

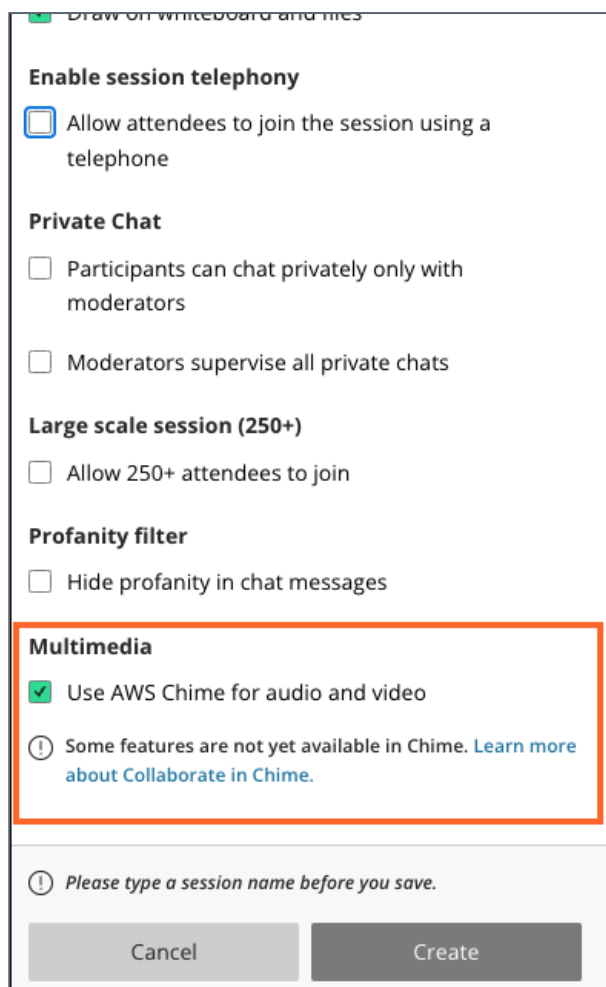
MyAberdeen Enhancements in June 2022

Original and Ultra Course Views

Blackboard Collaborate

A new option to use Collaborate on Amazon Web Services (AWS) Chime technology is available within the session settings (See Figure 1). Chime sessions feature visibly higher quality video and application sharing, as well as benefit from high reliability. However, this feature is in beta for testing and therefore the following features are not yet part of this release:

- Polling
- Breakout groups
- Session Engagement Insights
- Joining the session by phone dial-in
- Pointer does not appear in recordings
- Large scale sessions (more than 250 attendees)
- Not yet suitable for conducting sessions with accessibility requirements (including captioning)



The screenshot shows a settings panel for a Blackboard Collaborate session. The 'Multimedia' section is highlighted with a red border and contains the following options:

- ☒ Use AWS Chime for audio and video
- ☐ Some features are not yet available in Chime. [Learn more about Collaborate in Chime.](#)

Other settings visible in the panel include:

- Enable session telephony:** ☐ Allow attendees to join the session using a telephone
- Private Chat:**
 - ☐ Participants can chat privately only with moderators
 - ☐ Moderators supervise all private chats
- Large scale session (250+):** ☐ Allow 250+ attendees to join
- Profanity filter:** ☐ Hide profanity in chat messages

At the bottom, there is a warning message: 'Please type a session name before you save.' and two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Create'.

Figure 1 Screenshot showing AWS Chime setting

Ultra Course View

Embedded Documents

Previously, staff could attach files to Ultra documents / assessments for students to download and open. Common file types can now be embedded in an Ultra document or assessment, as well as having the option to download - this is now the default option (see Figure 2). The options available for staff uploading files such as PDF, DOC, DOCX, PPT, PPTX, XLS, XLSX, or OpenOffice Documents (ODS, ODT, ODP) are:

- view and download (default)
- view only
- download only

More detail on embedding files in Ultra are available in this video.

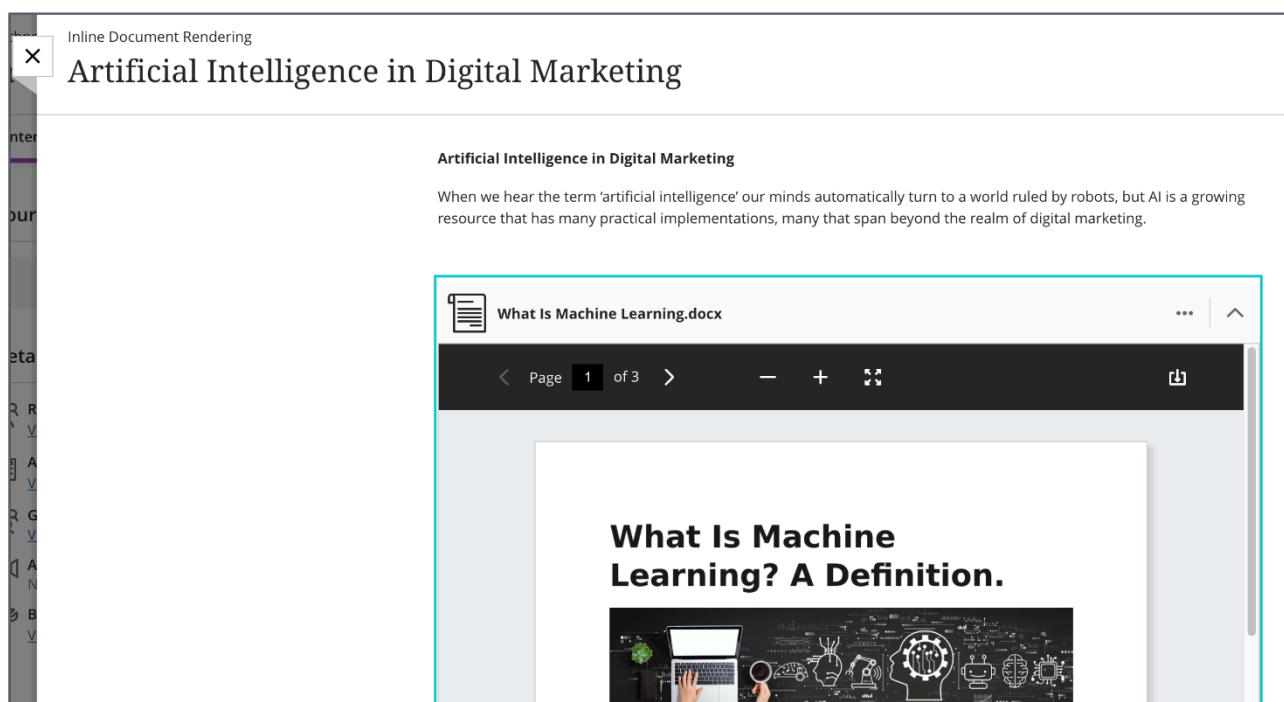


Figure 2 Inline file rendering, student view of a Microsoft Word document rendered inline

Blackboard Ally

Staff can now use Ally to check the accessibility of WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) content in Ultra documents, for example when editing text and images (see Figure 3).

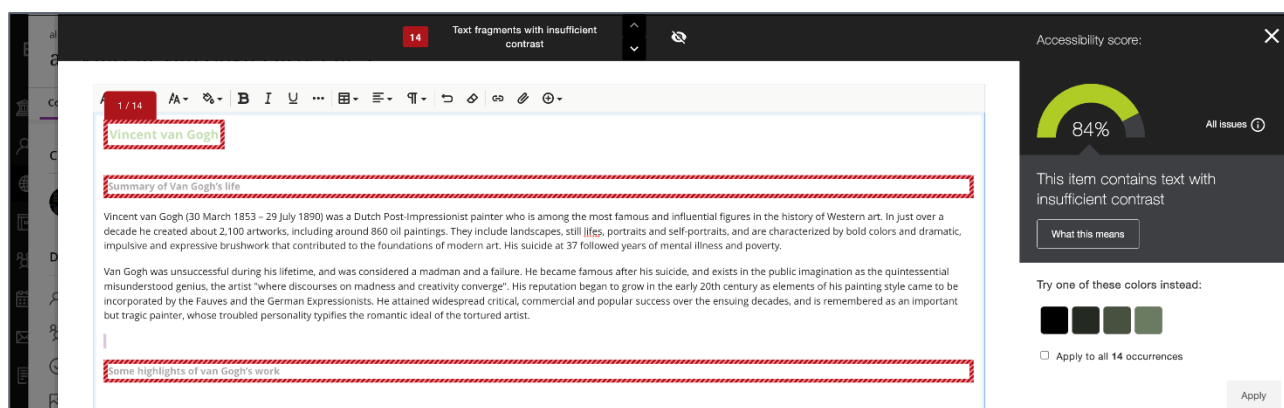


Figure 3 Screenshot showing Ally in an Ultra document content editor

Multiple Attempts in Group Assessments

The option to allow multiple attempts to group assessments is now available to staff, perhaps when students are being asked to submit work in phases or to enable the provision of iterative feedback to enhance the student experience.

Journals

The following features are now available in Journals:

- Students may now make unlimited entries; this was previously limited to 50.
- Staff and Students now have improved navigation with pagination at the foot of the page.
- Staff and students can now decide the number of items that appear per page.
- Staff now have a count of graded journals, shown at the top right.

Related Links

- [Course Design Guidelines](#)
- www.abdn.ac.uk/elearning
- [Toolkit: MyAberdeen Staff](#)