

IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUR COURSE FILES WITH BLACKBOARD ALLY

Blackboard Ally works seamlessly with your LMS to gauge the accessibility of your course files. Ally provides guidance and tips for lasting improvements to your course accessibility.

- Receive feedback on the accessibility of your course files
- Improve file accessibility with Ally's step-by-step instructions

In addition to providing you with insight to your course accessibility, Ally automatically generates alternative accessible versions of files for your students while keeping your original file. This way, while you're in the process of improving files, students can still access alternative copies.

Accessibility Scores

Ally measures the accessibility of your course files. Each score is composed of both a numerical number and a colored gauge that reflects the number. Accessibility scores are determined by the severity of issues in each file. A low score indicates the file has severe or multiple accessibility issues; a high score means there are minor or no accessibility issues. For accessibility scores less than 100 percent, Ally gives you suggestions for improving the accessibility of the file.

After you upload files in your course, Ally produces an accessibility score for each file. In lessons with multiple files, the accessibility score is shown for each file. In areas where you access files, the file score is located in the right corner. Select the score to view information on file accessibility.

Improve File Accessibility

Once you select a file's score, a panel opens to show the numerical score value along with information on the file accessibility. For accessible files, Ally tells you what you did correctly. For files that are not accessible, Ally shows issues within the document and shows you how to fix the problem.

You will find the following details in the file accessibility panel:

- A** Accessibility Score. The file's accessibility color and numerical score based on severity of accessibility issue.
- B** Description. The description of the accessibility issue affecting the file.
- C** Additional information. Detailed information about how the issue affects accessibility and why it is important to correct.
- D** Instructions to improve. Step-by-step instructions for your preferred software that show you how to improve file accessibility.
- E** Direct file upload. A drag-and-drop area to upload original or fixed files.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Ally interface. At the top, there's a 'Content' dropdown menu. Below it are navigation tabs: 'Build Content', 'Assessments', 'Tools', and 'Partner Content'. The main content area shows two files. The first file is 'Introduction to Chemistry' with a green accessibility icon. The second file is 'Atoms + Compounds' with a red accessibility icon. Underneath 'Atoms + Compounds', there are three attached files: 'Dalton's Theory of Atoms.docx' (2.348 MB) with a red icon, 'Elements, Compounds & Mixtures.htm' (3.763 KB) with a green icon, and 'Elements Compounds Mixtures.ppt' (723 KB) with a red icon. Below the files, there's a text snippet: 'The postulates of Dalton's atomic theory: which points do we still use today, and'.

- red icon - not accessible
- orange icon - somewhat accessible
- green icon - accessible

The screenshot shows the file accessibility panel for 'standards_draft.pdf'. At the top, it says 'Accessibility score for: standards_draft.pdf'. Below that is a gauge showing a score of 61% with a blue 'A' in a circle. To the right of the gauge is a blue 'B' in a circle. Below the gauge, it says 'This PDF contains images that are missing an alternative description'. There are two buttons: 'What this means' with a blue 'C' in a circle, and 'How to add descriptions' with a blue 'D' in a circle. At the bottom, there's a section titled 'Upload a version with alternative descriptions' with a dashed box containing an upload icon and the text 'Drop file to upload or Browse' with a blue 'E' in a circle.

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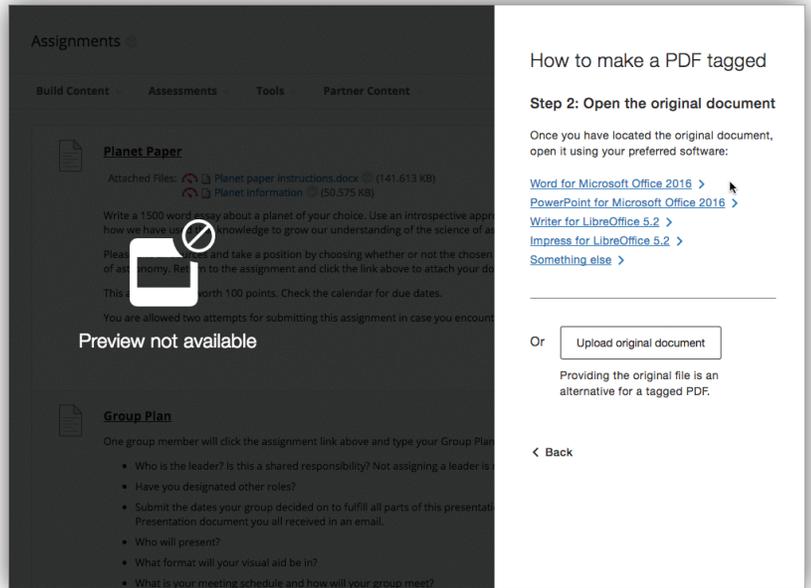
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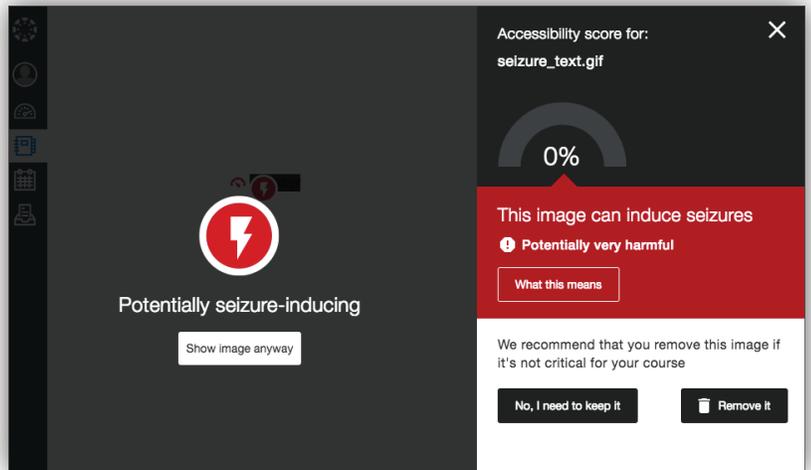
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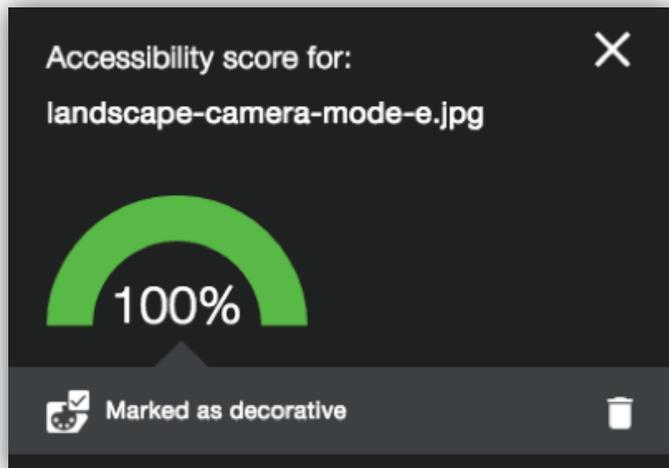
Ally produces either image or text feedback. Image feedback often involves adding a description for clarity. Text feedback will often include multiple step instructions for your preferred software, such as Microsoft Word.



Ally might prompt you to add additional information or upload resources to make the file more user friendly. Common issues include untagged PDFs, missing descriptions on images, or contrast issues.



After you make your file more accessible, the accessibility score updates next to the file. If you are unable to make your file more accessible, the file will remain with a low accessibility score.



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