



# Getting Started....

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## Getting started....

For many of you this may be your first time to take a Texas Virtual School course online. You first need to make sure your computer and Internet browser are compatible with Blackboard 6.0.

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## What type of computer and Internet browser do I need to access Blackboard 6.0?

The recommended hardware and software requirements for using Blackboard are as follows:

1. A 486 (or larger) computer that can logon to the Internet
2. An Internet Service Provider (ISP)
3. A current Internet Browser

(For best results, we recommend that you have the most recent version. The most trouble free is **Internet Explorer** (version 5.5 or higher). For a free download go to the following web site.

<http://www.internetexplorer.com/results.asp?term=internet+explorer+download>

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## What are firewalls?

If you cannot access your course from your school or office's network computer system, but can from another location, then the problem is a security block or "**firewall**." You will need to contact your school or office's technology staff and discuss this issue with them. Texas Virtual School cannot handle this problem for you. Your network system is stopping access to the course.

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## Why do I need to reset my temporary memory or cache?

It is suggested that you set the cache in your browser to empty after every page in order to view "**new**" and not "**old**" information in your course. Set your browser to empty the cache after every hit, or as frequently as possible.

To do this in Internet Explorer:

- Go to "**Tools**" menu
- Select "**Internet Options**"
- Select "**General Tab**"
- Select "**Settings**" from "**Temporary Internet Files**"
- Select "**Every visit to the page**"
- Click "**OK**"
- Click "**OK**"



## Entering your course....

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### Entering your course....

How do you enter your online course? It is important that you can enter your course from Blackboard's "Gateway" page. You may also enter Texas Virtual School through the following URL: <http://tvs.esc4.net> (it might be a good idea to bookmark this URL).

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### What is Blackboard's Gateway page?

Blackboard's Gateway page (see below) is your entrance into Bb's eLearning display area. This page is your link to TVS's courses.

**Bb**  
Blackboard

Login

## TVS - Texas Virtual School

### Welcome!

The Texas Virtual School (TVS) offers an innovative learning opportunity for Texas' schools and their students. Its mission is to provide extended and flexible learning opportunities for secondary students and educators through web-based programs.

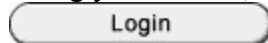
To log in, please click on the Login icon on the left.

The Gateway page is your entrance into your online classroom....

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### How do I enter my course?

Using your mouse, click on the Login button found on the Gateway page.



## Have an Account? Login Here.

If you already have an account, enter your login information here and click the "Login" button below. If you do not have an account, please click on one of the buttons to the left.

USERNAME:

tsmith

PASSWORD:

tsmith

Login

Once you have clicked on the Login button, the following screen will appear. In order to enter your course, you must know your **USERNAME** and **PASSWORD**.

(Note—your individual **USERNAME** and **PASSWORD** are given to you by your instructor or school liaison and are case sensitive.)

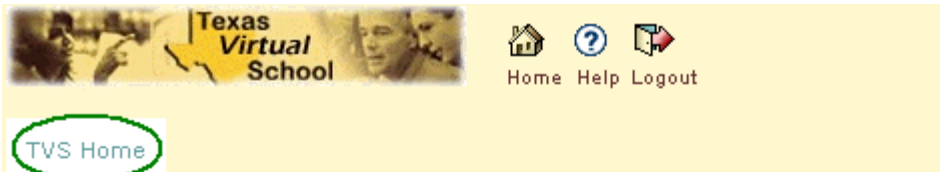
After you have typed in your assigned login information, click the Login button.



# Accessing your course....

## TVS Home Tab Area....

Bb tab area hold broad information and allows the student to access web pages that contain specific content and features. These are always available no matter what page or area appears in your content frame.



**Tools**

- [Announcements](#)
- [View Grades](#)

## Welcome, Billy

**Courses :Quick View**

Courses in which you are enrolled:

- [Liaisonics](#)

**My Announcements**

- [TVS Email](#)
- [Blackboard Tutorial and User's Guide](#)

[more...](#)

## Welcome, Billy

**Courses :Quick View**

Courses in which you are enrolled:

- [Liaisonics](#)

**Click on this link**

**My Announcements**

- [TVS Email](#)
- [Blackboard Tutorial and User's Guide](#)

[more...](#)

The TVS Home tab contains tools and information specific to your TVS course. It is divided into several areas. Under “**My Announcements**” area, you can go directly to course announcements without entering your course.

To enter your course, click on the link under the “**Courses: Quick View**” area found on this page.



# Your course....

Once you enter your course this is what you will see.

TVS COURSES > LIAISONICS > ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIEW TODAY VIEW LAST 7 DAYS VIEW LAST 30 DAYS VIEW ALL

November 22 - 29, 2002

Fri, Nov 22, 2002 -- *TVS Email*  
[Click Here for Email](#)  
This is the only place you can access your email. The class.com button in your "Course Materials" will not work.

Fri, Nov 22, 2002 -- *Blackboard Tutorial and User's Guide*  
<http://www.esc4.net/educators/distance/BbTutorial/index.htm>

Course Map

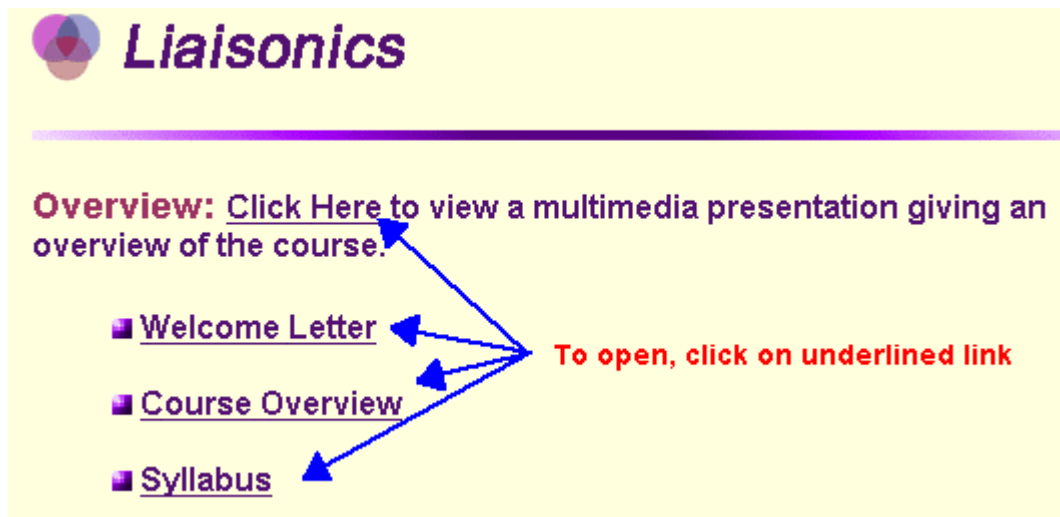
- Announcements
- Course Overview
- Course Designer
- Course Materials
- Communication
- Discussion Board
- Tools
- External Links

The buttons on the left are your main **navigation tools** used to access specific areas of the course you are taking. For example, if you want information about your instructor, you would select the **"Course Designer"** button.

When selecting a button, such as the “**Course Overview**,” a screen will open describing what is found in this area along with an underlined link to open the information.



When you click on the overview.zip link the following screen will open. (Note- everything that is underlined is a link to information. For instance, if you wanted to see the “**Course Overview**”, you would click on that link.



Another important area in the course will be the Discussion Board. When you select the Discussion Board button, the forums for online conversation will appear. The first two that you will interact with are the “**Introduction**” forum and the “**FAQ**” forum. To open these areas, click on the underlined link.

