [Incident Report](https://knowledgeowl.statuspage.io/incidents/pr6z16m6v8lf) (<https://knowledgeowl.statuspage.io/incidents/pr6z16m6v8lf>).

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this unexpected disruption in service.

March D2L Update Posted in D2L on Mar 21, 2023 11:30 AM

The next update for D2L is scheduled for **March 24th**.

Important information regarding the update:

Awards

- Learners can now share achievements from the Awards tool directly to their LinkedIn profiles. [Instructions are available in VLAC](https://vlac.lonestar.edu/help/b450) (<https://vlac.lonestar.edu/help/b450>).

Calendar

- D2L will now prevent duplicate calendar events on a course copy or import to reduce performance issues.

Upcoming Vendor Trainings

Posted in D2L on Feb 28, 2023 2:00 PM

Have you ever wondered how to **add learning games** to your D2L courses using StudyMate? Or perhaps you want to **edit your videos** beyond what YuJa will allow? Then you should check out some of the upcoming training sessions being hosted by our supported vendors.

Upcoming sessions include

- Respondus 4.0 and the Test Bank Network (Mar. 7)
- StudyMate Campus: Learning Games with D2L (Mar. 9)
- Getting Started with TechSmith Camtasia (Mar. 22)

For information on these and other training sessions, visit the [VTAC Event Calendar](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events>). Be sure to visit that page often, as it is continuously updated.

Missed a virtual session hosted by LSC-Online? Check our [Webinar Training Library](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/training-library) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/training-library>) to see if there is a recording available.

February D2L Update

Posted in D2L on Feb 21, 2023 12:01 AM

The next update for D2L is scheduled for **February 24th**.

Important information regarding the update:

New Quiz Creation Experience

- Two new paging options are available in the **Timing & Display** menu in the **New Quiz Creation Experience**. Instructors can choose to display **5 questions per page** or **10 questions per page**.
- Instructors can now add quiz **Start Dates** and **End Dates** to the **Calendar tool** in the **New Quiz Creation Experience** by selecting the **[Add availability dates to Calendar]** checkbox under **Availability Dates & Conditions**.

[Click here](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/new-quiz-creation-experience) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/new-quiz-creation-experience>) to learn more about the **New Quiz Creation Experience**.

Rubrics

- When editing a previously assessed **Rubric**, edited fields will now be highlighted blue and the text **(Edited)** will appear in the lower right corner of the field. When you save and close the rubric, these edit indications will no longer appear.

RESOLVED: VTAC / VLAC Outage & Slowness Posted in D2L on Feb 16, 2023 9:14 AM (Edited)

The issue has been resolved.

Original Message:

Currently the support sites for [VTAC](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/) and [VLAC](https://vlac.lonestar.edu/) are experiencing intermittent slowness/outage due to a 3rd-party server issue with the hosting site. Please refer to the [status page](https://knowledgeowl.statuspage.io/) for further updates.

We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

RESOLVED: Qwickly Attendance Issue Posted in D2L on Feb 13, 2023 2:36 PM (Edited)

The issue with attendance taking-functionality in Qwickly Attendance **has been resolved** and is working as expected.

Original Message:

Qwickly Attendance is currently undergoing extended maintenance as of today, 2/13/23 at 1:10PM CST, in order to resolve an issue with taking attendance. We have had reports from Instructors receiving a page stating "There was an error connecting to the database. Please try again in a short time" when attempting to start Check-In. Qwickly does not currently have an ETA for a resolution of the issue and completion of the maintenance.

For the original messages from Qwickly, see the link below:

<https://www.goqwickly.com/support/>

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this unexpected disruption in service.

Ally Training Posted in D2L on Jan 25, 2023 12:01 AM

Monday, Jan. 30, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

We would like to share how Blackboard Ally can be an important part of creating and maintaining an equitable learning environment for all our students. LSC-Online faculty have been able to use Ally and have learned some tricks and tools to make sure that our students have equal access to course materials in a variety of formats. An inclusive learning environment improves equity for diverse student populations but ultimately benefits all students.

Presented by Kimberlee Ball, Christina Cross, and Tamara Herod
Hosted by LSC-CyFair Teaching and Learning Center

[Click Here to Register.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NWXzMa_R-UeZDzjcBND6RxKuSD-LBOxBm1z9PPQrXvVUOEIBT0xNVVVIUDZHWIBSMVdEMjNQSU1GWIQIQCN0PWcu&wdLOR=cA3E1A801-8F1A-4E73-BCDF-5DC3804AA9CF) (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NWXzMa_R-UeZDzjcBND6RxKuSD-LBOxBm1z9PPQrXvVUOEIBT0xNVVVIUDZHWIBSMVdEMjNQSU1GWIQIQCN0PWcu&wdLOR=cA3E1A801-8F1A-4E73-BCDF-5DC3804AA9CF)

January D2L Update Posted in D2L on Jan 24, 2023 3:00 PM

The next update for D2L is scheduled for **January 27th**.

Important information regarding the update:

Email

- To reduce the amount of spam emails, a daily limit of email recipients has been set. Once a user reaches the daily recipient limit, they receive a notice in the Email tool and the **Send** button becomes invisible. The user can still receive emails and save drafts.

Rubrics

- If an instructor doesn't complete a rubric evaluation and tries to navigate away, a verification dialog appears to ensure you want to discard the incomplete evaluation. From that dialog, the instructor can save the draft, discard the draft, or close the dialog box and return to the partial evaluation.

Browsers

- The list of supported browsers has been updated. If you are using a browser below **Chrome/Edge 107**, **Safari 16**, and **Firefox 106**, you will receive a warning message saying "Your browser is looking a little retro."

SoftChalk Hands-On Training Posted in D2L on Jan 23, 2023 12:01 AM

Friday, Jan. 27, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Are you looking to make course content more engaging for your students? Did you know that Lone Star College faculty and staff can do just that using SoftChalk, the interactive content authoring software and learning object repository provided by the college for your use?

The content you create with SoftChalk integrates into D2L Brightspace and student scores report directly to the D2L gradebook!

During this 2 hour hands-on event, you will learn how to create, manage, discover, and share interactive learning materials using SoftChalk Cloud, that can be delivered to your students in D2L

Brightspace. **This event requires each person to register and have their own computer during the training to follow along.**

Webinar Registration

(https://t.sidekickopen07.com/s3t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7kF8cpmhLVFQrRj59hl3kW7_k2841CX6NGW36PRYC7wzN6HW7s-VM_5ng2F8f197v5Y04?te=W3R5hFj4cm2zwW4hLTKz4mBct4W4tB1VL1JH0QfW4mBcv941PGrNW49KvpZ4cQgTgW1Lq0S13HcRBFW43ywyB30c21-W4pgNQc4fyNtf377_2&si=8000000024573827&pi=dc0cf3e3-046b-40e8-b025-2c3a42e42633)

MyWorkshops Registration

(https://myworkshops.lonestar.edu/psc/elmprd/EMPLOYEE/ELM/c/LM_OD_EMPLOYEE_FL.LM_CRS_DTL_FL.GBL?Action=U&ForceSearch=Y&LM_CI_ID=4110) (Code: LSC-4131)

RESOLVED: Issue Impacting D2L Posted in D2L on Jan 20, 2023 8:06 AM (Edited)

All courses that were not displaying in D2L last week have been restored and should now be accessible to any student currently enrolled.

Students, if you are enrolled in a course that was not displaying in D2L last week, please contact your instructor to let them know you were affected by the issue so you can get caught up on any missed coursework.

Original Message:

There is currently an iStar issue causing some courses to not display in D2L.

If a class does not display for you, there is no need to open a new support ticket. OTS is aware of the problem and actively working to resolve it.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this unexpected disruption in service.

ALERT: Roster Reconcile Tool Issue Posted in D2L on Jan 17, 2023 3:53 PM

There is currently an ongoing issue while using the **Roster Reconcile Tool** to enroll students who have not completed their Online Student Orientation. The **[Enroll into D2L]** button will remain for that student even after they have been enrolled successfully into the classlist.

This only applies to students that have not yet completed their Online Student Orientation and are listed in the classlist with the Student Orientation role.

We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

Extended Support Hours

Posted in D2L on Jan 12, 2023 12:01 AM

LSC-Online is offering extended support hours this **Saturday, Jan. 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** The LSC-Online team will be providing ticket support and a virtual open lab to assist faculty with D2L, supported technologies, and course design.

The virtual open lab can be accessed through this link: <https://lonestar.webex.com/lonestar/j.php?MTID=mdfetcdee774b94a213f89da0930a86ea>

Tickets for D2L related questions/issues can be submitted by emailing VTAC@LoneStar.edu ().

OTS (<https://www.lonestar.edu/ots>) is available 24/7 for technology questions.

For other support opportunities, please refer to the [VTAC Event Calendar](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/events>).

Turnitin Scheduled Maintenance Posted in D2L on Jan 11, 2023 2:55 PM

Turnitin will be conducting necessary maintenance on **Saturday, Jan 14, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.**

During this time, services will be **unavailable**. Papers should not be submitted to Turnitin or Turnitin-enabled assignment folders in D2L during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

YuJa Overview - Online Workshop Posted in D2L on Jan 11, 2023 12:01 AM

Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Please join us for the "YuJa Overview-Online Workshop" led by Yennhu Nguyen, customer success manager at YuJa.

Follow along as Yennhu leads you step by step in:

- Getting Started
 - Accessing YuJa
 - How to Create a Recording
 - Browser Capture Studio
- Media Management
 - Manage Media Actions
 - Media Panel Details
 - Video Editor
- Content Distribution

- Sharing Media
- Direct Links
- Embedding in D2L

[Webinar Registration](https://lonestar.webex.com/weblink/register/r68ea96fa21538f4b29d720702ad5f03e) (<https://lonestar.webex.com/weblink/register/r68ea96fa21538f4b29d720702ad5f03e>)

[MyWorkshops Registration](https://myworkshops.lonestar.edu/psc/elmprd/EMPLOYEE/ELM/c/LM_OD_EMPLOYEE_FL.LM_CRSDTL_FL.GBL?Page=LM_CRSDTL_FL&Action=U&ForceSearch=Y&LM_CI_ID=4016)

(https://myworkshops.lonestar.edu/psc/elmprd/EMPLOYEE/ELM/c/LM_OD_EMPLOYEE_FL.LM_CRSDTL_FL.GBL?Page=LM_CRSDTL_FL&Action=U&ForceSearch=Y&LM_CI_ID=4016) (Code: LSC-4037-2)

Video Newsletter - Spring 2023 Posted in D2L on Jan 10, 2023 8:00 AM

The Online Update (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/the-online-update>) is a video newsletter produced every major semester by Lone Star College-Online.

Here are the topics in the Spring 2023 Episode:

- New Quiz Experience
 - Edit Rubric Text
 - ReadSpeaker in Discussions
 - Zoom in D2L
 - Pronouns in the Classlist
 - YuJa Video Updates
 - Bright IDEas Video Podcast
 - And more...
-

Spring 2023 Semester Start Posted in D2L on Jan 9, 2023 12:01 AM

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Semester!

To get started in your D2L course, please explore the following resources:

D2L Semester Start Checklist: This checklist will assist you in making a smooth start in your D2L courses and includes topics like copying content and merging course sections. You can find it at the following link: [D2L Semester Start Instructor Checklist](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a003) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a003>).

This VTAC Knowledge Base: This site contains guides to help you work with your new D2L course. You can learn more about using it at the following link: [Using VTAC Knowledge Base](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/using-vtac) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/using-vtac>).

D2L resources for students can be found at this link: [Virtual Learning Assistance Center](http://vlac.lonestar.edu) (<http://vlac.lonestar.edu>).

Previous announcements have been archived on other pages:

- [2022](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2022-archived-announcements) (https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2022-archived-announcements)
 - [2021](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2021-archived-announcements) (https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2021-archived-announcements)
 - [2020](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2020-archived-announcements) (https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/2020-archived-announcements)
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