



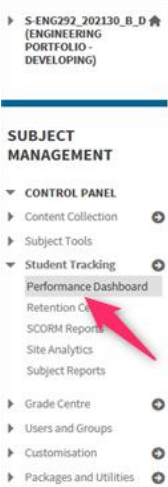
Discovering things about student engagement

Monitoring student learning



One of the common questions being asked by subject teaching staff is, “How can I quickly discover who is or isn’t engaging in my subject?” While there isn’t necessarily a single answer, it is definitely not a complex process to find out which students are logging onto a subject site and engaging in study. So read on for some starting points...

► Using the Performance Dashboard



The Performance Dashboard provides in table form a summary view into particular aspects of student activity in your subject, with pertinent information about each student’s activity and progress on an individual-by-individual basis.

To access Performance Dashboard, navigate to:

Control Panel > Student Tracking > Performance Dashboard

Don’t be put off by the terminology here. Think of this analysis tool more as a *participation* dashboard providing you with an at-this-moment overview of student activity in the subject site.

There is no setting up required for the Performance Dashboard; everything is already there for you to view and to make sort changes within column headings.

Here’s how to see who is logging on

To quickly see who *is* currently logging on, sort Performance Dashboard by clicking the ‘Days Since Last Course Access’ column heading. This will re-arrange the full list of site users according to the least number of days since last logon. Notice that you will appear on the top of the list! This is so, since Performance Dashboard provides a list of *all* site users, not just students.

Last Name	First Name	Username	Role	Last Course Access	Days Since Last Course Access
			Instructor	15-Nov-2016 10:31:51	0
			Student	15-Nov-2016 10:30:04	0
			Student	15-Nov-2016 10:10:46	0
			Student	15-Nov-2016 10:01:09	0
			Student	15-Nov-2016 09:40:02	0

Ideally, especially if it’s at the beginning of session or at a time you’d particularly expect students to be logging on, you’d like to see days since last access to be 5 or under.

Here’s how to see who isn’t logging in

To gain a quick view of who *isn’t* accessing your subject, click the ‘Days Since Last Course Access’ column heading to reverse the column sort; or alternatively, scroll to the bottom of the previously sorted list. Now you’ll see students who have Never logged on or the (high) number of days since their last logon. Of course, you’ll need to view this data in the context of which week of study students are up to and why they’d need to be logging onto the subject site.

There is a downside with Performance Dashboard in that, while you can see student activity (or its lack), there isn't much further you can do by using this analysis avenue. This is where you may want to investigate Retention Centre.

► Using Retention Centre

The centrepiece of Retention Centre is an Activity Table data visualisation summary that's based on a set of four pre-configured rules to indicate students' engagement and participation. Retention Centre allows an easy way to monitor participation and progress of students, and to determine those who may need attention or could be encouraged, depending upon how the alert rules are configured. You might like to think of Retention Centre as a student activity centre.

To access Retention Centre, navigate to:

Control Panel > Student Tracking > Retention Centre

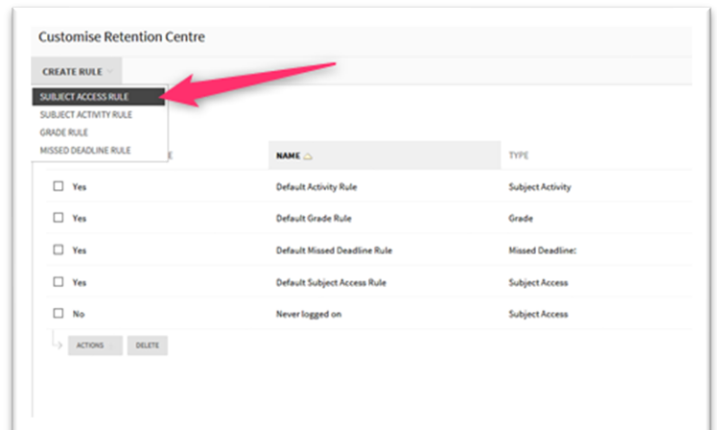
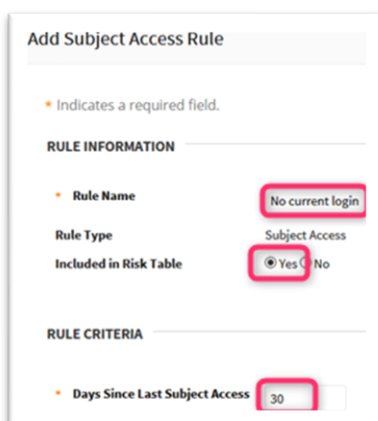
Here's how to see who is not logging in

The alert category to focus on is the Access Alert. This alert is based on the date students last accessed your subject site. Students who have not logged in for a defined number of days trigger an alert which is displayed in the Activity Table.

By default, the alert is set at greater than 5 days. But this may be too low a number to reflect those students who truly are not engaging at a level that will engender study success. So the thing to do is to create a new rule that will indicate students who are under-engaging or who have not commenced study at all.

To create a new rule, click the Customise button at the top right of Retention Centre.

In the opened window, select Create Rule and then the Subject Access Rule.

Add Subject Access Rule

* Indicates a required field.

RULE INFORMATION

* Rule Name: No current login

Rule Type: Subject Access

Included in Risk Table: Yes No

RULE CRITERIA

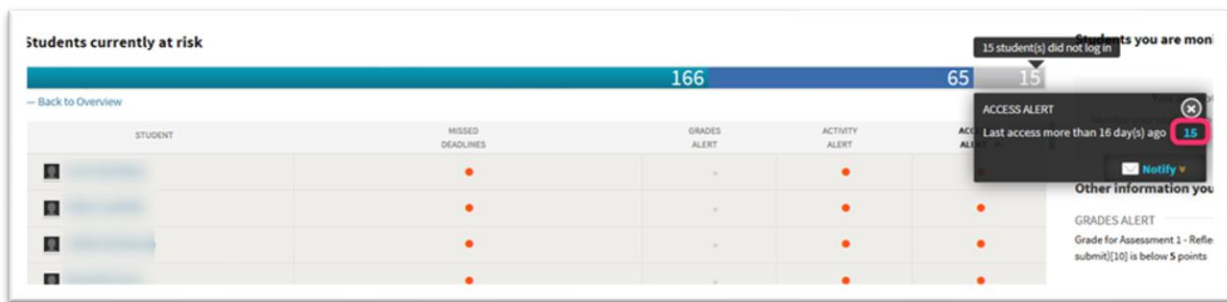
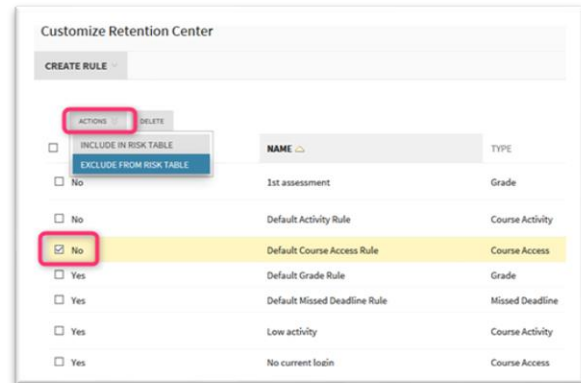
* Days Since Last Subject Access: 30

- Type a meaningful Name for the new Rule.
- Select 'Yes' for Include in Risk Table.
- Count back the number of days to the point when you first want monitor student accesses to the subject site.
- Then Submit.

From the Customise Retention Centre view, select the Default Course Access Rule and *exclude* the default rule from the Risk (or Activity) Table.

Use the breadcrumb trail at the top left of the screen to navigate back to the Retention Centre Activity Table.

The newly customised Access Alert rule displays data in the far-right column in the Activity Table. Select the red coloured horizontal bar above the table to display a summary of the rule identified students in your subject.



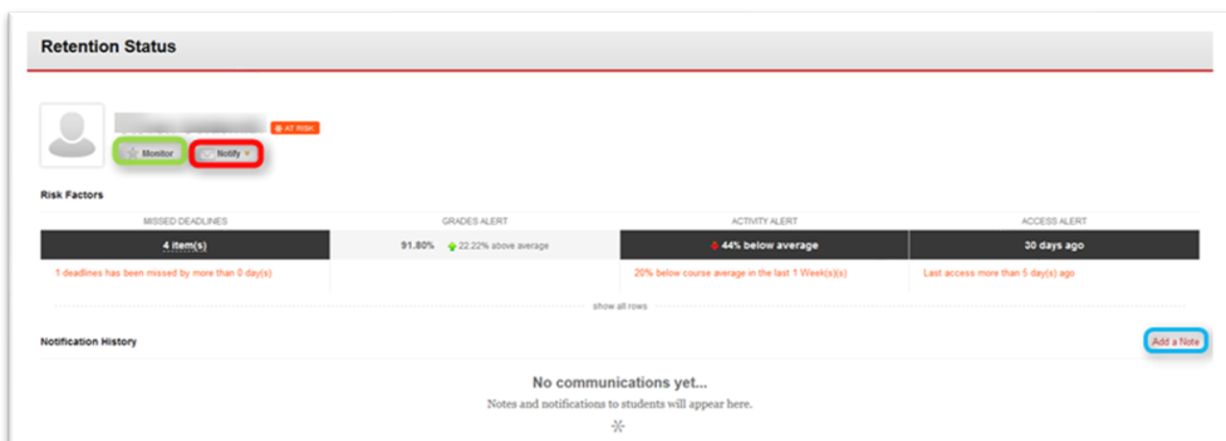
Select the far-right category to show more information on the access alert. Select the blue number in the pop-up box to open the list of students who meet this rule.

Scroll through the list to determine which students you need to contact. For example, you might see there are a couple students who have Never accessed the site; but you may already know about them and no further action is required. You can therefore deselect their names.

To send one email to this group of students, click the Notify Selected button, and follow the prompts as you compose an [appropriately worded Notification](#).

Be sure to Check the box, 'Include list of recipients', for this will include the students to whom you sent the Notification to. This is the best record you'll gain for students you have notified.

If you want to contact students individually, click a student's name (blurred in this screen shot) to open that student's Retention Status showing a summary table of the 4 default alert rules.



Click the green-boxed Monitor button if you want to place this student in the right-side panel, under *Students you are monitoring*

Click the Notify button to open an empty email space to send a personalised message to the student. There is also an Add a Note feature to compile notes on students emailed or monitored, or both. You can do this notating *in situ*, instead of having a separate Word/Excel document for this purpose.

Repeat the above steps for each student you feel is worthy of a follow up contact.

A word of caution is warranted here.

Even though there may be students who have not accessed your subject site within a set timeframe, this does not automatically mean these students are 'at risk' of some kind. It may indicate, for example, that students have downloaded learning content and resources at an earlier date and are studiously engaged largely off-line. As you endeavour to provide personalised support to learners, always situate your students within the larger context of subject learning design, your site setup, and the study schedule.

Further resource:

Suggested 'Student Notification' text

https://doms.csu.edu.au/csu/file/252bdbee-78e6-4caf-a751-c4f0da7cc311/1/Student_Notification_text.docx



For assistance with learning data analysis, or for help in framing your own questions regarding student activity and engagement in your subject, contact the Learning Analytics Lead using the icon located on your CSU computer desktop or by this link: bit.ly/DLT-SRS