What is a Blackboard Learn Mashup?

In Blackboard Learn instructors can embed media from YouTube, Flickr, or SlideShare into Blackboard. When the media is embedded, students do not have to click on an additional link to see it. They can view the video, image, slide show or document inside of Blackboard.

Blackboard calls this embedding of media a Mashup.

Potential functions of Blackboard Learn Mashups

- Faculty often want to use external media in their course. If there are course videos on YouTube, images from the instructor on Flickr, or content from SlideShare that could be shared with students, instead of linking to the content an instructor can embed the content within a page, test question, discussion post, or assignment. This can save students time and keep them within Blackboard.

Potential challenges of Blackboard Learn Mashups

- When linking to content which is outside of Blackboard and which you do not control, sometimes links or content may be moved or deleted. It is important to review Blackboard Learn Mashups periodically, as you would any other links, to make sure they are still working.
- Traditionally a mash-up is a combination of different types of media. For example, combining the music from one song and the lyrics from another to produce a new, hybridized song. This new hybridized song would be called a mash-up. Instructors may confuse a traditional mash-up (combining two or more media) with what Blackboard is calling a Mashup (embedding media in Blackboard). Blackboard Learn Mashup does not allow students to create media mash-ups – it allows instructors to embed media in their Blackboard course.