

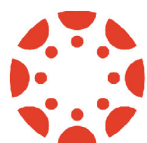


THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

umTECH NEWSLETTER

ITS SERVICE DESK
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NOVEMBER 2025 REVIEW



THE
canvas
CORNER

THE LATEST IN CANVAS UPDATES



TRANSITION TO NEW QUIZZES

The transition from Classic Quizzes to New Quizzes in Canvas is well underway, with 1,429 New Quizzes already in use and 294 Classic Quizzes still active. Canvas developed New Quizzes to provide instructors with more modern, flexible assessment tools—offering enhanced question types, improved accessibility features, more consistent student experiences, and tighter integrations with course analytics. These updates aim to better support varied teaching styles and give instructors richer ways to measure learning.

Beginning January 16th, only New Quizzes will be available for creation, marking the final step in this transition. During the migration, some users encountered issues such as item banks not linking correctly when copying quizzes or challenges importing vendor-provided test banks. UM3D has worked closely with faculty to resolve these concerns and provide guidance, ensuring instructors can move forward with confidence as Canvas completes the shift to its updated quiz platform..

SURVEYS IN NEW QUIZZES

Beginning December 13, 2025, surveys will be available in New Quizzes, providing additional flexibility for gathering student feedback. During the update preview, faculty asked questions about bonus grading and image support.

Style Settings Preview Collect responses View responses Present

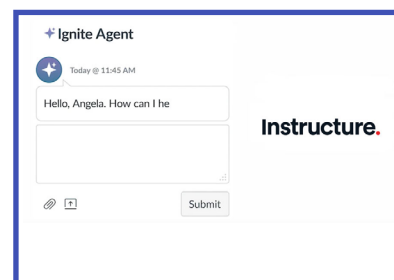
Example Survey Using MS Forms

1. Indicate how you feel.

| | Strongly disagree | Somewhat disagree | Neither agree or disagree | Somewhat agree | Strongly agree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I want Canvas NQ to have a survey feature. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Statement 2 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

IGNITE AI AGENT PILOT

The Ignite AI agent, an AI chatbot tool, is available in Canvas courses until June 30, 2026 as part of a pilot program. The tool is free during the pilot, and faculty are encouraged to test its capabilities and provide feedback.

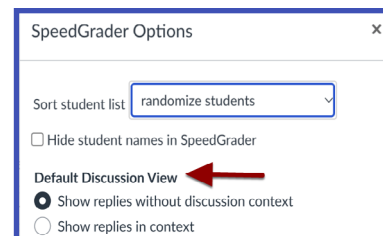


COMING SOON: DISCUSSIONS CHECKPOINT FEATURE

As part of our continuing effort to enhance the online learning experience, we're excited to introduce the discussion checkpoints feature, which allows instructors to create multiple due dates and point values within a single discussion assignment. The feature is set to be enabled for Spring 2026 courses, with documentation and videos forthcoming. The tool was confirmed to be useful for faculty managing staggered discussion requirements.

PORTFOLIO TOOL UPDATE

Canvas's portfolio feature is set to receive a major update, improving usability and navigation. Canvas has updated its Portfolio tool to offer a simpler, more intuitive way for



students to showcase their work. The new version improves navigation and makes it easier to organize and share artifacts. The new tool is expected to be released in the summer, and faculty will be able to assign portfolios across courses. While integration with Handshake is not currently available, students may create multiple portfolios for various classes and/or projects.



UNIVERSITY WEBSITE LAUNCHED WITH FRESH DESIGN AND UPDATED NAVIGATION

The University website refresh, launched December 1st with improved navigation, a cleaner layout, and revised menu placement. The update also included new branding elements, such as the adoption of the “Jumping Tiger” signature. Guidance for both staff and students was shared to support a smooth transition, including [instructions and separate templates](#) for updating email signatures to align with the new branding.

PHISHING SIMULATIONS: HAVE YOU BEEN PHISHED?

In 2024, ITS began regular phishing simulations to evaluate how users respond to email scams attempting to gain account access or personal information. These simulated messages appear like normal emails but are sent by the IT Security team and include clear signs of phishing. If a user clicks a link, they are taken to a page explaining the simulation and offering tips to spot email scams. Since these simulations began, click-through rates have dropped significantly, and to continue improving security, faculty and staff—including emeriti—who fail three or more simulations will be assigned a brief training in addition to annual security awareness training, required within 30 days to maintain normal account access.



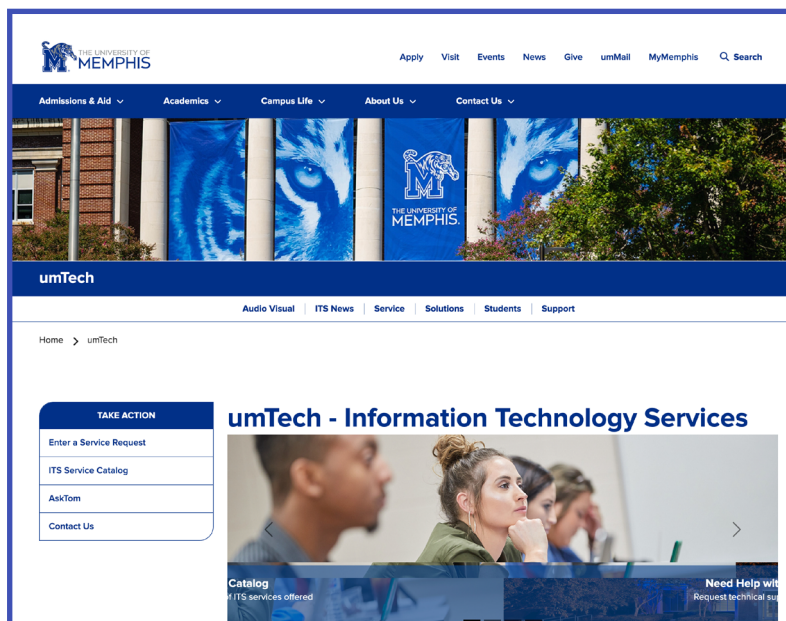
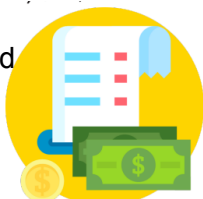
No action is needed other than staying vigilant. Phishing simulation information pages will never require login or additional clicks, and UofM employees will never ask for your password. Report suspicious messages using the Phish Alert Button in Outlook or by forwarding them to abuse@memphis.edu.

For more information, visit the Phishing Simulations webpage. To report other security concerns, submit an online request or contact the ITS Service Desk at umtech@memphis.edu.

SOFTWARE RENEWALS

The following software contracts renewed in November 2025:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| JAMF | 32,670 |
| ControlUp | 16,900 |
| Erdas | 7,143 |



ORGANIZE NOW, SAVE TIME LATER

Keeping digital files organized is essential for maintaining an efficient workflow, especially during a busy academic term. For faculty, a well-structured file system helps reduce time spent searching for documents and ensures that course materials, research files, and administrative records remain easy to access. A clear folder hierarchy—organized by semester, course, project, or committee—creates a predictable structure that supports consistency year after year.



Regular maintenance is just as important as initial setup. Setting aside a few minutes each week to rename files, archive old materials, and remove duplicates can prevent clutter from building up. Using descriptive file names, such as “HIST201_Syllabus_SP25” or “GrantProposal_Draft2,” helps distinguish versions and keeps related materials grouped logically. Consider using cloud-enabled storage provided by the University to ensure that your files are backed up and accessible across devices while remaining secure.

Faculty can also benefit from leveraging built-in tools like search filters, tags, and starred or “favorites” features to quickly locate frequently used documents. By combining an organized folder structure with regular upkeep and smart file-naming habits, you can streamline your workflow, reduce stress, and ensure that your digital workspace remains a reliable foundation for teaching, research, and service throughout the academic year.



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