

PebbleBash 2012: Making the Case – June 2012

Have you started to plan your conferences for next year? Make sure you do not forget about PebbleBash! In *2010 we had over 100 delegates* from around the world sharing their experiences of PebblePad over an informative, relaxed and fun couple of days in sunny Shropshire.



We are pleased to announce that soon we will be accepting submissions for PebbleBash 2012: Making the Case. Delegates who wish to start to work on their submission can download the case study template [here](#).

The conference will again be held at the *Park House Hotel*, Shifnal, 19 – 21 June 2012. Information about the conference themes, submission process, and costs are detailed below. We are still waiting to confirm the key note speakers and the conference dinner entertainment, which was such a hit in 2010, but you can be assured that we are working hard to make the 2012 event even better.

Conference Theme

Organisations are coming under ever increasing pressure to improve performance, cut costs and keep student satisfaction and staff retention high. The global financial crisis isn't making this easy. Cost reduction is having a massive impact on the education sector and organisations are looking very closely at almost every aspect of their business, including teaching and learning.

At these times of scrutiny it is easy to maintain the status quo and stick to traditional ways of working. In justifying the continued use of traditional approaches some people are cynical about the benefits of new technology, citing cost, workload, technical issues and "technology doesn't deliver better results" as reasons not to try new methods. We tend to agree with Oscar Wilde when he wrote, "What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

We know that PebblePad is adding real benefits to the learning and teaching experiences right across our community and so this conference is all about evidencing the real *Value* PebblePad brings to learners, to teachers and to organisations.

Case study submissions highlighting the value of PebblePad in one or more of the following themes are invited:

Learning:

- Reflection
- Graduate Attributes
- Employability
- Accreditation of Prior Learning (APEL/RPL)

Teaching/Professional Practice:

- Programme/Course Development
- Continuing Professional Development
- Managing e-Assessment

Organisation:

- Student Satisfaction
- Retention
- Cost Saving
- Environmental Impact
- Managing Organisational Process

For the benefit of the community it is important that conference submissions move beyond the persuasive argument to an evidence based analysis of the impact of PebblePad upon your chosen theme(s).

Submission Process

- Delegates are invited to submit a 2,000 word case study using the template that is available from the PebbleBash website (www.pebblebash.co.uk)
- The closing date for submissions is **Friday 17 February 2012**.
- Successful submissions will be confirmed by **Friday 16 March 2012**.
- All accepted submissions will be included in the conference book which will be an ISBN registered publication. All delegates will receive a copy of the conference book and it will be available for purchase on Amazon after the event.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Working with PebblePad⁺

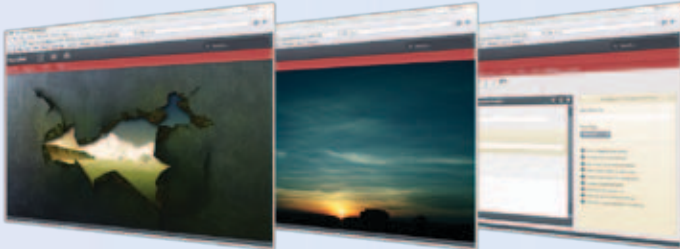
The workshops will focus on PebblePad⁺, introducing a range of new features and tools and exploring some of the underlying concepts supporting teaching, learning and professional development.

Costs

We have done all we can to keep costs down to a minimum whilst repeating the high quality we achieved in 2010. With attendance starting at just £275 for the main conference we think PebbleBash will be one of the best value events in 2012! Full price details including additional workshops and accommodation will be shortly available on the [conference website](#).

PebblePad+ Update

The development team for PebblePad+ has been divided into three-core teams: a front-end team who are designing the interface and processes through the system; a back-end team who are working on system integration and cross-platform interoperability with the view to moving towards a cloud storage solution; and a team dedicated to re-developing Gateways, making them more user friendly and the assessment processes easier to manage.



PebblePad+ will no longer contain separate Form and Profile Builders. Instead a single 'Template Builder' will include all the form and profile components together with the components of the existing PebblePad asset templates. Default asset templates and those custom built using the Template Builder will all look and feel the same. The Template Builder will allow every user to design and use their own templates, perhaps based on existing examples, or by taking examples from the Template Library. Once templates have been designed users will be able to make them available not just to other users in their own institution but also to users on other installations via the Library - we hope this will further support personalised learning approaches.

PP+ Implementation Meetings in Australia

With the first phase of the PebblePad+ implementation process about to begin, Colin is travelling to Australia later this month to visit our Australian customers. In a whirl-wind tour of Perth, Adelaide, Launceston, Sydney, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, and Melbourne, Colin will be meeting with key stakeholders at each organisation to discuss PP+ implementation plans. With the first cohorts scheduled to move to PP+ early in 2012, Colin's visit will be followed by a visit from Shane in Nov/Dec to run training for those staff making the move to PP+. We look forward to hearing some great PP+ stories at PebbleBash 2012 from these Australian early adopters.

New iPad & Assessment on Gateway's Tipsheets

We have recently added a couple of new tipsheets to our ever-expanding list. The first briefly discusses how *PebblePad Mobile can be accessed on an iPad*. Without Flash available it is not possible to use the main PebblePad interface, but the mobile version does enable access to create basic assets, complete forms, and post materials to Blogs and Gateways etc. iPads and other mobile devices can also be used to manage assessment by accessing Gateways directly from the Gateway URL.



The second tipsheet aims to walk tutors through a *basic gateways assessment* process. It provides step-by-step instructions for locking gateways, adding and releasing feedback and grades, archiving, and unlocking the Gateway.

UKTI Visits Pebble Learning

We were delighted to recently host a meeting with Doug Mahoney, UK Trade & Investment's (UKTI) International Trade Director, to present our approaches to expanding into new overseas markets and to discuss opportunities for promoting PebblePad in new territories. UKTI has been extremely helpful, with both advice and financial support in our early overseas adventures, and our exports are now worth 20% of our overall turnover. We anticipate drawing upon their support extensively to assist our expansion into the US markets.



Doug Mahoney
& Shane Sutherland

Expanding Pebble Team

In recent months the *Pebble Team* has continued to grow. We welcome Steven Davies, who initially joined us for some project work but is now part of the PebblePad+ development team; Costas Kourmpoglou who joins as part of a two-year 'Knowledge Transfer Programme', researching cloud computing and data security and Sarah Roden, who joins our support team as a customer support advisor.


Conferences / Events

17-18 October 2011, **Perth, AU** - ePortfolios Australia Conference
20-21 October 2011, **Perth, AU** - ATN Assessment Conference 2011
4-7 December 2011, **Hobart, AU** - Ascilite 2011

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) and we'll be delighted to organise an online meeting, showcasing PebblePad.

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