

Dan Corlett, CETADL, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Tony Chan, CETADL, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Jeffrey Ting, CETADL, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Mike Sharples, CETADL, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Oliver Westmancott, Westmancott Consulting, United Kingdom

Dan Corlett is Projects Manager at the Centre for Educational Technology and Distance Learning (CETADL), University of Birmingham, UK. He has led the Interactive Logbook project since it was started as a student design project in 2003, and has managed the recent development phase under funding from JISC. Dan has a background in and particular enthusiasm for mobile learning projects (HandLeR, SLO, etc.).



Interactive Logbook: a Mobile Portfolio and Personal Development Planning Tool

Interactive Logbook is an integrated Personal Learning Environment (PLE) for use in both formal and informal settings. The metaphor of a multimedia logbook describes its functionality and simplicity.

The PLE brings together all the tools and networked resources required by the learner. Running on the learner's PC it helps the user to plan, manage, track and review their learning activity. The Logbook is essentially a shell application with plug in support for any local or networked tool. Example plug-ins include: word processor; email client; virtual learning environment (VLE); internet messaging; weblog aggregator.

The system keeps a record of the user's activities, which the student can then review as a personal learning diary, or revise and present as a portfolio of achievement, where evidence of learning can be mapped to a Personal Development Plan (PDP). For the mobile learner, three features are key: offline access to online resources when out of network range; Tablet PC enhancements for note-taking; a mobile phone client (see Figure 1) for when access to a PC is impossible or inappropriate.

The phone client is a 'helper' application, allowing the user to continue making log entries wherever they are, whilst accessing a subset of the networked resources such as email, calendar and news feeds.

This paper describes the technical, human and institutional challenges encountered in trying to develop an open source consolidated learning environment in the emerging ePortfolio and ePDP field. It also discusses findings from user trials and future challenges including how to mine and present the data contained in the log.



Figure 1 : Interactive Logbook mobile phone client