

## Moodle 2 PebblePad

Learners may use a range of tools to support their work and for many institutions the central focus for course related activities is Moodle. Moodle 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 Moodle block to assist learners in their movement between the Moodle and PebblePad environments.

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 Moodle straight into PebblePad with a single click without needing to login again.

PebblePad is designed to support reflection. We have created a simple drop down menu in our Moodle block that provides users with an option to create PebblePad assets from within the Moodle environment. The ability to record what you are thinking about



or what you plan to do whilst working in Moodle 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.

### Learners' Personal Record of Learning and Resources

Often when a course is completed on Moodle the tutor clears out things to prepare for the next group of learners. For users this can mean they lose access to work they have submitted and forum discussions they have contributed to. The PebblePad Moodle block allows users to transfer these items straight to their PebblePad account from Moodle. This then allows them to use the items as evidence of learning or to support their future learning activities.

In addition to the Moodle Block being able to send items to the institutional version of PebblePad, users can also configure it to work with any other installation of PebblePad that they have

access to. For example, members of the Chartered Society for Physiotherapy (CSP) in the UK have a PebblePad account provided by the society to support their on-going professional activities. Student members and physiotherapy tutors may also have a PebblePad account at their institution. By simply adding details of their additional account they can set the block to work with both versions of PebblePad. So a CSP member can easily send work from Moodle to the most appropriate installation of PebblePad.

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



### Which versions of Moodle are supported?

We have a block for both Moodle 1.9x and Moodle 2.0x.

Moodle 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 Moodle block on our website <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/moodle>

### Contact



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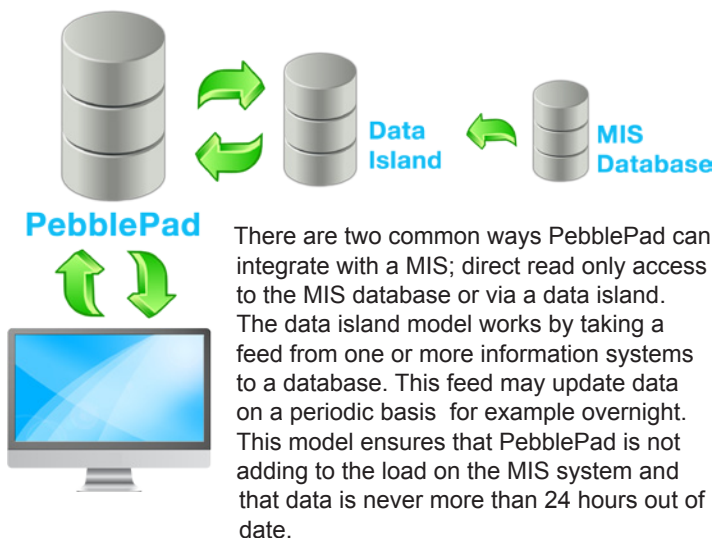
## Interoperability

PebblePad is a personal learning system that sits within an institutional environment. The organisation manages the system but the users manage and own the information in their personal PebblePad account. As a system that lives within an organisation framework there are some significant advantages to linking PebblePad to other enterprise systems such as a student management system.

For example, the management of gateway groups can be linked to the course or unit of study so that if the class list changes in the official institutional records system the gateway membership is instantly updated. The benefits are not just for the institution. The personal details such as contact details, prior qualifications and current course grades for a user can be automatically added to the About Me area in PebblePad meaning when a user creates a CV they do not have to re-enter the same information multiple times.

To allow other systems to communicate with PebblePad it has been designed to be a very open system which uses XML based Web services to transfer data both internally and externally. This means that PebblePad can both supply data to other systems and utilise information held in other systems.

PebblePad uses an IMS enterprise web service for the transfer of data held by an organisation about individuals. This data may include personal contact information course and progress data; group membership and professional affiliations. Each institution can determine which data it wants to share with PebblePad. For individuals this means that there is no need to enter contact details or prior qualifications when creating a CV. For tutors working with large cohorts of students integration with the Management Information System (MIS) means that groups can be quickly created based on registration information such as course enrolment.



We recently worked with a customer who wanted to take a more dynamic approach to their updating of data and so we have worked with them to develop a push/pull model where the student management system pushes out updates in real-time to the data island Individual updates are applied to the data island as soon as changes are made in the student management system. When PebblePad needs any information about a user it checks the data island and always gets the latest details.



We believe that PebblePad has great potential for supporting people after they graduate and this is why we provide a free account when someone leaves an institution. However, users may find that an organization they join uses a different system and so it is important for them to be able to transfer personally significant information out of PebblePad and into another system. PebblePad supports the LEAP2A standard which has been designed to enable the transfer of eportfolio items from one system to another. This standard currently offers the best option for transferring items to other systems. Not all systems have the same features and structures as PebblePad and so some items may display differently when imported into another system. To overcome this issue PebblePad also supports exporting all PebblePad assets as a HTML web page. These exported web pages can usually be imported into other systems allowing users to provide a snapshot of their previous activities.



### Bespoke Integration

The Web Services approach which underpins PebblePad means it is possible to offer bespoke integration with a wide range of systems without huge expense. For example, one institution is linking its research activity database to PebblePad to allow research active staff to create instant CVs and other outputs. In another example, Institute for Learning members send a CPD record directly from PebblePad to the institutions membership database. This record does not submit the full CPD report, just an overview which includes statistical information such as the number of CPD hours and the broad areas of professional development each individual has been engaged in during the year. The Institute can then generate reports from the membership system to identify trends based on time or areas of personal development amongst members.

A wide range of integration options are possible. If you like to find out more please feel free to contact us to discuss how PebblePad can link to your systems.

### Contact



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