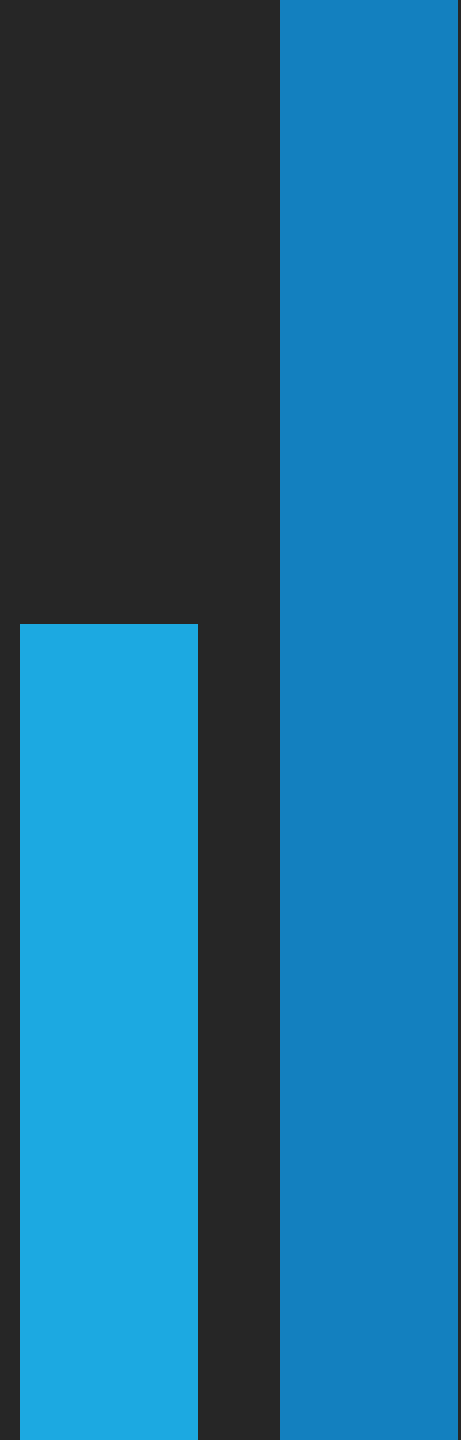




Office Hours

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)

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Learn user interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the 'anthology' logo at the top. Below the logo are several menu items, each with an icon: 'Institution Page' (building), 'Demo Instructor Ally' (person), 'Activity Stream' (globe), 'Courses' (book), 'Organizations' (group of people), 'Calendar' (calendar), 'Messages' (envelope), 'Grades' (document), 'Assist' (pencil and eraser), 'Tools' (wrench), and 'Sign Out' (logout). The 'Assist' item is highlighted with a blue box, and a yellow arrow points to it from the right. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Privacy' link. The main content area is titled 'All Services (8)' and contains eight service cards arranged in a grid. The cards are: 'Best Practices in Education' (Academic), 'Blackboard App Catalog' (Academic), 'Childcare' (Life), 'Counseling and Mental Health' (Health and Wellness), 'The Blackboard App' (Academic), 'Ally File Transformer' (Accessibility), 'Get Vaxxed!' (Health and Wellness), and 'Togetherall' (Health and Wellness). The 'Ally File Transformer' card is highlighted with a yellow border. It features the 'Ally' logo (a stylized 'A' inside a square) and the title 'Ally File Transformer'. The description reads: 'Personalize your learning experience by converting files into alternative formats that fit your needs, devices, and learning preferences.' The URL at the bottom of the page is 'https://demo.blackboard.com/ultra/integration/bbAssist'.

anthology

Institution Page

Demo Instructor Ally

Activity Stream

Courses

Organizations

Calendar

Messages

Grades

Assist

Tools

Sign Out

Privacy

https://demo.blackboard.com/ultra/integration/bbAssist

All Services (8)

Bb Best Practices in Education

Insights and best practices from around the world. We have compiled resources to support our community and help grow quality learning experiences.

Academic

Bb Blackboard App Catalog

A centralized repository of Blackboard Learn integrations.

Academic

Bb Childcare

To help you balance your life and focus on your education, MU offers childcare offerings and discounts with area providers.

Life

Bb Counseling and Mental Health

In a time of a physical distancing and civil unrest, MU students may be in even greater need for counseling services. We're here 24/7 to help.

Health and Wellness

A Ally File Transformer

Personalize your learning experience by converting files into alternative formats that fit your needs, devices, and learning preferences.

Accessibility

WE Get Vaxxed!

Get vaccinated today. Find nearby COVID-19 vaccine locations, schedule vaccine appointments, and get answers to your pressing questions—all from this trusted source.

Health and Wellness

togetherall Togetherall

A safe space to connect anonymously with other students to get and give support. Join our free online community, supported by mental health professionals 24/7.

Health and Wellness

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

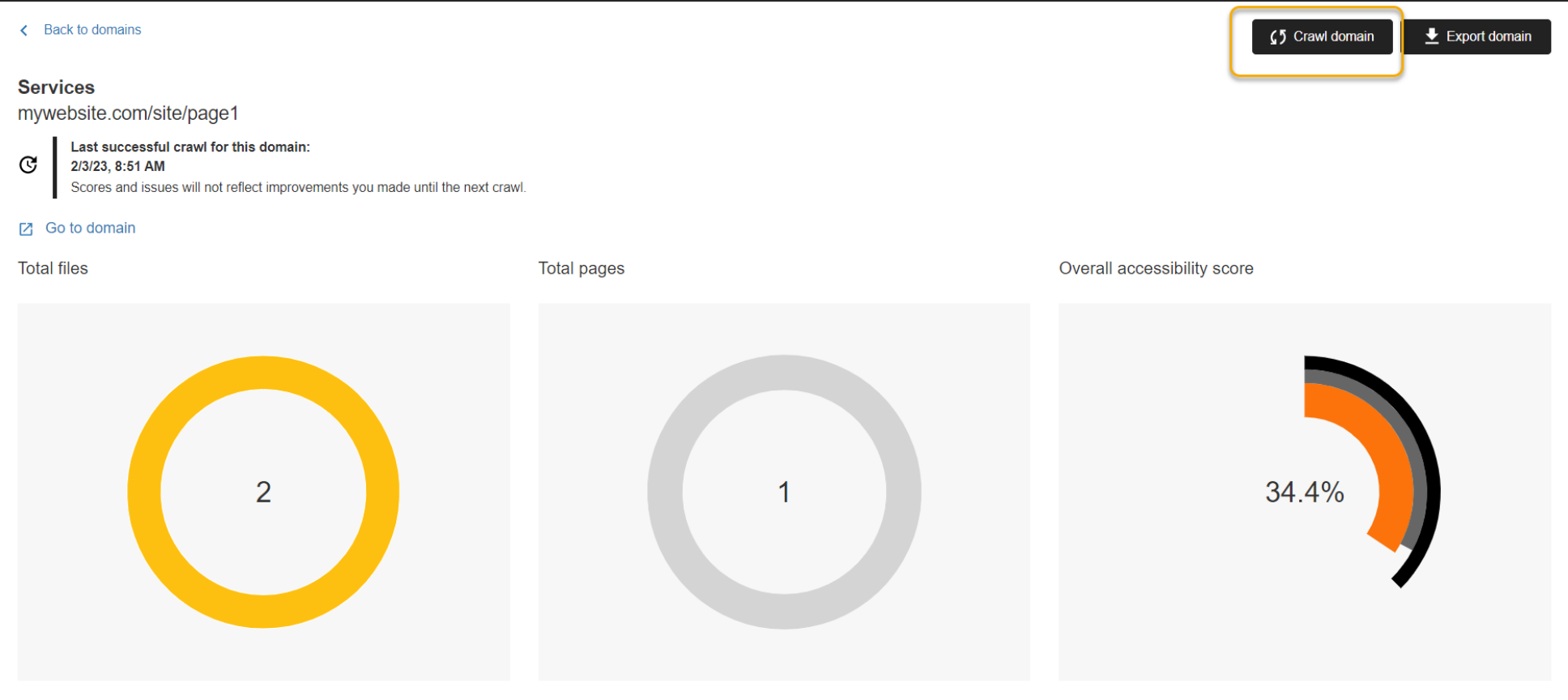
Will there be any focus on Ally for Web in Office Hours - demo, updates, etc?

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.

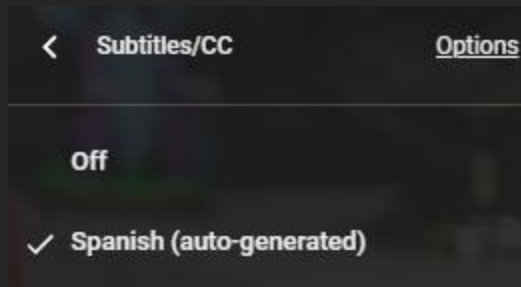


Question 7

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



A screenshot of a document editor interface. At the top, a red tab labeled "1" indicates an issue with the text "Video without captions". The main editing area shows a red box around the text "YouTube video" with a red and white striped border. Below the text, it says "Word count: 2". On the right side, there is a panel for "Accessibility score". It shows a green semi-circular progress bar at 100%. Below the bar, it states "This item contains videos without captions". Further down, it says "Guidance not available yet" and "We are updating the guidance for this issue." At the bottom of the panel is a "Help" link with a question mark icon.

Question 7 – Current status

```
1 <p><iframe title="YouTube video player" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/FQZvmEquTuE" width="560" height="315"
allowfullscreen="allowfullscreen" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-
share"></iframe></p>
```

1 Video without captions

Accessibility score: 100%

This item contains videos without captions

Guidance not available yet

We are updating the guidance for this issue.

Help


Edit Insert Format Tools Table

12pt Paragraph B I U A T² Link Image Video Document Lists Tables Math

Vivaldi - 13 Cello Concertos | Christop...

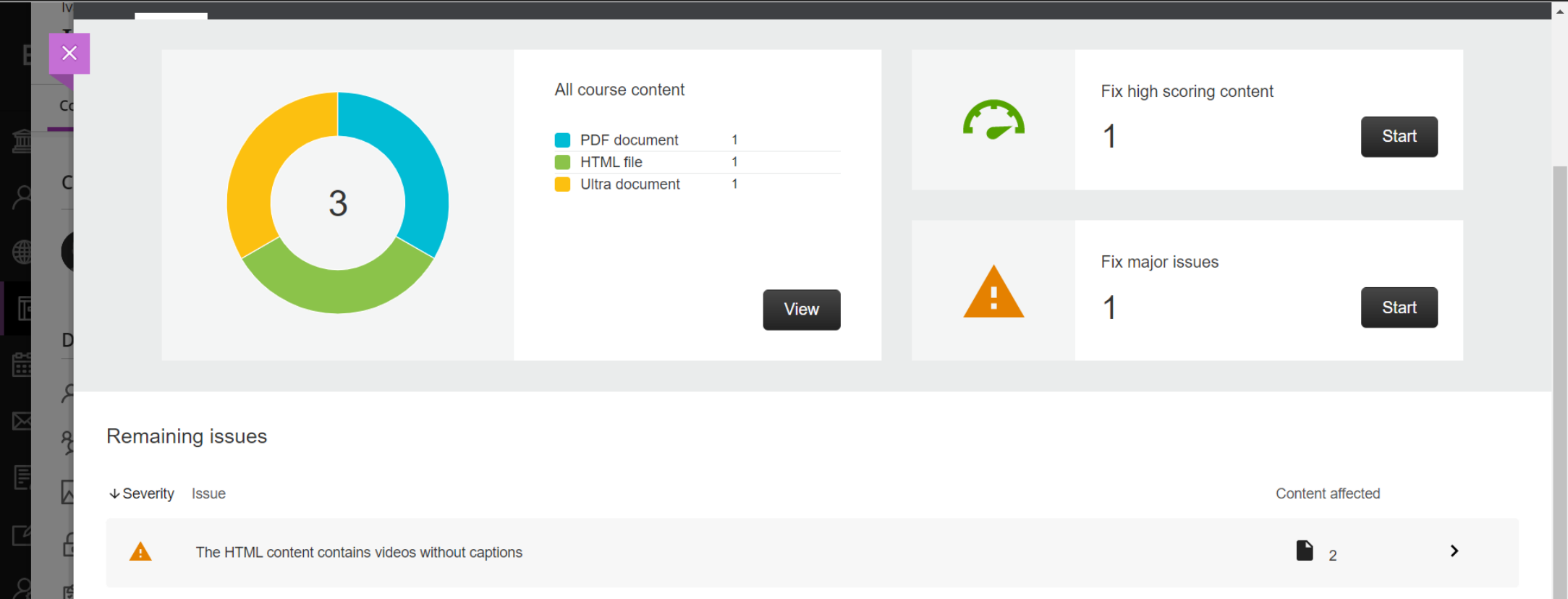
Watch later Share

1 / 1



Watch on YouTube

Question 7 – Current status



Question 7 – Current status

×

Course accessibility score

98%

Ivan_Test

← Back to overview

Name	Issues	↑ Score
<div><div>HTML</div>youtubelink.html HTML file</div>	3	<div><div></div>96%</div>
<div><div>Ultra</div>New Document 2/3/23 Ultra document</div>	1	<div><div></div>100%</div>

!

The HTML content contains videos without captions

2 out of 3

Previous

1

Next

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.