

Go Public

You've finished populating your Blackboard Web Community Manager incubation site with content and are ready to go live—that is, make the site available to the public.

Here's what you or your Project Manager will need to do in order to go public.

- Provide the Blackboard Development Operations team with your domain or domain names. If you have multiple domains, you will designate one as *primary*.
- Provide the Blackboard Development Operations team with the date that you wish to go live.
- Modify your existing Domain Name System (DNS) server entries. If you are using new domains, create new DNS entries.
- Ensure that your Network Administrator updates your internal DNS records, if applicable.

Here's what we'll do in order for you to go public.

- Configure settings so that your incubation site responds to your registered domains.
- Configure URLs and set redirects for your registered domains.

Your Domain Name System (DNS)

DNS is an Internet service that translates domain names into IP addresses. Because domain names are text, they are easier to remember. The Internet however, is really based on IP addresses. Every time you use a domain name, a DNS service must translate the name into the corresponding IP address. For example, the domain name *www.example.com* might translate to 198.105.232.3.

To go live, you will need to modify your existing DNS server entries. If using new domains, you'll need to create new DNS entries.

Your Blackboard Web Community Manager website will point to your primary domain once DNS has been modified for your existing domain or set up for a new domain you plan to use.

Every domain is hosted on a name server. The function of the server is to translate a domain name into an IP Address. Blackboard hosts your website content, but not your domain.

DNS Record Types

DNS records control the location of an internet resource. To properly configure DNS for your website, you will need to modify your DNS A and CNAME record types.

Address (A) Record

An A record links a domain to the physical IP address of a computer hosting that domain's services.

An A record is the only valid record type for a base domain (the one without the *www*). If you have one or more base domains, you will need to modify the value of your A record or records and change it to the IP address or addresses that we provide. If your base domain is new, you'll add an A record and enter the IP Address we provide.

Canonical Name (CNAME) Record

A CNAME record (the one with the *www*) indicates the true, or canonical host name of a computer with which its aliases are associated.

To go public, you will need to enter a CNAME record for the domain name of your incubation site.

Additional Resources

[Find Your Domain Host](#)

[Schools with their own Domains or Subdomains](#)