



Project Document Cover Sheet

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Project Information			
Project Acronym			
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Start Date	November 1 st 2008	End Date	March 31 st 2009
Lead Institution	University of Nottingham		
Project Director	Angela Smallwood		
Project Manager & contact details	Kirstie Coolin Kirstie.Coolin@nottingham.ac.uk 0115 95 16976		
Partner Institutions	Connexions Nottinghamshire		
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E-portfolio Interoperability – Bid Document

Overview of Project

1. Background

The University of Nottingham's Centre for International e-Portfolio Development (ClePD) has a record of successful projects in the area of e-Portfolio, standards and data exchange. eP4LL investigated an e-Portfolio web services approach, using UKLEAP (the draft BSI standard derived from IMS LIP) as the XML standard. At the same time, the RIPPLL project piloted transfer of data to/from the City of Nottingham Passport, an FE MIS system, an Employer's HR system and an HE PDP system, also using UKLEAP. The ClePD is involved in the national and international e-Portfolio communities, and has contributed to the direction of e-Portfolio standards work.

The ClePD is currently delivering the e-Portfolio strand of the regional Lifelong Learning Network, which offers real opportunities to prototype existing scenarios evolving in partner institutions. PebblePAD is being piloted with regional FE and HEIs and Passportfolio is currently being rolled out in Nottinghamshire schools and piloted in FEIs. Passportfolio is an interactive e-Portfolio and personal development tool for young people in Nottinghamshire: it provides a place for recording achievement, work experience and anything relating to personal development. It is learning provider independent and hosted by Connexions, with currently 3500 users in over 20 local schools. The system is also presently undergoing re-development, with a beta version being rolled out at the end of October and a general re-launch planned for January. Trialling data exchange between these two systems will presage a regional requirement for joining up school and FE/HE portfolio data.

The ClePD has been involved since December 2007 in a JISC funded initiative to explore the use of an ATOM based specification to simplify transfer of e-Portfolio data. This work was undertaken with JISC-CETIS, Pebble Learning and the Newcastle University.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project is to pilot the proposed LEAP2A e-Portfolio specification with portfolio data transfer between the Nottingham Passportfolio and PebblePAD, and to provide opportunity for other mini-projects to test their LEAP2A data with the Passportfolio import.

This work will test the emerging standard with the Passportfolio and will:

- Converge with the other mini-projects to identify core e-Portfolio data to be included within the specification
- Identify a core set of e-Portfolio data types to transfer. E.g. define what is in scope and what isn't
- Identify where out of scope data, such as personal information, can be applied to other standards (e.g. HR-XML, SIF etc.)
- Investigate how files could be transferred
- Investigate how LEAP2A could interface with these other standards where appropriate

3. Overall Approach

The University of Nottingham has a close working relationship with Connexions Nottinghamshire and ClePD staff are already permitted to access both the development and live servers where Passportfolio sits due to the existing JOSEPH project.

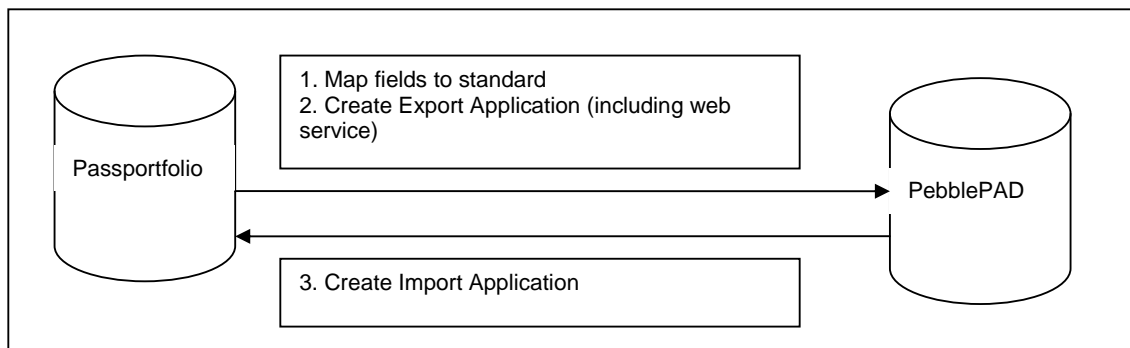
Using the Passportfolio development system we propose to:

- Map the re-developed Passportfolio data against the new standard

- Create an export application to sit beside Passportfolio on the Connexions development server and allow LEAP2A data to be accessed via a web service. The export application will allow the test user to select the data they wish to export.
- Develop an import application to test LEAP2A feeds from other systems within the mini projects.
- Identify areas where other existing standards could be incorporated (e.g. SIF, HR-XML)

We will also collaborate with Pebble Learning who we worked with to develop the LEAP 2.0 standard to test their import function (developed for the original LEAP 2.0 PIOP work) and allow their developers access to the test account in order to simulate a user experience of exporting/importing data between the two systems. The University of Nottingham has worked with the Pebble Learning team since May 2007 on early e-Portfolio interoperability prototyping and on the PIOP work and we have attended meetings and calls to discuss this work and move it forward. We will also test the import and export functions with those developed by other LEAP2A project partners

Scope: This project aims to use Passportfolio, an established regional e-Portfolio system, to test the import and export of LEAP2A data and to make recommendations and aid the definition of its scope.



4. Project Outputs

- Passportfolio LEAP2A export web service for testing with other Mini-projects
- Passportfolio LEAP2A import function for pulling in and testing a feed from PebblePAD and other mini-projects.
- Scenarios apparent from the activity
- Mapping tables with details of fields/glossary used for discussion and documentation
- Investigate import/export of files and produce report
- Use and evaluation; analysis and report including recommendations for further work, documentation of technical approach undertaken and experiences of this.
- Dissemination, national conference submission

5. Project Outcomes

Moving forward the development of the LEAP 2.0 initiative to support the cross-sector regional and national interoperability agenda and to support the developments of e-Portfolios for transition between Schools/FE/HE and employment.

6. Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	Interest / stake	Importance
University of Nottingham	Joining up systems for transition and contributing to the WP agenda	Medium
Connexions	Setting a precedent for interoperability of Passportfolio with other systems	High
Pebble Learning	Refinement of PebblePAD interoperability interfaces	Medium
Wider FE and HE community	Preparing the ground for further interoperability work and documenting best practice for importing and exporting data.	Medium
JISC/JISC-CETIS	Documentation and recommendations for further standard development and implementation.	High
ePortfolio and HR community	Documentation as to where standard will support employment systems and context within standards landscape	Medium

7. Risk Analysis

Risk	Probability (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Score (P x S)	Action to prevent/manage risk
Loss of key staff	2	4	8	Clear and regularly reviewed documentation; regular progress reviews to ensure smooth handover
Access to systems	2	5	10	Early commitment from senior management; work helps support core business; regular reviews to facilitate support from other partners
Technology does not fulfil expectations	1	3	3	Clear management of expectations of all partners from early stage; communication with other projects to share findings and solutions to problems
Failure to meet deadlines and work within budget	1	4	4	Designate reporter and plan accordingly.

8. Standards

Name of standard or specification	Version	Notes
LEAP2A	1.0	Standard in development
XML	1.0	Common Standard format
XHTML	1.1	For accessibility
XSLT	2.0	To provide any translations or LEAP2A to other specifications or for database import.
SOAP	1.2	For web service transport

9. Technical Development

Detailed above in 3.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

Connexions Nottinghamshire own the IPR for Passportfolio including the underlying data structures. A public mapping exercise will use the Passportfolio user interface to describe where LEAP2A elements correspond to Passportfolio in order that the field names and database structure are not exposed. However, the private field mapping exercise can also be shared amongst JISC-CETIS and other partners undertaking the mini-projects. There are no further anticipated IPR issues.

Project Resources

11. Project Partners

Primary Contact

Kirstie Coolin – eBusiness Analyst, will manage the day to day project and development activities and ensure that the deliverables are met.

Stuart Wood – Application Developer, will carry out the majority of the technical work for this project, including liaising with Passportfolio developers and Connexions to ensure continued access to the systems and appropriate understanding of its architecture.

Connexions Nottinghamshire – will provide access to their server and test accounts as well as acting as intermediaries with the Passportfolio developers.

12. Project Management

Project Team Members

Project Director Angela Smallwood, Director, 0115 8467301, Angela.Smallwood@nottingham.ac.uk

Project manager Kirstie Coolin, eBusiness Analyst, 0115 9516976, Kirstie.Coolin@nottingham.ac.uk

Lead Developer Stuart Wood, Application Developer, 0115 9516977, Stuart.Wood@nottingham.ac.uk

Centre for International e-Portfolio Development, Level 1 Hallward Library, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD

13. Programme Support

It would be helpful if JISC would provide guidance on documentation and reports, a Jiscmail list or forum, an interim workshop for mini-project partners, a 'codebash' towards the end of the project, and development of a website to provide an area for dissemination, marketing and developer tools.

14. Outline Budget

Staff costs	£
Non-staff costs	
	11413
Total requested from JISC	10000
Institutional contribution	1413

We would not be appointing an external evaluator due to the scope and size of the project; however, we will carry out peer evaluation with other mini project partners.

15. Project Schedule

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Mapping of fields and glossary				
Project outline				
Test account set up				
Project website				
	Produce sharable mappings table			
	Export web service			
	Export documentation			
	Import mechanism + documentation			
	Scenarios			
	Documentation on how learners would access system			
		Testing with other partners		
				Final reports, evaluation and recommendations

16. Dissemination Plan

Timing	Dissemination Activity	Audience	Purpose
Jan-Mar08 / ongoing	Presentation at CETIS SIGs	e-Portfolio SIG community	Advance findings and standard use
Oct 08 / Oct09	Maastricht EifEL ePortfolio conference	International e-Portfolio and digital identity community	Aid with the international recognition of UK work
Ongoing	Website promotion	Interested public, Universities	Explain what we are doing to the wider community
Oct08/Jan08	Programme meetings	JISC community	
Nov08/Nov09	CETIS conference	Technical project community	Expand LEAP community

Appendix 1

Key personnel

Angela Smallwood

Dr Angela Smallwood is Director of the Centre for International ePortfolio Development and Co-Director of the Centre for Integrative Learning at the University of Nottingham. A National Teaching Fellow, she has received several grants of FDTL and DfES funding for a series of influential collaborative projects linking personal development planning in UK universities with 16–19 education and employment, and has a strong record in project development and dissemination. She is a contributor to CETIS and EPICC work and an experienced workshop leader. She was Director of the successful JISC MLE Phase 2 project 'Specifying an ePortfolio', as well as the University of Nottingham-led RIPPLL and ePortfolio Reference Model (eP4LL) projects. She is currently Director of the JOSEPH project and the Nottingham strand of the multi-partner EU FP7 TAS³ project. She is also directing the e-Portfolio and technology strand of LEAP AHEAD, the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire Lifelong Learning Network.

Kirstie Coolin

Kirstie is the eBusiness Analyst for the Centre for International e-Portfolio Development working currently to deliver the e-Portfolio and technical strand for LEAP AHEAD, the Lifelong Learning Network for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and on supporting other Centre projects including the JISC JOSEPH project. Kirstie previously worked for the University of Nottingham Centre for Integrative Learning CETL and IS Learning Team as an application developer on the ClePD's JISC projects, including eP4LL, RIPPLL and JOSEPH, the last two of which involved working with Connexions, FE partners and technical developers to develop and implement web services supporting work in e-Portfolio interoperability. Kirstie has been involved with the e-Portfolio community now for over two years, and also has 8 years experience working in the FE sector developing and project managing eLearning systems, Intranets, websites and business support systems. Kirstie has project managed implementations of various systems over the years and is currently managing the roll out of 1000 e-Portfolio licences within the LLN region. Kirstie's technical skills mainly centre on web and database applications in .NET, XML and SQL Server with some experience in PHP and MySQL and she has been involved in the early stages of the LEAP 2.0 project with the original partners.

Stuart Wood

Stuart is an Applications Developer based at the University of Nottingham working for the Centre for International e-Portfolio Development, working primarily on the e-Portfolio and technical strand for LEAP AHEAD, the Lifelong Learning Network for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and the JISC JOSEPH project. Both of these projects involve innovative technical work around XCRI and web services and include working directly with Connexions staff and with FE and HE practitioners. Stuart has created LEAP2A exports from Passportfolio for the original LEAP 2.0 project.

Stuart comes from a web development background in Financial & CRM systems using the .NET framework to create web-based applications. He has experience of working with XML, VB.NET, ASP.NET, SQL Server, JavaScript and CSS.