

Cover sheet for bids (all sections must be completed)

**JISC ITT: Extension and Development of LEAP2A (PIOP 3)**

Name of institution/organisation: Pebble Learning Ltd.
Project partners (if applicable):
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Length of Project: 5 months and 1 day.
Project Start & End Dates: 01.02.2010 - 02.07.2010
Total Funding Requested from JISC: £5,000
Outline Project Description:  PebblePad will continue to extend the use of the LEAP2A specification through the further development of an open source Moodle Block which will facilitate the export of LEAP2A zip-packages from Moodle v1.9. This will enable any Moodle user to export Moodle items as LEAP2A assets and import them into other compatible programmes or tools, for example PebblePad or Mahara.  The enhanced Moodle block will enable the following items to be exported in the LEAP2A format as a downloadable file: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any file previously uploaded into Moodle</li><li>• Moodle blog contributions</li><li>• Moodle forums</li><li>• Resources (for example course materials uploaded by tutors)</li><li>• Assignments (including the task, submission and feedback)</li></ul>
Tick this box to indicate that this proposal has been approved by an appropriate member of the institution/organisation <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>

## Introduction

Pebble Learning is an established PIOP partner and a recognised leader in e-portfolio interoperability. As part of the original projects we have helped develop the LEAP2A specification, working closely with colleagues to help establish its utility.

This PIOP3 extension project will allow the development team to extend the use of the LEAP2A specification through the further development of the open source Moodle Block that will facilitate the export of LEAP2A zip-packages from Moodle v1.9. This will enable any Moodle user to export Moodle items as LEAP2A assets and import them into other compatible programmes or tools, for example PebblePad or Mahara.

The enhanced Moodle block will enable the following items to be exported in the LEAP2A format as a downloadable file:

Any file previously uploaded into Moodle

- Moodle blog contributions
- Moodle forums
- Resources (for example course materials)
- Assignments (including the task, submission and feedback)

The block will also allow users to target their assets directly at online systems with a LEAP2A import function. The block will use OAuth as a generic authentication and access control mechanism to provide a high level of security while allowing end-user control over the systems they wish to send content to. This will provide end-users a choice of which tools they wish to use and isolate access to the user's account. Preventing administrators using the greater levels of access available in Moodle from viewing personal and private data held in user's portfolios.

We will also continue to work closely with the established PIOP partners; a necessity if the specification is to be developed into a viable alternative to IMS eP. Additionally we will support new partners through technical consultancy provided both in the form of project documentation and the provision of telephone and email support.

## System Information

PebblePad is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and complex system of its type in the UK; it also has more active users than any other system in UK Higher Education (HE) sector and with an increasingly strong presence in Australia.

PebblePad is a Personal Learning System currently being used in further education colleges, universities and professional bodies; by approximately 600,000 learners, teachers and assessors; for Personal Development Planning (PDP), Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Learning & Teaching (L&T).

The system has been designed with the learner at the centre of the tool. It provides scaffolding, in the form of asset *wizards*, to help users create, evidence and record learning, achievement and aspiration: it has an embedded reflective structure underpinning all of its core elements.

PebblePad supports personal learning whilst also providing a suite of tools to support learning in institutional contexts e.g. assessment, appraisal and accreditation. PebblePad assets can be shared with trusted individuals, published to group pages or made public to

the worldwide web. Over time users create, store and review multiple assets', which can be aggregated into powerful presentational portfolios, called WebFolios.

Increasingly users transfer their assets into PebblePad; between instantiations of PebblePad; and between PebblePad and other tools or systems. Providing an easy means of transporting learner-owned assets has been a core principle throughout the development of the system.

PebblePad has a flash-based user interface; a SQL database and uses the .NET framework.

## **Interoperability**

PebblePad's interoperability was first demonstrated in October 2005 when complex assets were imported and exported between instantiations of PebblePad and simple assets were transferred between PebblePad and ePET at the ElfEL Conference. The specification used at that time was IMS LIP, which is still mapped internally within the system.

Latterly IMS eP was implemented (2006) and PebblePad is widely held to have the most comprehensive implementation of IMS eP worldwide. Recent work has seen the development team working as an originating partner on PIOP as well as the contemporaneous development of an HR-XML web-service as part of the JISC-funded PortisHEad project.

Support for Shibboleth; LDAP; IMS Enterprise and various forms of single sign-on are indicative of the wider interoperability of the system.

This project will provide an important opportunity for the implementation of OAuth.

## **Scenario of Practice**

There are a range of contexts where a Moodle based LEAP2A export would be beneficial, for example:

- Learners transferring assets from an FE institution (where Moodle is a widely used system) into a HE context where they may first encounter an ePortfolio;
- Teachers transferring assets from a college CPD course in Moodle to REfLECT (the bespoke version of PebblePad used by the Institute for Learning);

As an extension of the PIOP3 project we expect to work closely with our original partners to fully test the utility of LEAP2A in support of two particular scenarios:

1. A graduating student leaving an institution for further studies where their new institution using PebblePad. Managing the transfer of Moodle items and any evidence or feedback will provide an important test for the real-life implementation of the LEAP2A specification.
2. A teacher working in the Learning and Skills Sector in Nottinghamshire may be using Moodle and REfLECT contemporaneously. The ability to move assets from one system to the other and back will provide a valuable test of LEAP2A's ability to minimise actual data loss and the loss of 'meaning' as a result of structural or relationship degradation.

The Moodle block will be a released as an open-source component.



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