What is SafeAssign?
SafeAssign is a plagiarism prevention service, offered by Blackboard. This service helps educators prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers. In addition to acting as a plagiarism deterrent, it also has features designed to aid in educating students about plagiarism and the importance of proper attribution of any borrowed content.

SafeAssign is a part of the Blackboard Beyond family and is centrally hosted by Blackboard, like the rest of the Beyond products and services. Although it is a new Blackboard service, it is based on a mature and proven technology that Blackboard acquired from Sciworth Inc. (MyDropBox) and enhanced to offer even better stability, performance, and integration with other Blackboard products.

What databases does SafeAssign currently use for plagiarism checking?
SafeAssign currently checks all submitted papers against the following databases:

- Internet - comprehensive index of billions of documents available for public access on the Internet;
- ProQuest ABI/Inform database with over 1,100 publication titles and about 2.6 million articles from '90s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access);
- Institutional document archives containing all papers submitted to SafeAssign by users in their respective institutions;
- Global Reference Database containing papers that were volunteered by students from Blackboard client institutions to help prevent cross-institutional plagiarism.

What is the Institutional Database?
The Institutional Database is the archive of papers submitted by students in our institution. Each institution's Institutional Database is stored in the central SafeAssign service and kept separate from other institution's databases. Papers are automatically added to this database upon submission and are stored in the central service to be checked against other papers submitted from your institution. The Institutional Database is completely separate from the Global Reference Database which extends across institutions and students must volunteer their papers to.

Why was plagiarism prevention chosen as a new Beyond service?
Plagiarism prevention is a popular service that helps instructors address an existing classroom issue in an efficient manner. It has been used effectively to deter plagiarism and educate students about proper citation of sources, and is consistent with Blackboard's mission of using innovation and technology to empower educators.

This product is offered as a Beyond service because, like other Beyond products, it is centrally-hosted by Blackboard and other than the SafeAssign Building Block™ or SafeAssign PowerLink™, it does not require any additional equipment or software on the client side. It also includes the Global Reference Database,
which is a shared resource created by the Blackboard user community to cooperatively prevent plagiarism.

**How does the tool work?**
SafeAssign can be used in two ways. First, instructors can set up SafeAssignments in their courses on Blackboard and let students submit papers to complete these assignments, in a way very similar to the one provided currently by Blackboard Learning System. The papers will then be delivered to instructors through the Blackboard Learning System together with the SafeAssign Originality Reports, which details the results of the matching process. Second, instructors may upload papers directly, without student involvement through the Direct Submit feature.

What information does SafeAssign provide in its reports? A SafeAssign Originality Report highlights any blocks of text in submitted documents that match reference sources, and links back to the matching documents on the Internet or in supported content databases. SafeAssign reports also show similarity ratings for each matching sentence and allow instructors to view a line-by-line comparison of potentially unoriginal text from submitted papers and the matching external documents.

**How does SafeAssign compare to other plagiarism services?**

- Powerful, flexible, and effective plagiarism prevention algorithm
- Opt-in Global Reference Database puts the student in control of their work
- Comprehensive and interactive Originality Reports support faculty decision-making
- Tightly integrated with the Blackboard Learning System
- It's included (at no additional cost).
- And more. Because it's available and at no additional cost, we encourage you to use SafeAssign in your courses so you can check it out for yourself!

**Who owns the intellectual property rights for each submitted paper?**
Blackboard does not claim any ownership rights on the content submitted to SafeAssign.

**How long does it take to generate plagiarism reports?**
Reports are not generated instantaneously - it usually takes from several seconds to few minutes to receive a report.

**What file formats does SafeAssign support?**
SafeAssign supports Word (DOC), Plain text (TXT), Rich text format (RTF), PDF, and HTML formats. We anticipate supporting Office 2007 file format in the future.