

Uses of Tablet Devices in Work Based Learning

The following are examples of ways that West Midlands based learning providers used tablet Devices as part of a recent Mobile Learning Project. A full project report highlights the overall findings from each of these providers based on their experiences.

This can be accessed online at: <http://wiki.rscwmsystems.org.uk/images/c/c2/LJMM.pdf>

Provider 1

Before the project:

One provider wanted to test mobile devices such as the iPad for their access to course materials and resources from various locations, using web-enabled technology. They hoped that these devices would free individuals, including tutors, from the constraints of the classroom or ICT suite, allowing them to refer to, capture and share information and thoughts from anywhere with web access.

Advantages and usefulness:

- Proved a valuable aid to supporting differentiated learning.
- Offered a modern feel to learning and has had a positive effect on learners' image of their course.
- For some learners, particularly those who have iPhone or iPods, the iPad offers a seamless extension of existing skills.

After use:

The intention is to continue use of the iPad and ideally extend the number in use. In the first instance, more apps will be acquired from industry professionals. These will be used by learners for research and assessment. The provider also plans to explore the use of other tablets, comparing and contrasting them against the iPad to determine the cost-benefit position of each. The iPad has been well received by Tutors in the target sectors, who have embraced its use and searched for relevant Apps.

Provider 2

Before the project:

A second training provider hoped to use an iPad to allow their learners (and employers and assessors) in the work place, to access a personalised individual learning package. This would include giving learners access to GOLLA online summative assessment, the providers VLE, their e-ILP and SkillWise e-portfolio, and other online learning opportunities.

- Quick and easy access to e-portfolio

- Anyone can quickly access resources online through MOODLE, or record evidence to their e-portfolio, or check what needs to be achieved.
- The ability to share information between the group using the iPad and the saloons television displays.

After use:

The provider has already expanded the project with 3 further iPads in the salon. They have also issues all of their Heads of Cluster iPads to access information efficiently, resulting in paperless meetings.

Provider 3

Before the project:

Another provider hoped the new Samsung Tab would allow them to build up on the popularity and functionality of their new e-portfolio system Learning Assistant. Using both the Care and Construction areas within the Apprenticeship Assessor teams the project would focus on uploading, reviewing and assessing candidate portfolio work using the network and large hard drive capabilities of the Tab.

Advantages and usefulness:

- Ability to video and then upload content to the e-portfolio without needing to return to the office.
- A quicker turnaround on portfolio reviews and less time spent travelling to and from the college to submit, upload and review candidate material.
- Fast and seamless access to online resources.

After use:

The pilot project has been such a success within its remit the project will be rolled out as a full scale implementation for all Assessors.

Provider 4

Before the project:

This provider had two separate uses planned for the iPad, the first, capturing Learner Views, and the second, carrying out Learner Progress Reviews. Assessors could take the iPad out to the learners and facilitate the completion of the surveys using a page that includes links to both the FfE Learner Views Survey and the providers own survey site.

Advantages and usefulness:

- Improved speed at which Learner surveys could be accessed

- Quick start up times
- Very easy to use once learners had grasped the basic pinch, drag and flip functions

After use:

This provider will be using the mobile technologies for future Learner Voice activities.

Provider 5

Before the project:

Another regional provider has already had great success with implementing Loan Laptops to learners and was now considering the iPad to provide portable and lightweight access to the internet for their Assessors when in company. They noted that their Apprentices and Advanced Apprentices require immediate information when questioning the assessor and this device would enable such information to be available on the shop floor immediately.

Advantages and usefulness:

- Increased accessibility to technology whilst undergoing assessment on the job.
- Speeded up progress towards the attainment of key skills.
- Greatly improved access to Internet research.

After use:

The provider is currently reviewing the use of these devices and evaluating the cost of further devices against faster attainment levels. They are also considering if the cost of this device against a net book is viable.

Provider 6

Before the project:

The device was to be piloted with group of CDP Leaders in Schools. The aim was that they would be enrolled on a Level 5 Coaching programme and would submit their assessment modules on to the Learning Providers own Moodle. The provider planned to send out regular knowledge “tests” which would encourage the learners to use social networking to share CPD resources that can be used in schools.

Advantages and usefulness:

- Ability to provide mobile access to online resources.
- The device was quick to start up.
- Specific apps to support the development of key skills can be accessed on the move.

After use:

The provider plans to wait until the higher quality mobile devices become cheaper. In the meantime, they intend to download UFI numeracy apps that the learners can use to test their skills without having to surf the internet.

Provider 7

Before the project:

Another provider hoped that the use of an Apple iPad as a portable presentation tool would assist trainers who are “on the move”. They noted that the iPad could be connected to a portable projector (if necessary) to cope with small group training.

Advantages and usefulness:

- High quality presentation materials that aid learning.
- Portability (size and weight)

After use:

The provider plans to continue the use of the equipment as is, with plans to consider a 3G iPad 2 to explore whether the greater connectivity will benefit the learner experience.