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Blackboard rolls out plagiarism prevention service

Blackboard Inc., a provider of educational software and services, has unveiled a new plagiarism prevention service called SafeAssign.



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D.C.-based Blackboard (NASDAQ: BBBB) said in a statement that the new service helps prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers and delivering reports within the company's learning system. SafeAssign empowers faculty and students to protect the originality of work, and the service creates an opportunity to educate students on the importance of proper attribution and citation.

SafeAssign is currently available at no additional cost to all enterprise licensees of Blackboard's learning system, the company said.

Blackboard acquired technology from Toronto-based Sciworth Inc. for its new plagiarism service, then integrated the technology and enhanced it. Sciworth is a privately held company specializing in e-learning and assessment applications for academic, publishing and corporate clients.

SafeAssign checks papers and assignments submitted via Blackboard's learning system against information on the Internet, scanning billions of Web pages, and in several different databases. An originality report is delivered to the faculty member, student or both, highlighting any blocks of text in submitted documents that match reference sources, with links back to the matching documents on the Internet or in supported content databases.