

Educational Technology Corner | April 2024

Tech Tips

So many AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools..... so little time! Here are [9 Generative AI Tools to Improve Your Work Life](#).

Are you a Microsoft OneNote user? Curious about this software? [Here are some tips](#) on using OneNote for organization and To-Do lists.

Keyboard shortcuts are a terrific way to increase efficiency at your computer. [Check out this list](#) of Windows 11 Keyboard Shortcuts.

Chat-GPT continues to evolve. [Let's see if these features](#) are included in GPT -5.

We have all been coached – AI is only as good as the prompt it is given. Check out AI prompt generators, to help you get a great prompt on the first try.

Brightspace

[Gradebook Basics](#) Playlist (video)

Intent to EOL SMS Notifications

End of Life Date: April 20, 2024

What are SMS Notifications?

SMS (Short Message Service) notifications allow users to subscribe to select alert bell notifications so that they are sent to a mobile phone number.

Why are we doing this?

When we originally built our SMS notifications, the world was a different place. We didn't all have smart phones! We built this using a technology service available from most providers, email to SMS. Now, this service is being deprecated by providers and we are experiencing not only inconsistent delivery times but also large-scale outages at some of the largest mobile providers in North America.

How can users get mobile push notifications without SMS?

Another difference from when we built our SMS notifications is that our mobile app, Pulse, wasn't available. With Pulse, users can receive the same mobile push notifications as what were available via SMS.

Our email-based notifications are not going away, so users can still receive email notifications if subscribed.

How can I find out how my institution is using these notifications?

Please reach out to your account team, and we can supply you with some data.

What will happen to stored phone numbers after this?

Personal Data will be deleted once it is no longer needed to send notifications.

Intent to EOL Social Media Share Buttons

End of Life Date: June 20, 2024

What are the Social Media share buttons?

Social Media share buttons appear in public Blogs, ePortfolio presentations that are externally visible, and LOR objects in public repositories. These share buttons allow users to share a URL to an object to social media such as Facebook and X (Twitter).

Why are we doing this?

At this time, some of the social media share buttons are no longer supported and can no longer function, others are outdated. We are deciding to remove all share buttons at this time.

How can users share items to social media?

Users can copy the URL of the item they wish to share and post it to social media directly.

Tophat

Attendance

There are many ways to take attendance, but what to do when your class session is hybrid, or you just have a lot of students to keep track of. Tophat has 2 attendance solutions for you.

Hybrid

First, allow Hybrid attendance in your Tophat course settings.

When **hybrid attendance** is enabled for a course, students will see an additional question below the field where they are required to input the attendance code, asking them if they are attending the class in-person. The "Yes" response is pre-filled in every instance, meaning students simply need to change the response to "No" if they are attending remotely.

A full [explanation of hybrid attendance](#) is available at the Tophat support site.

Secure

First, enable Secure Attendance in your Tophat course.

Secure Attendance is only active when you are taking attendance. Simply enabling Secure Attendance in your Course Settings does not mean that it is automatically tracking your students' location whenever you have Top Hat open.

Once you [start an attendance](#) session (i.e., generate an attendance code), the first 5 devices to log their attendance are geolocated. The location of the rest of the devices in the classroom is then verified

based on their proximity to those first 5 devices, about 500 meters (1/3 of a mile) in all directions. (Think of this process like roots extending from a tree, with the first 5 devices representing the trunk.)

The geolocating process works on web browsers as well as iOS and Android mobile apps by sending coordinates to Top Hat's servers.

If a student does not have Location Permissions enabled on their device when logging their attendance, they will fail their location check (despite being in the classroom).

Details on how students can enable Location Permissions on their web browser can be found [below](#), and details on how they can enable Location Permissions on their mobile device can be found here:

- [iOS devices](#)
- [Android devices](#)

[A complete explanation of secure attendance](#), including student side settings can be found on the Tophat Support site.