SCORM Explained

What is SCORM?
SCORM is an acronym for Sharable Content Object Reference Model, a collection of specifications that allow online content to share information with a SCORM-conformant learning management system (LMS) such as Blackboard Learn. SCORM was developed by the Department of Defense as a method for content developers to build lessons (called SCO’s or Shareable Content Objects) which would “play” in any LMS, avoiding redevelopment for multiple systems.

SCORM “packages” are often created by private companies, such as textbook publishers, or by instructional designers. A SCORM package is a self-contained ZIP file containing components in a format required by the SCORM specification. Commercial software packages, ranging from StudyMate ($100) to Articulate ($1000), create SCORM-conformant files which can post grades directly to the Blackboard Learn Grade Center. Several computers in the FIT Lab and Multimedia Studio include software which the Online Learning Team has tested and verified as SCORM-conformant.

SCORM and Blackboard Learn
The SCORM Engine Building Block is available to faculty members as a Content Type in Blackboard Learn. This Building Block supports content that conforms to the SCORM 1.2 standard and the SCORM 2004 4th Edition standard. However, the exact standard used does not need to be determined in advance because the Building Block handles each type automatically.

The Building Block manages and plays SCORM packages. Instructors import SCORM packages into their Blackboard Learn course in the same way they add other content. However, the SCORM Engine presents a great many options. For example, instructors can choose to add a Grade Center item, as well as select from other options such as tracking. When a learner interacts with content that has been set to be graded, the grade is recorded in the Grade Center; if other options are set, additional attempt data such as total viewing time and completion status can also be recorded to assist the instructor in grading.

This document describes the process for uploading a SCO and also discusses some of the advanced SCORM-related options that are available in Learn.

Adding a SCORM package to Learn
The Instructor adds SCORM packages in the same manner as any other content. First, they click on the Build Content tab and then select Content Package (SCORM). They then search for the file on their computer and click on the Submit button. The instructor is then presented with a page where they add a Title, an optional Description, select SCORM Availability options, and finally select Grading options.
Let’s take a closer look at Grading Options
Blackboard Learn allows the instructor to select whether a SCORM Module receives No Grade, or allows the instructor to input a Point Value or score.
After submitting, the instructor can now see a column in the Grade Center which contains the grade a student will receive when he or she takes the assessment included in the module.

In most cases, instructors choose to collect only the grade from the SCORM in the Learn Grade Center; however, there are also some advanced options that can affect the behavior of the SCORM player or the way students interact with the content.