

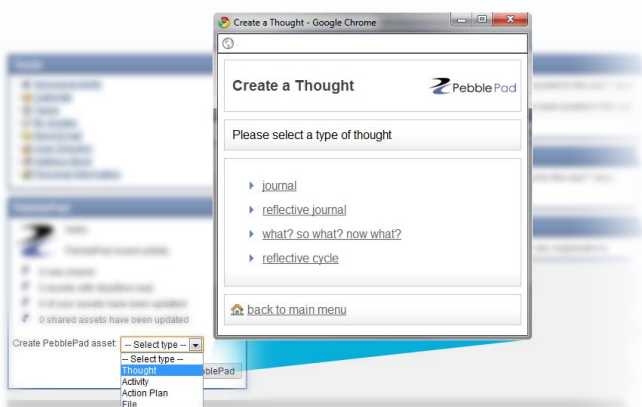
PebblePad Building Block for the Blackboard Learn Platform

Learners may use a range of tools to support their work and for many institutions the central focus for course related activities is the Blackboard Learn platform. Blackboard Learn is a powerful tool for teachers to support their learners and for institutions to manage their learning environment. We believe that it is important for learners to have their own space in addition to the institutionally controlled systems - a place that allows them to plan and record their learning independent of the course or unit of study they are enrolled in. PebblePad provides a personal environment that is not course specific and is available to users for free for up to a year after they leave the institution. It is also important that it is as easy as possible for people to work with PebblePad, so we have developed a feature rich Blackboard Building Block™ to assist learners in their movement between the Blackboard Learn and PebblePad environments.

“ Very quick and very easy asset creation without even needing to open PebblePad ”

Firstly we want access to PebblePad to be as easy as possible. It is annoying to have to log into multiple systems when you are trying to get on with work. The single sign on feature takes a user who is logged into Blackboard Learn straight into PebblePad with a single click without needing to login again. If a user is new to PebblePad the building block can be configured by a Blackboard administrator to allow automatic account creation. So the first time they click a link the users details are passed to PebblePad and an account is set up for them.

Within PebblePad the home screen displays status information relating to a users' account. The building block displays this overview information via a simple dashboard. The dashboard lists how many items a user has, how many items have been updated, when new



items have been shared and if any items have a deadline set. This dashboard approach makes it very quick and easy to see what's going in PebblePad from within Blackboard Learn.

PebblePad is designed to support reflection. We have created a simple drop down menu in our Blackboard Building Block that provides users with a range of forms to create PebblePad assets from within the Blackboard Learn environment. The ability to record what you are thinking about or what you plan to do whilst working in Blackboard means you can capture the moment at the point of need without having to move to another system - very quick and very easy asset creation without even needing to open PebblePad.



IMS Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI)

The cornerstone of our building block is the emerging IMS LTI standard which is designed to support the linking of systems and the transfer of learner information. The current basic LTI specification enables us to develop a standards based single sign on facility, which passes across user details from Blackboard Learn to PebblePad. These details can then be used to log the user in or, if appropriate, create an account for them. When the LTI standard moves beyond the basic level, PebblePad will be able to offer a range of options including managing group membership for gateways based on course registration in Blackboard Learn.

The block supports Blackboard Learn Release 9.x and higher. Blackboard Learn is of course an evolving system and we are committed to enhancing our block as new possibilities emerge. You can check the latest information about the PebblePad Blackboard block on our website <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/pebbleblocks>

Contact



Email: enquiries@pebblepad.co.uk
Web: <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/>



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Web: <http://www.pebblepad.com.au/>