Cidi Labs

Design Tools

Robert Fuselier, Director
Mary Eichin, Assistant Director, Technology
Office of Distance Learning
What Is Design Tools?

- A suite of tools created for use with Canvas
- A means for content creators and instructional designers to quickly create courses that are:
  - Mobile-ready
  - Accessible
  - Supportive of instructional design best practices
- A way to help Canvas courses look great without having to know CSS, HTML, or JavaScript
How Does Design Tools Work?

- Design Tools has three tools that work together to help rapidly scaffold, design, and style Canvas courses and content.
  - Content Editor Tool
  - Multi-Tool
  - Upload/Embed Image Tool
Content Editor Tool

- Create, customize, and style content for interactive and engaging courses
- Insert interactive widgets, HTML snippets, or quick checks to enhance learning outcomes
- Use accessibility tools to check content at point of creation
Multi-Tool

- Scaffold a course shell
- Create pages using templates
- Create course modules with one click with the Module Builder
- Manage all assignment dates from a single screen with the Due Date Modifier
Upload/Embed Image Tool

- Upload, crop, resize, and embed images directly in your Canvas courses
- Easily customize the home page image
What Are the Advantages of Design Tools? (1)

- Design Tools makes it easy for institutions to establish their brand in Canvas courses with a unified look and feel while supporting instructors and their individual creative and teaching styles.

- Accessibility tools in Design Tools augment Canvas with page-level checks to ensure conforming color contrast, proper table formatting, appropriate image alt-text, proper page heading structures, and link checking.
What Are the Advantages of Design Tools? (2)

• Design Tools is a Canvas add-on that can be installed for use in all or part of an institution’s Canvas instance.
• Design Tools is the only tool of its kind currently on the market.
• As a Canvas partner, Cidi Labs ensures the tools keep current with Canvas’s rapid release cycle.
Who Is Using Design Tools?

- Cidi Labs has more than 85 SaaS subscription agreements with institutions around the world, including Florida:
  - Florida State University
  - University of Florida
  - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
  - Broward County Schools
Customize Home Page with Links to Key Course Sections

**LAW7930 – International & Foreign Legal Research.** Design Tools provides an attractive, customizable home page with links for students to access the most important parts of the course. This “Start Here” page includes the instructor’s welcome and organized steps so students can quickly engage the course content.
Organize Syllabus for Easy Navigation

NGR5003L – Health Assessment for APN. Design Tools enhances the syllabus page by helping organize the sections and adding a dynamic navigation menu. FSU’s syllabus template facilitates easy setup and modification. Additional formats such as DOC and PDF can be added as links.
Build Structure Throughout the Modules with Course Pages

**ECO2000 - Introduction to Economics.** Course content pages organize and present information to students. Pages can be formatted using university, college, or department templates, or they can be custom made by the instructor, such as these pages from an Introduction to Economics course.
Integrate Media and Alternative Formats within Course Pages

**REL1300** – *Introduction to World Religions*. Design Tools works well with embedded media, such as these videos hosted in Kaltura. Additionally, the structured display facilitates accessibility by presenting links to alternative formats, including icons that match the file format.
Conclusion

- Add-on for Canvas that is easy to install and use
- Quickly scaffold a course using templates
- Customize pages without knowing programming
- Support Canvas pages’ accessibility compliance
- Build institutional brand and consistent look
- Get frequent software updates with new features, and keep current with Canvas updates