



Grand Valley State University

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

## eLearning Technologies Team Launches Blackboard Ultra



GVSU's eLearning Team at recent miBug event hosted by the university.

On May 8, all Blackboard (Bb) courses began using the new, updated **Ultra Course View**. The Bb Ultra course experience focuses on the following:

- An updated, personalized interface that focuses on the learning process.
- Improved workflows and seamless transition between mobile devices and desktops.
- Embedded analytics help students stay informed about their progress and provide faculty with quantitative data about the learning of their students.
- New tools and updates are released on Blackboard monthly, allowing GVSU to adapt in a dynamic and progressive manner.

You can learn more about Ultra by visiting the [LMS Migration website](#), attending a [webinar](#), or scheduling a consultation with your [eLearning Technologies liaison](#). Faculty and staff who are not teaching this spring/summer but want to get started with Bb Ultra are also encouraged to review these [tips and tricks for how to best copy content](#) from your Classic courses to your Ultra courses. All faculty and staff also have access to a [Self-Paced Bb Ultra Training course](#) and an Ultra practice test course. Remember, the [eLearning Technologies team](#) is eager to support faculty and staff with the transition

[Ultra Migration Website](#)



## Gartner Hype Cycle meets GVSU DX Strategy

Faculty, staff, and students can access a wealth of technology-focused information, resources, and research using a GVSU login from the [Gartner Campus Access](#) web page. One of the most popular resources available is Gartner's Hype Cycles.

Hype Cycles are graphic representations that visually illustrate the maturity, relevance, and adoption rates of technology over time. In fact, technologies are mapped onto a timeline beginning with their initial innovation trigger, followed by their level of inflated expectations. Technologies are then tracked through a trough of disillusionment, eventually leading to a slope of enlightenment, and finally a plateau of mainstream productivity.

By leveraging the use of Hype Cycles, new opportunities and solutions can be explored as they relate to business challenges. In addition, they are valuable to review as they help to inform strategy and offer guidance on digital transformation roadmaps.

[How Hype Cycles Impact Strategy](#)



## Public Charging Stations Have Potential Risk

Have you ever run out of phone battery power at an airport or shopping mall? Using public charging stations in these places might be tempting, but the FBI warns against it. According to the FBI, there have been increasing reports of tampering with public charging stations. Instances have occurred in which hackers loaded malware onto USB ports and maliciously accessed devices.

[Risks of Charging Stations](#)



## GenCyber Camp Tests Advanced Technology

As part of GVSU's first-ever [GenCyber camp](#), [Academic Research Computing](#) and the [School of Computing](#) are piloting a Desktop as a Service (DaaS) environment offered by [Aporto](#). The National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) fund the cybersecurity camp for high school students to teach them the basics of cybersecurity and safe online behavior.

During this initiative, GVSU faculty and prospective students will evaluate the cloud-based desktop service as a potential replacement for some physical and remote computer labs on campus.

[Learn More About GenCyber Camp](#)



## IT Team Member Highlight

### Jud Scott, Systems Engineer / Database Administrator

You may not think about how GVSU servers, databases and software applications run smoothly each day, but Jud Scott does. As Systems Engineer and Database Administrator, Jud configures, administrates and maintains university servers and database systems to ensure continuous uptime and accessibility.

When asked what he finds most rewarding about his work, Jud said, "I really enjoy working with computers in any capacity. From building computers and hardware configurations to programming games and mobile apps to installing and configuring networks, I have done it all and always found the process rewarding."

Jud has been employed at GVSU for five years. He holds an Associate of Applied Science in Network Services from West Shore Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Baker College, and a Master of Science in Computer Science from Georgia Tech.

He names two hobbies he likes to explore outside of work. One is glassblowing, which he has been doing since 1996. Information about his personal glass studio can be found at [judscott.com](#). Music is Jud's other main hobby. Along with playing guitar and piano, he likes to go to concerts and listen to music.