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Online Attendance

Blackboard Learn does not contain a built-in tool for online attendance which is shipped and installed with it. However, developers at Baylor University introduced a very interesting “Online Attendance building block” which was provided to the community for free via the OSCELOT¹ site. It is now maintained by Hardin-Simmons University.

Unfortunately, An independent MSSQL server is required, which makes it difficult to implement on our Blackboard LMS. An effort should be done in the future to find a solution to this DB problem.

Online Attendance System



Meanwhile, many workaround solutions exist and should be taken seriously and used by our faculty members to track the student attendance.

Many resources exist on how to perform this interesting task. One of them is this youtube [video](#)².

Workaround Steps

An Excel file has been developed which you can use to track student attendance. The excel file should be provided with this capsule. The file can alternatively be found in the shared folder at this address³. Download the Excel file and store it on an external drive (i.e. thumb drive, hard drive) or in your Blackboard course.

You can not directly update the attendance file in Blackboard; instead:

- 1- Open it within Bb.
- 2- Record the attendance.
- 3- Save the updated file, and replace the original file.

Instructions on loading the roster into the file are given on the first worksheet of the excel workbook.

Another idea is to download student names to Excel and create your own attendance sheet. This [video](#) gives more detail on this choice.

References

How Can I take attendance:

<http://www.cod.edu/it/blackboard/facultyFAQ.htm#attendance>

Youtube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYeOazfpqf4>

ccis shared folder – Excel sheet prepared for online attendance system:

<\\10.10.70.70\Blackboard\Documents>

1 <http://projects.oscelot.org/gf/project/signup/>

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYeOazfpqf4>