Anthology Ally

Office Hours

February 2023

Forward-Looking Statement

Statements regarding our product development initiatives, including new products and future product upgrades, updates or enhancements represent our current intentions, but may be modified, delayed or abandoned without prior notice and there is no assurance that such offering, upgrades, updates or functionality will become available unless and until they have been made generally available to our customers.

Agenda for Today (February 13, 2023)

Upcoming events

- Ally activities (Roadmaps sessions, Product Sentiment survey)

Announcements

- User Group platform maintenance upgrade (HumHub)

Q&A with Chris, Ivan, and the Ally team

- Roadmap questions around upcoming features
- General questions and chat

Discussion

- Password Protected Files Scoring
- Discussion board accessibility

Upcoming events

Ally activities

Detailed 2023 Roadmap Session

February 27th, 2023

11 am EST, 4 pm GMT

Sign up via

https://forms.office.com/r/FdnbUa0YUg

Agenda includes:

- Product Vision
- Upcoming features
- Status of suggestions from Idea Exchange

Product Sentiment Survey 2023

- Share your feedback related to Ally features, the team, and other product aspects
- It is anonymous
- It takes approximately 15 minutes
- Available until March 31st

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FSCLLJ3

February Announcements

Important news for our community

User Group Platform Maintenance

March 3, 2023

4:30 am EST, 9:30 am GMT

- Ally will upgrade our HumHub platform to the latest version
- 2 Hours of Downtime expected for usergroup.ally.ac

Office Hours Q&A

Roadmap questions, issues, general questions and chat

Question 1

What are the specific goals outlined for features that improve STEM accessibility?

Answer: Current goals for STEM support are the following:

- Better detection and handling of images that include STEM content
- Better conversion of math equations to MathML

ROADMAP ITEM

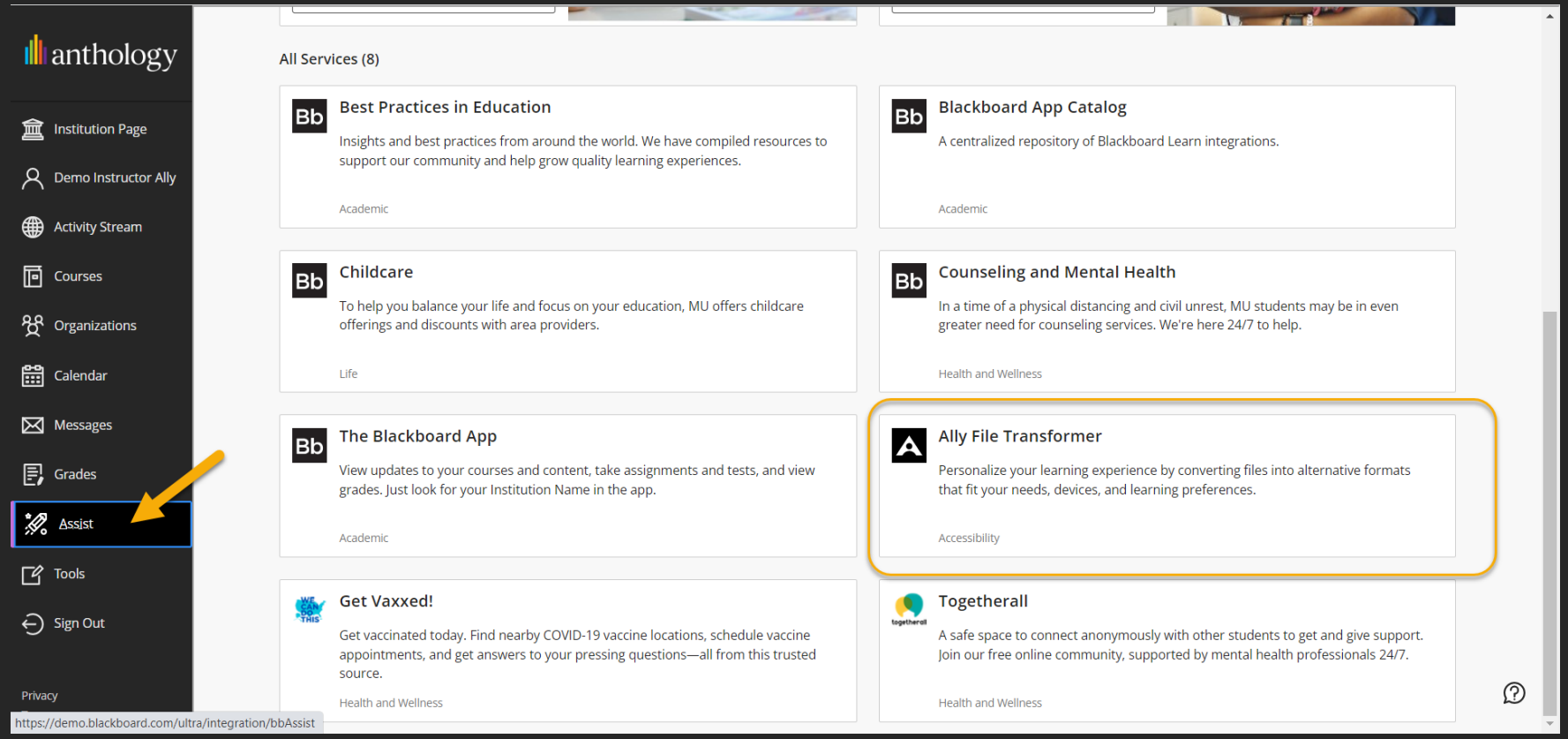
Question 2

How will the Ally File Transformer become an integral component of Ally for LMS?

Answer: We are researching ways we might be able to include the File Transformer into other areas outside of the classroom. One example of possible implementation is what we did last year with our integration into the Assist tool within Learn.

ROADMAP ITEM

File Transformer (in Assist within Learn)



Question 3

Can you share any progress on providing better reporting for non-top-level users?

Answer: Ally offers reporting options at different hierarchy levels. For example, you can get reporting at department levels.

Additional improvements to reporting will be announced in the roadmap session.

ROADMAP ITEM

Question 4

What are the plans for expanding Arabic support, including video detection and images detection?

Answer: Arabic is supported in OCR content, generation of Audio files, and translated version. We will research potential improvements we can develop for Arabic support. There are no specific plans yet.

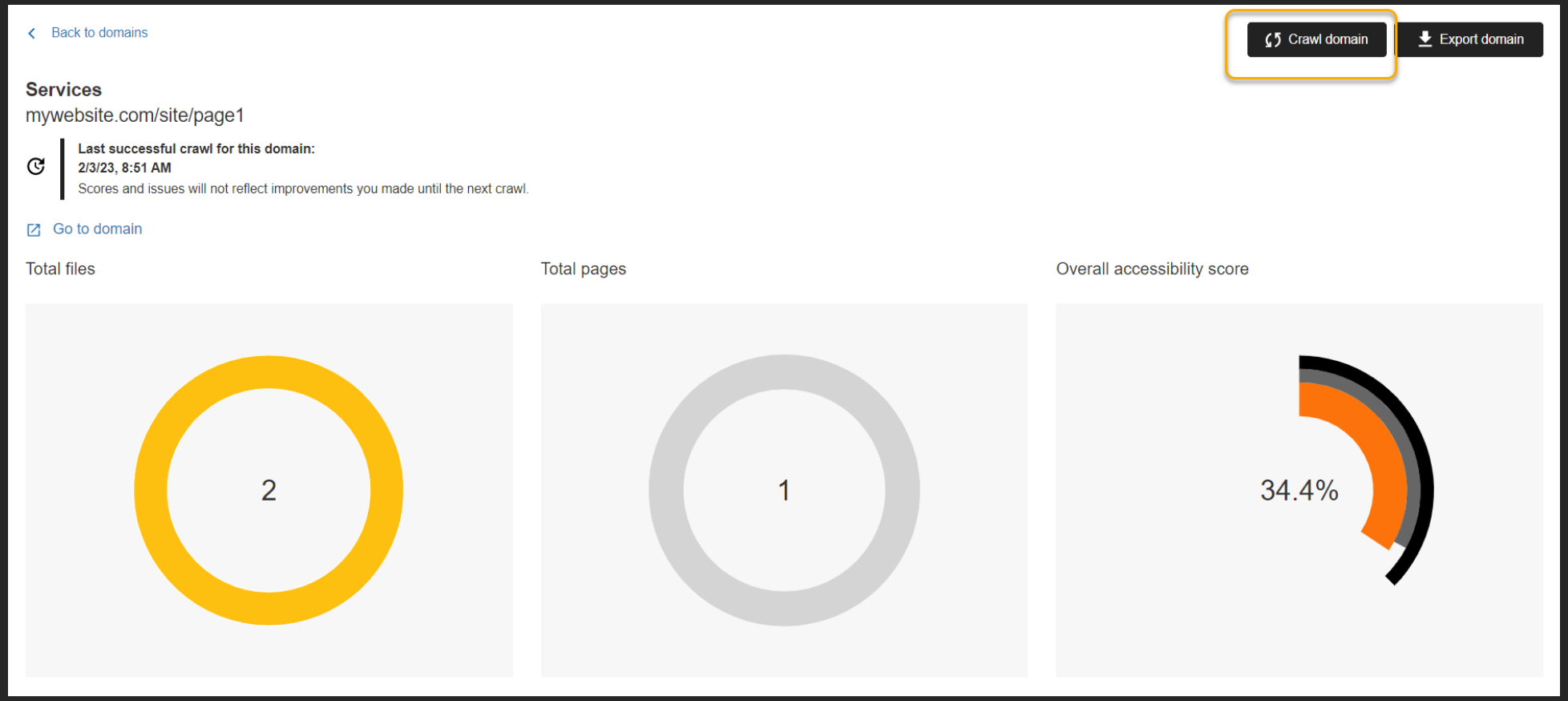
Question 5

Will there be any focus on Ally for Web in Office Hours - demo, updates, etc?

Answer: Yes, absolutely! All Ally Solutions are included in Ally Office Hours.

In fact, we have some updates to discuss around the newest feature for Ally for Web - Scanning on Demand.

Ally for Web Scanning On Demand Demo



Question 6

Will Ally consider putting a 'download original file' option within the Ally Alternative Format download options?

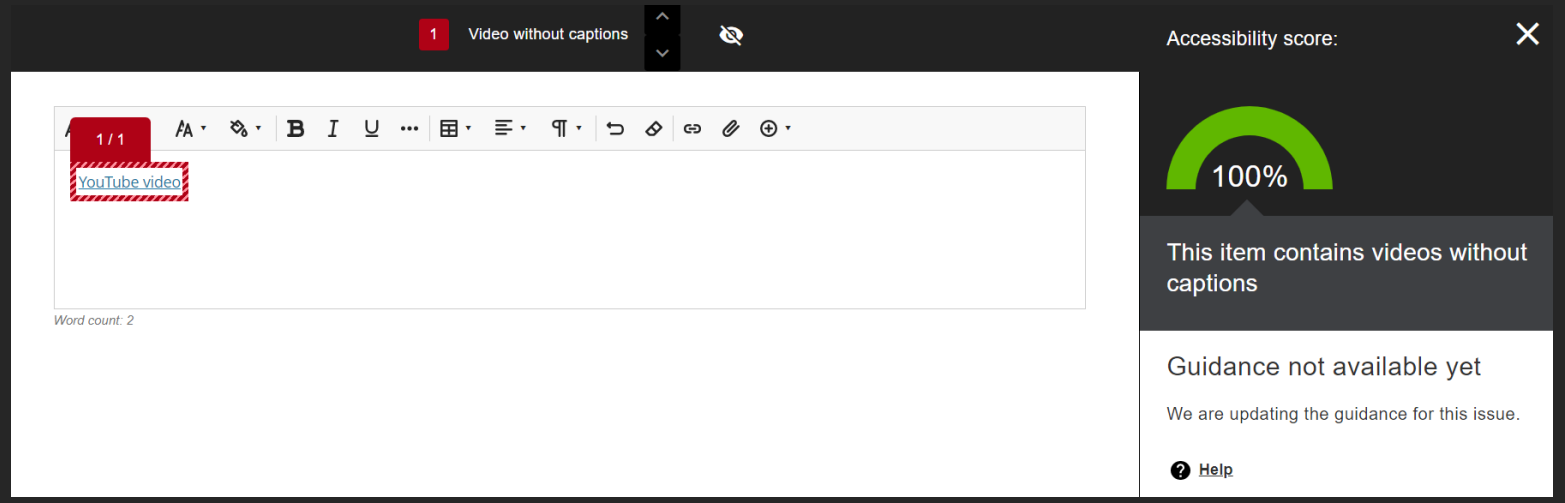
Answer: It is an idea we have on our list for additional research. We'd also encourage anyone interested in this idea to submit it via the Anthology Idea Exchange.

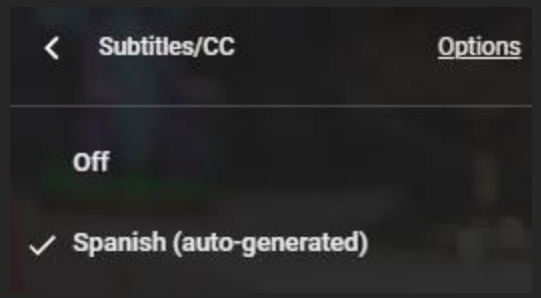
Question 7

I was hoping that you could explain how the current Ally Course Accessibility Report pulls the data to determine the alerts for videos or links that are not captioned (i.e., html, integrations with Kaltura or Panopto, are captions auto generated or are they professional captioned, etc). What is on the roadmap for this feature to improve?

Question 7 – Current status

- WYSIWYG and HTML files
- Only YouTube video source are supported
- Videos with auto-generated captions are flagged as there are no captions





Question 7 – Current status

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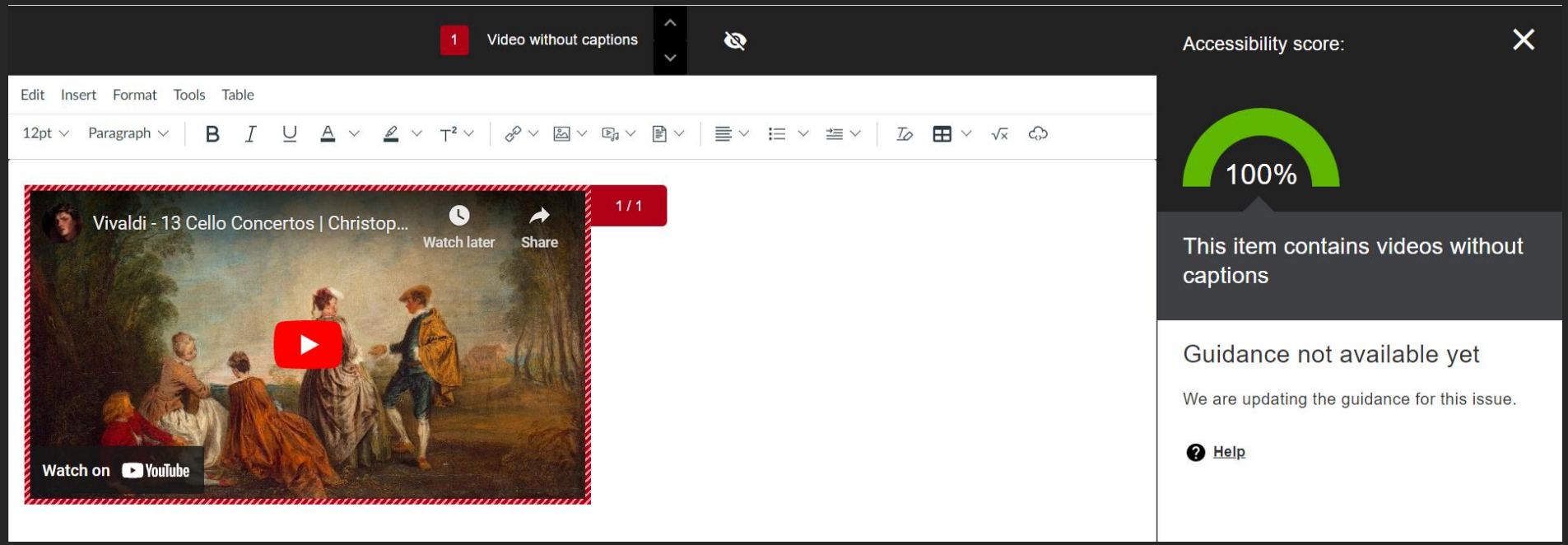

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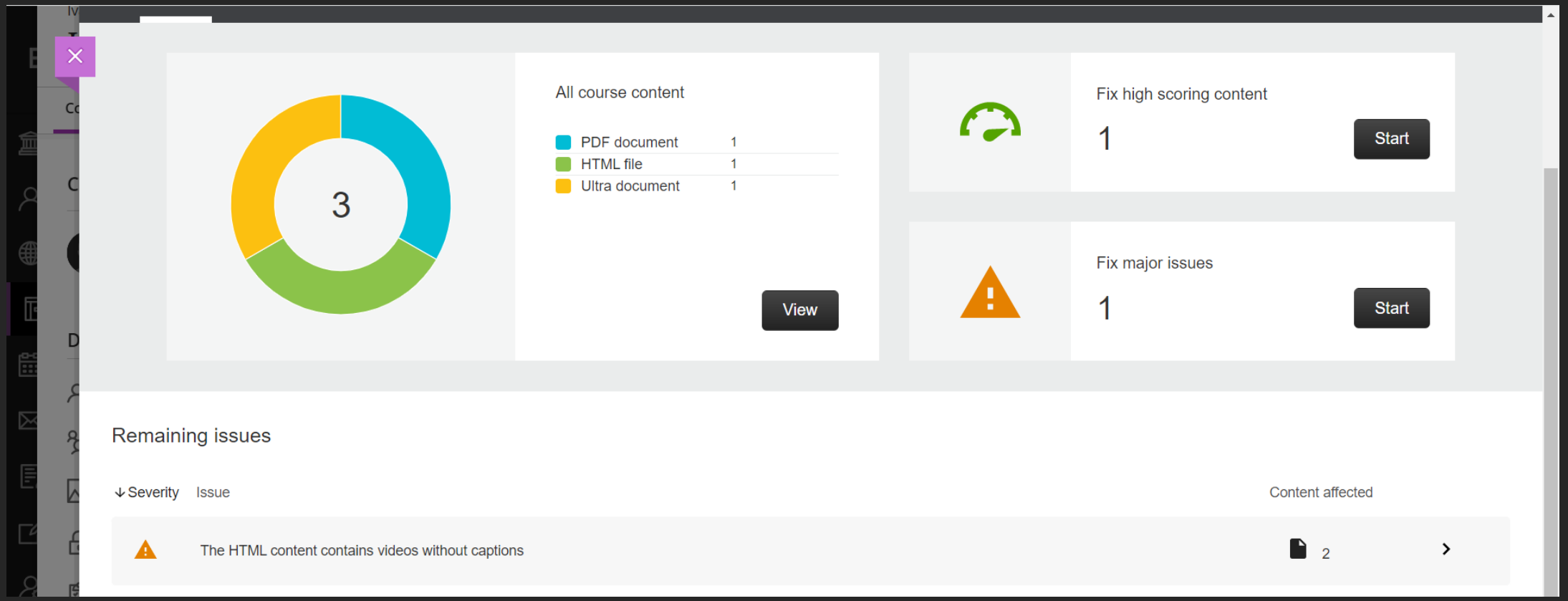

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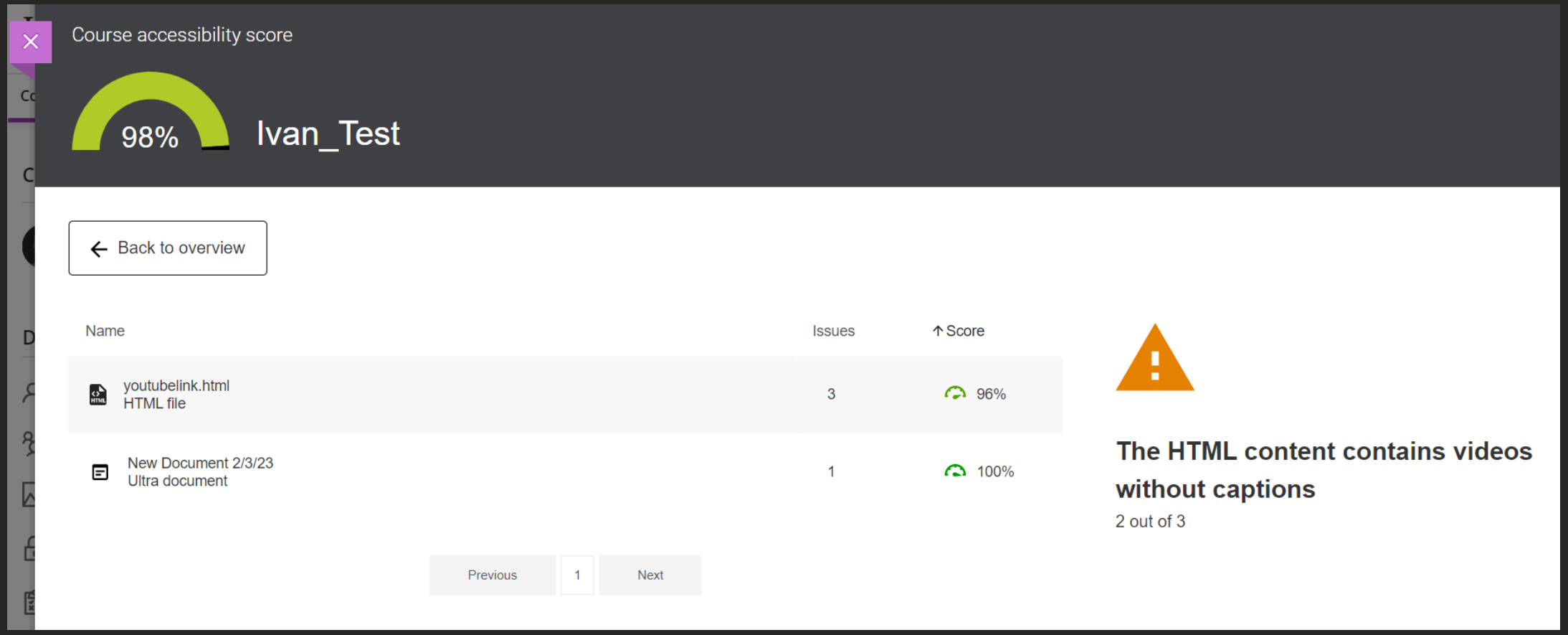

Question 8

When will the Anthology address the "Guidance Coming Soon" standard messages for D2L users?

Answer: We mentioned this in our last office hours as well, but we have a few roadmap items to address the different levels of complexity with HTML content in Brightspace.

ROADMAP ITEM

A Deeper Look at D2L HTML Guidance

There are 3 levels to D2L HTML content that determine how Ally can best apply guidance:

Brightspace Content Areas and New Experiences

Uploaded HTML vs WYSIWYG (How Brightspace handles this)

”Guidance Coming Soon” missing guidance in Ally

Next Steps for Brightspace and Ally

1. Review and prioritize LMS specific considerations and blockers (in progress jointly between Ally and D2L)
2. Improve the Guidance Coming Soon message within Ally
   - Released with 2.5.1 - Add the configurable Help link to the Guidance Coming Soon screen to allow instructors to get to other resources in the meantime
   - Released with 2.5.2 - Update “Guidance Coming Soon” to be “Guidance not yet available” to provide additional clarity
3. Release available HTML guidance flows and continue to iterate going forward (in progress)

Discussion

Discussion: Password Protected Files Scoring

Current Approach

- Ally currently flags and scores password-protected PDF documents with a 0% score.

Planned Updates

- Expand this check to include password-protected Microsoft Office documents. This update will flag and score those files with a 0% score.
- Based on our current approach, this would be a go-forward change affecting the score ONLY for new content (since the moment of the release).
- After release, you would see this change reflected in your scores within the institutional and course reports.

Do you have any additional comments or concerns that the Ally team should consider?

Discussion: Making Discussion Boards accessible

What areas do you focus on when looking to make Discussion Boards more accessible?

General Questions?

Next Office Hours – **Mon 13 March**

Please submit your questions via Microsoft Form

https://forms.office.com/r/2dLEMaSM3z

Office Hours will be every 2nd Monday of the month.