DSE Forum
Tablet Trial

24 May 2012
Aims

- To set some context for the trial
- To outline the process
- To present findings to date
- To provide the opportunity to discuss this between colleagues and with a participant in the trial
Context

• “[The mobile is] an object that, in the space of a decade has become as essential to human functioning as a pair of shoes” *The Economist.*

  – 90% of the world population have wireless ICT coverage
  – 4 billion active mobile data users worldwide
  – Smartphones sub £100 and targeted at sub $50
  – Learning is, to an extent, embedded (Nokia Life Tools, web access.....)

  » Gartner 2010
Context – M, U and E

• M learning isn’t new
• It has been (and is) constantly on the verge of massive takeup
• Contested term – What (who) is mobile? What is learning?
  – U-learning out of UbiComp
  – M learning as the M version of E learning
• Evolving – Wired to wireless. Laptop to smartphone to tablet. 2G to 3G to 4G. Device centric to ecosystem.
Context - Trial

- MSc International Business
- Tablet devices
- Bolt on – evolution not revolution

- Nic Forsans, Catherine Bell
Project Aims

• Assess whether tablets improve the student learning experience
  – In formal sessions?
  – Around formal sessions?
  – How?

• Assess which tablets suit which tasks in a typical semester
  – Size
  – OS
  – Keyboard

• Assess whether tablets can replace paper and explore user resistance

• Identify training and support needs
Pepperdine Study

iPad Research Study

Pepperdine University’s Information Technology staff members are working with Pepperdine faculty to assess the effectiveness of the iPad as a learning tool. Beginning with exploratory research in fall 2010, and continuing in spring 2011 and ending with an quasi-experimental design in fall 2011, this study will compare student learning outcomes in the control and experimental sections for each course. The iPad research team will review feedback from faculty and students involved in the study and assess the impact the iPad has on learning.

The research team is working to answer two specific questions:
1. Does the iPad have the potential to enhance students’ performance on course learning objectives?
2. Can we develop a formula for success?

iPad Workshops for Faculty

Our iPad Research Study will come to a close this December, but the iPads will continue to be used in the classroom to enhance learning. The Technology and Learning group will collect faculty to work with in the spring and summer terms and will provide full technical and pedagogical support for the iPads.

View iPad pilots and studies at other schools.

Study Importance

This research initiative is being conducted by Information Technology. It is in line with the desire to use technology to purposefully enhance teaching and learning at Pepperdine University. This initiative also coincides with the division’s goal to provide ‘anytime, anywhere’ technological services to the campus community.

What is the iPad Research Study?

In August 2010, Pepperdine University launched a three-term study to assess the iPad’s potential in the...
Environment
Devices

iOS

iPad 2
Devices
Reactions

- [http://ipadsontrial.wordpress.com/](http://ipadsontrial.wordpress.com/)
Key findings

- Not ‘plug and play’ – there is a learning curve and support is key
- Users are just that
- iPad is preferred to Android
Use in class

- **During lectures and seminars**
  - Reading materials
  - Note taking
  - Lookup facts, extend information and knowledge
  - Use apps (web, calculator etc)
  - VLE access

- **Improved engagement**

- **Needs support with appropriate apps and with the right infrastructure**
Use outside class

• Prepare for classes, extend classes
• Associated reading
  – ‘Martini’ learning was a key sell
  – Portability and quick access were key
  – As was the display
  – As was battery life

• Access VLE
• Web browsing
• Blog - read and post
• Twitter
• Note taking
• Group work preparation
• Reading notes and texts
• Skype conversations
• Email access
• Social media access
• RSS monitoring
• Calculator etc
• TED talks
• Dropbox
• Google Docs
• Journals
• News feeds
Does size matter?

- iOS
  - More usage
  - More reliable
  - Better display – both bigger and sharper
  - Apple centric

- Android
  - Less usage
  - Less reliable
  - Varied display qualities and sizes
  - More devices
  - Lower cost(?)
Training and support

• Users were pretty independent (some had own devices anyway) and devices were fairly intuitive

• Need an ecosystem of apps and ways of accessing information

• Need to support the use of key apps and that will require training to get fastest and most effective engagement and use

• No theft, no breakage (so far)
Summary of lessons

• Students like, and use, the devices before, during and after classes.
• This is *mostly* a GOOD THING and supports interaction and learning
• iOS is preferred and used more
• Devices are only useful within an ecosystem where they have been given a purpose
• Training and support are required but this is co-produced not dictated.
• Individual preferences are reflected in use and tools for use
• Paperless is probably unattainable. *Paper? Less!* Is more like the goal.
• Change will have to be at a system level to really change the experience.....