

Blackboard Vista Computer

Setup for Mac

UAB's Department of Instructional Technology recommends the following for optimal performance of Blackboard Vista on your computer. This document will help you to set up your computer with the essential requirements for using Blackboard Vista. If your computer is not set up correctly, you will experience errors in feature functionality.

On Campus:

Many computers on campus are locked down, so contact AskIT at 996-5555 to report the location of the computer and the problem. The administrator for the computer will be contacted.

Off Campus:

You will have to set up your own computer. You can either use the instructions contained in this document or contact AskIT at 996-5555 to walk you through the process.

The following are the requirements:

1. Blackboard only supports specific browsers for Macs. For a list of supported browsers, go to **page 2**. To learn how to check your browser version, go to **page 2**.
2. Disable all Pop-up Blockers. To learn how to disable your Pop-up Blocker go to **page 3**.
3. Plug-ins that must be installed: RealPlayer, Adobe Reader, Flash Player. To learn how to check for Plug-ins go to **page 4**.
4. You must Accept/Run the Security Certificate when prompted at log-on. To learn how to Accept/Run security certificates go to **page 5**.

Supported Browsers for Blackboard Vista

Browser	Windows Version	Mac Version
Microsoft IE	5.5 (SP2), 6.0, 7	5.1
Firefox	1.0, 1.5	1.0
Netscape	7.0, 7.1, 7.2	7.0, 7.1, 7.2
Safari	NA	1.2, 1.3.1 and higher, 2.0.1 and higher (see note below)
Mozilla	1.5, 1.7	1.5, 1.7
AOL	8.0, 9.0	NA

Note: Safari 3.0 is not supported for Mac or Windows.

This chart was adapted from the [Blackboard Supported Browser](#) webpage.

How do I check which browser version I am using?

In your web browser (we will use Safari for this example), go to **Safari** in the Toolbar. Then go to the **About Safari** option.

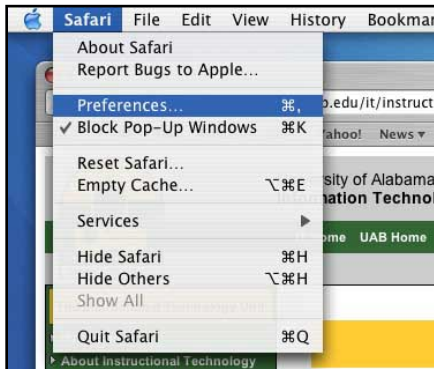


A pop-up window should appear that gives you information about the browser that you are using. Look for the version information to verify that you are using a supported version.

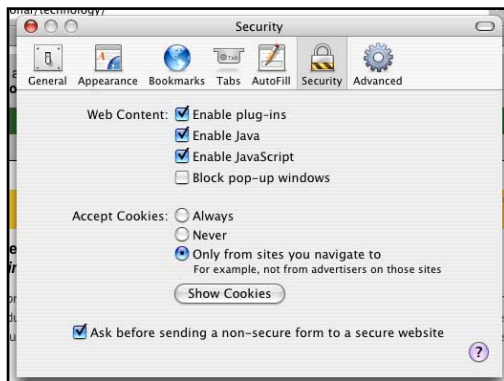


How do I disable Pop-up Blockers?

In the Safari browser, click on **Safari – Preferences**.

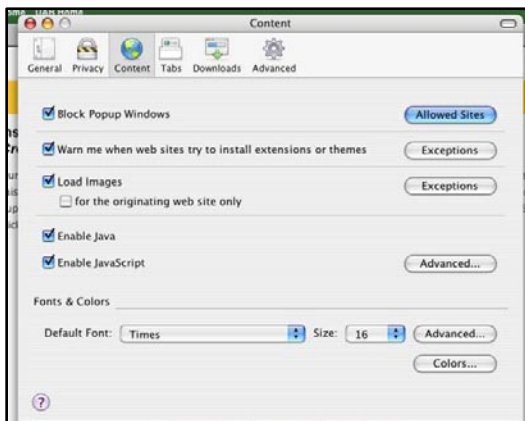


Choose the **Security** tab and then make sure that the **Block pop-up windows** option is unchecked.



Note: If you are running Pop-up Blocker, and have the option to allow sites (we are using Firefox for this example), it is necessary to add four (4) sites as trusted sites. This can be done by doing the following:

Open your browser and click on **Firefox - Preferences**. Navigate through the different tabs to locate the **Block Pop-up Windows** setting and choose **Allowed Sites**.



In the address field, there are four (4) trusted sites that need to be added. In the field type each of the following and click **Add** after you enter each one. Here are the sites you will need to add: ***.uab.edu**, **uabvoice.wimba.com**, **uab.wimba.com** and **www.respondus.com**. Click **Close** once you have finished adding these four (4) sites.



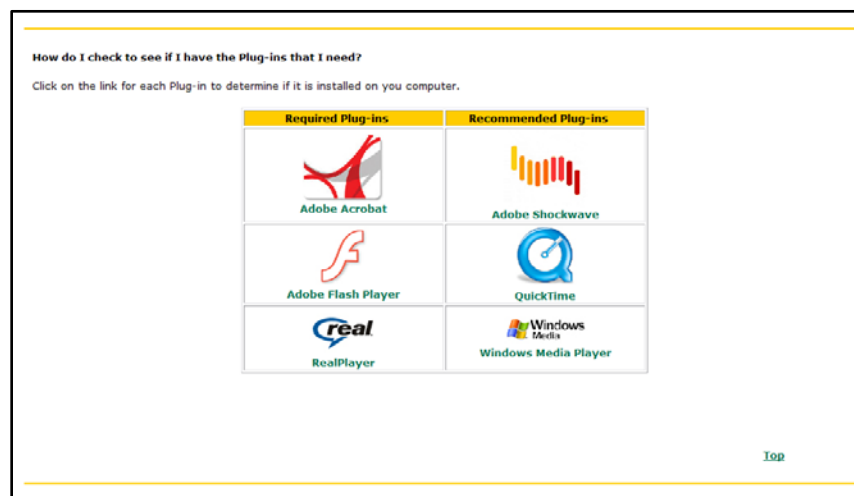
How do I check to see if I have the Plug-ins that I need?

The required plug-ins for Blackboard Vista that must be installed are Adobe Acrobat Reader, Adobe Flash Player and RealPlayer. There are also three (3) recommended plug-ins that you may want to install.

To check and see if you have the plug-ins installed, go to:

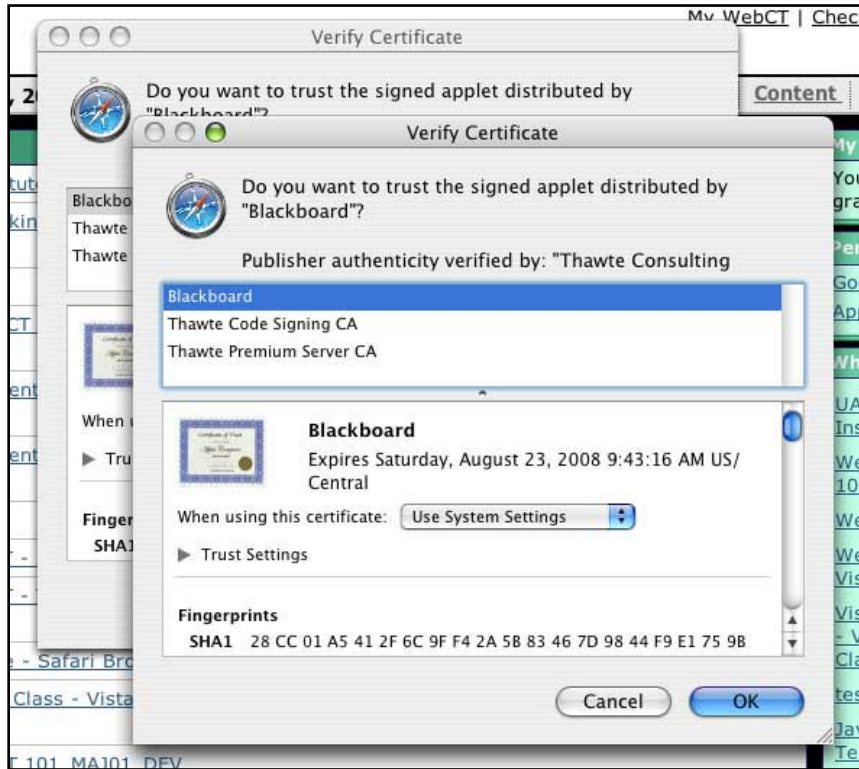
http://uab.edu/it/instech/blackboard/mac_setup.html#Plugins

On this page you will be able to test to see if you have each of the required and recommended plug-ins. If you do not have them install, there will be a link to the site where you can download them.



How do I Accept/Run Security Certificates?

The first time you log in to Blackboard Vista, you should receive two (2) pop-ups for validating the Java application. Click on the **OK** button for each certificate.



You have now accepted and run the authentication certificates.