

## Introduction

You may be one of the people who received this latest Paddling Around newsletter as a link from our new electronic newsletter. We've never quite mastered the art of communicating effectively with the paddling community and the email version of the newsletter is one of our attempts. Of course, if you don't like receiving it you can easily unsubscribe but we hope more of you will like being kept up to date with PebblePad news. If you didn't receive the email newsletter or would like to share the news with a colleague you can subscribe using the URL at the bottom of page 2.

## 1st PebblePad Conference

PebblePad is increasingly featuring at learning and teaching conferences. It's been around long enough now, with enough exciting things happening for people to want to share their experiences. At the recent Euro-portfolio Conference more than a quarter of the presented work related to PebblePad and Telling Stories was once again awash with fabulous presentations.



- With well over 100 customers and half a million users we're told that now is the time for our own dedicated event. Our first conference is guaranteed to be a learning and networking success, providing wonderful opportunities to share your Paddling experiences through both the formal programme and the social events. With all of the added extras that you've come to expect of us we promise you won't want to miss this event. So put **8-10 June 2010** in your diary right now!

You can find regular updates about the conference under <http://portfolio.pebblepad.co.uk/conference.asp>.

## Version 2.4 Goes Live!

The latest update to PebblePad has now been released; over 90% of users now have access to this version. Headline features include the ability to record CPD 'points', a reminder to reflect and hyperlinks between webfolio pages. We've extended the design options with new interface templates and 53 new webfolio templates.

We've also added powerful new gateway features including tutor blogs; verification tools and gateway filtering. Perhaps the most important change though has been the full implementation of the new atom-based interoperability specification LEAP2A.

## Introducing Matthew

We are delighted to introduce you to our new ePortfolio Consultant - Matthew Wheeler. Matthew has a decade of experience working in education and joins us from the University of Leicester where he headed-up a research laboratory known as the *Media Zoo*. He has a diverse background including positions in project management, administration, technical development and research.



Matthew Wheeler

**“As an elected school governor for a large inner-city school I'm passionate about all aspects of learning and specifically the use of technology in the learning environment.”**

Matthew has research published on topics such as student advocacy, pedagogic innovation, distance tutoring, immersive virtual worlds & educational sustainability. Away from work Matthew is a keen all round sportsman who has competed internationally in athletics.

## Heading South?

Colin and Shane are off to Australia once again on another whirlwind tour of the continent. With *workshops* in Bathurst, Adelaide and Melbourne and a usergroup meeting at *UniSA* the 21-day trip will certainly keep them busy. Oh, and they'll be interviewing for our first *Australian employee*!

## Projects we're involved in

**CogenT:** This project is using PebblePad to support the co-generation of academic curricula by employers and academics, in particular, by embedding graduate attributes and employment-related skills for the creation of demand-led continuing professional development (CPD) and degree courses.

**Supporting Responsive Curricula:** This project is developing and using competence frameworks with employers and professional bodies to identify educational and training requirements in terms that are readily understandable to all parties. It will be using PebblePad to support students in showcasing their competences.

**TDA ePortfolio Projects:** During 08/09 the Teacher Development Agency funded a number of eportfolio projects. In addition to PebblePad being the most popular tool in use, its use seems to have been pretty popular with at least two of the small scale projects influencing new cross-institutional implementations of Pebblepad.

**REFLECT:** not so much a project as a long term commitment. The Institute for Learning's choice of PebblePad to power their CPD system seems to be paying off. Originally planned to grow to 25,000 users over the first three years the actual level of use has rocketed with 70,000 users after only 18 months.

## Interview with a PebblePaddler; Emma Purnell, University of Wolverhampton

Emma is working as a CETL Developer (Blended Learning) at the University of Wolverhampton where she supports the integration of eportfolios into curriculum design and evaluates the impact technology has on learners and teachers.



Emma Purnell

### What is a student's typical response to using PebblePad?

*Student response is generally very positive. They really like the ability to customise the interface and in many sessions I have been in this is the first thing they all do. In addition to this I have had lots of feedback from students that the scaffolded activities and 'wizard' style activities are really helpful in getting them started.*

**“We have webfolios being used by staff on research projects to share resources and discuss project processes.”**

### How is PebblePad integrated into your curriculum?

*Predominantly, we have eportfolio based learning at modular level in all schools and at programme level in our School of Education and School of Health. We now have a Blended Learning Strategy, which has six student entitlement targets for all schools in the university.*

### Which is your favourite feature?

*Oooh, difficult one...I guess I would have to say Webfolio, as it allows for presentation of learning in so many ways, from a traditional digital ring binder approach to hypertext narratives.*

Emma's full interview is on our website at <http://portfolio.pebblepad.co.uk/paddlers.asp>

## Power tips



### Adding tagged assets to a webfolio page

On page 4 of the webfolio wizard you can add normal pages (the narrative-based, hyperlink kind) or add items, tags or feeds. To add a tag simply choose the tag tab and then select one of your tags from the list and click on the plus icon. Any item tagged with the selected tag will now appear in list form on the page – listed with the newest items at the top. If all of the tagged items are images they will be displayed as a gallery page.



### Filtering received assets

The drop-down filter blind, activated by the arrow on the received assets tab, allows you to quickly filter for assets with or without comments and for assets updated since you last viewed them. You can also use the name field to search for assets shared by someone.

## Competition Winners

Congratulations to Ajmal Sultany (City University); Matt Dyson (Oxford Brookes) and Marie Gildea (University of Wolverhampton) who won iPods in our WebFolio competition. Their winning WebFolios have been added to our [examples page](#).

## New Customers

We are delighted to welcome a host of new customers to the PebblePad community. Here are just a few examples of the new and expanding uses of PebblePad for the coming academic year. The University of Sussex will be using PebblePad as a core element of their Sussex Plus initiative which focuses on careers and employability. The Universities of Northumbria; of the Highlands and Islands; Derby and Brunel University and are all getting ready for wide-scale use of PebblePad. Imperial College London's School of Medicine are also working closely with us to design an effective framework for using PebblePad with trainee doctors and after a successful hosted pilot year Aston University are now making the system available to all students via a full enterprise licence.

With our flexible options for licensing we are also seeing over a dozen pilot PebblePad projects focused on a range of subject areas including Law, Education, Business Studies, Health and Engineering.

## Events

PebblePad Workshops:

14 - 15 September 2009, **Telford** – Pebble Learning HQ  
24 September 2009, **Adelaide** – University of South Australia  
30 September 2009, **Melbourne** – RMIT  
02 - 03 December 2009, **Melbourne** – Victoria University

More information: <http://portfolio.pebblepad.co.uk/events.asp>

## Conferences

08 - 10 September 2009, **University of Manchester** – ALT-C 2009 Conference  
23 September 2009, **University of South Australia** – ePortfolio Showcase Event  
06 - 09 December 2009, **Auckland, New Zealand** – Ascilite 2009

## Further reading

- CogenT - <http://tinyurl.com/l8ja4t>
- SRC – <http://tinyurl.com/kpup5z>
- REfLECT - <http://www.ifl.ac.uk/cpd/reflect>

## Online Meetings

If you would like to arrange a meeting, see a demo or just have a chat about PebblePad feel free to get in touch ([enquiries@pebblelearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pebblelearning.co.uk)) and we'll be delighted to organise an online meeting, showcasing PebblePad.

## Contact us

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