Speed geeking:
exciting rapid fire presentations for quick overview of L&T innovations
12.55 pm - 2.00 pm, Friday 26 November 2010

**ePortfolios and Engineering**

Presented by:

**Dr Caleb White**
Lecturer
School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
RMIT University

Dr Caleb White is a lecturer in the School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at RMIT University. He coordinates and teaches a first year professional practice course taken by all commencing undergraduate engineering students as well as specialist courses in later years of the aerospace engineering program. In addition to teaching, Dr White conducts research in the area of Micro Aerial Vehicles (MAVs), biofuels for aerospace and aviation applications and advanced composite materials. As an aviation eccentric, Dr White races sailplanes cross-country and instructs with the Victorian Motorless Flight Group at Bacchus Marsh on weekends.

Supported by:

**Meaghan Botterill**
Senior Coordinator - Educational Technology Integration
Educational Technology Advancement Group (EduTAG)
RMIT University

Meaghan Botterill is the Senior Coordinator Educational Technology Integration at RMIT University. In this role, she is responsible for the implementation of enterprise-wide educational technologies with a current focus on the introduction of ePortfolios into academic courses and programs across the university. Meaghan has a background in English as a Second Language and Adult literacy and was the Resources Coordinator of RMIT’s Study and Learning Centre. She has extensive experience in online learning resource development. In 2003, she was the joint winner of the RMIT University Teaching Award for Student Centred Learning.
1. What are ePortfolios?

ePortfolios, or electronic portfolios, are a collection of evidence, work or information stored online, that shows the development of student (and staff!) learning, knowledge, skills and abilities over time. Evidence, which may include assessment tasks, can be stored in different file formats including text, image, video and audio files. They can be kept as part of a course or subject, or can span across an entire field of study, e.g. a plumbing apprenticeship or an engineering degree, to show evidence of your learning and skills development over time.

RMIT is currently trialling the PebblePad ePortfolio system. It is a great way to think about learning, personal and career development. ePortfolios add a lot of flexibility to the way students can present and share their work, learning and achievements with others. The PebblePad system has proved very useful in the implementation and management of a number of first year engineering courses.

2. My ePortfolio @ RMIT


Meaghan Botterill is the implementation champion for ePortfolios at RMIT; she is fantastically supportive and can be contacted with Meaghan.botterill@rmit.edu.au.

3. Getting started with ePortfolios

There are a number of options and resources available to make the inclusion of ePortfolios within your teaching courses / programs an easy and straightforward process. Access to PebblePad will be provided directly to you or your students via a link within the RMIT Learning Hub.

Firstly, as a staff member, you are automatically eligible for a PebblePad, ePortfolio account. Alternatively, you might like to nominate your course / program for the trial, in which case you will also receive an account. However, due to the limited number of student licenses, we will need to know the approximate number of students in your program or course to ensure adequate license distribution across the university.

To get started please see: [www.rmit.edu.au/eportfolio/starting](http://www.rmit.edu.au/eportfolio/starting)

3. Implementation and Recommendations

For ePortfolios to be effective in a course they must be embedded, purposeful and meaningful or ‘built it’ not ‘bolted on’. For example, ePortfolios can be a powerfully tool to stimulate reflective practice or evidencing the development of graduate attributes. There are many tools that assist with the management of a large course, such as templates, feedback forms and blogs.

Please remember that the use of ePortfolios does involve change and requires an upfront investment of effort to be successful. It is not a ‘turnkey’ technology as to be most effective it needs responsiveness and iteration – but the rewards are very worthwhile. It is also important to remember that the commitment of the teaching team is essential to achieve successful implementation.