Mobiles and Collaboration, covering OU Live and OU Anywhere

Conference or Workshop Item

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oro.open.ac.uk
Mobile Learners & Collaboration

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This presentation: goo.gl/WIT607
Student device usage & mobile trends
Monitoring and reporting high-level usage by student/browser and device/platform

2006-2013 retrospective data

addition of device autodetection in Summer'08

some switching of views (to desktop-theme) persists

Mobile VLE v1 beta released Mar'10

VLE2 (Moodle 2.x) & mobile theme released Oct'11

'StudentHome mobile' device usage, by quarter

- Desktop view
- Mobile view

(now optional)  (now auto-detected)
StudentHome & VLE device trends

**StudentHome (manual device allocation)**

OU Anywhere app released Jan/Feb 2013
note that the total student/device numbers are indicative only - students found to have on average 2.3 devices
Spot-checks, and snapshots taken of the VLE - relating back to module activities over the monthly period.

% of registered students on VLE2 in March 2014 using [handheld] mobiles, by module.

% registered students on VLE2 in March 2014, by Faculty: averaged.
Changing behaviours, monitoring platforms

Looking at impact of new devices on the market (but cannot currently quantify): 4” smartphones and 10” tablets complemented by 7” devices - different user characteristics, types and length of activities undertaken. Orientation and responsive/adaptive design
"Mobile VLE" delivered on the web
Mobile VLE - on all live modules - for 'handheld' mobiles

Mobile-optimised smart/touch-phone interface: 'Launchpad view'

Module homepage
- Latest News
- Unread Forums
- This Week

Study Planner
- First released: October 2011

Resources

Forums

General principles • web-optimisation for device-agnostic BYOD • learning design for distance education and online narrative • contribution and collaboration not just browsing

Device Support • legacy devices (read only launchpad) • smart/touch phones tabled view • tablets and option to switch theme

Creating a web page
- Sign in to your OU Google Apps for Education account and click 'Site'.
- Click on the 'Create site' button.
- 'Site' link in Google Apps
While tablet experience similar to desktop, still a constrained Mobile Operating System
Mobile support in Learning Systems now mainstreamed and updated in parallel
Mobile web approach on Qualifications
OU Staff demonstrator - Mobile VLE

Included below the menu is a simple form to generate the URLs needed to force your mobile browser (or desktop *) to show a specific VLE module or workspace in the Mobile VLE view.

* Please note that in order for a desktop browser to give you a feel for how this looks, you normally need to resize the window so it is sufficiently narrow. This does not work well in MSIE - but is successful on Firefox, Safari or Chrome. The popup window used below uses typical mobile resolution.

Also note that the mobile render is only for Moodle websites that use the OU Study Planner view.

For further information on the evolution of the current Mobile VLE for the majority of students, and its future direction in VLE2, please view blog entries via: www.open.ac.uk/blogs/mtelearn/?date=19

If you are viewing this page on screen and want to quickly access using a phone that understands barcodes, you may like to snap this QR code which should launch the mobile version of this page.

For information, if students come through Studenthome mobile or directly to the VLE on a device, then there is device detection in place, and a cookie set that should automatically show the mobile optimised views. This is likely to be the method increasingly used to enable other OU websites to become mobile-friendly.

As explained in a related JET Tech Talk, now that more sites are in VLE2 then an additional button has now been added.

The screenshots below show a typical comparison between what is shown as an approximation through the popup and what would actually be seen on a mobile device. It might be useful to note that the desktop Safari browser and iOS are the closest match in terms of fonts and sizing, but other browsers (including mobile devices) allow for more customisation over these options to suit the user.

Try this out via:
goo.gl/TMcPF

[desktop/laptop usage]
Staff device usage & proportions
Data for Jan’14
2013 retrospective data
2013 retrospective data

Devices used by Tutors on ALL VLE in 2013

Devices used by Internal staff on ALL VLE in 2013
Other services, support & guidance
Library on mobiles
Mobile-friendly sign-in

StudentHome mobile redesign
Mobile access to OU Google Apps
Advice and guidance material for self-help, prior to wider publicity
The Open University is adapting many of its websites to be more mobile friendly. The following key services are currently mobile-optimised or accessible via apps:

- **StudentHome mobile** — you can get the mobile-friendly version of StudentHome by tapping on ‘Mobile view’ at the top of student homepage.
- Your qualification and module website (via StudentHome) has also been optimised for mobile devices (for information see 'Using a mobile device').
- **OU Library Services** — explore library resources, find forthcoming online training sessions, or learn more about the library.
- **OU Anywhere** — giving access to core module materials, downloadable offline.

Optimizing for mobiles at the OU involves a detection process to see what device or platform you are using and serve you the most appropriate view, sometimes with slightly less options and functions onscreen to maximise use of the smaller size. In all cases, should you choose to, you can always switch over to the ‘desktop view’ instead. (To get to the full view there is usually a link at the bottom of a mobile web page). For more information, please also check the FAQs.

**Talk about mobile device-specifcics**
Discuss using your mobile device with other students and learn from their experiences in our Mobile peer support forums.

Generic self-help materials and peer support forums for specifics.

Try this out via: 
**m.open.ac.uk**

[mobiles & tablets]
Student feedback: curricular use
An investigation into the use of Mobile VLE in OU teaching and learning

Daisy Mwanza-Simwami, and IET colleagues, 2013

D.Mwanza-Simwami@open.ac.uk
What Devices Do Our Students Use? (Jan 14 update)

This updates Tech Note 4 (Oct 12), using newer and more detailed data from IT on student VLE usage.

Study Devices

Responses from 607 OU students who completed LTS’s second ICT survey in Summer 2013 showed that:

- Each student has an average of 2-3 devices which they use for OU study purposes (2012: 2.2)
- 80% of first devices are PCs (2012: 95%) and 71% of these are laptops (2012: 64%)
- 31% share their first device with other family members (2012: 34%)
- 5% use a work, college or public computer as their first device (2012: 5%)
- 55% of second devices are ‘mobile’ (phones or tablets) (2012: 44%)
- 9% use a phone or tablet as their primary device for study (2012: 5%)
- 90% connect via home or mobile broadband (2012: 97%) and 86% connect at >2Mbps (2012: 80%)
- Win 7 is the most popular OS (41%) and Chrome (latest version) is the most popular browser (23%)

Platforms and Browsers

The following information is based on visits to any VLE site by unique student and device combinations. This means a student using the VLE three times in a month on a single device would count as one visit, a student visiting twice on their PC and once on a tablet would count as two visits. Any small inconsistencies in numbers are due to the exclusion of minor device types.

VLE Visitors by Browser Type

VLE Visitors by Mobile Device Type

VLE Visitors by Device Category

VLE Visitor Presence by Device Category (1-30 Nov 13)

The information from the LTS Technical Working Group is to provide early warning of any potential development and support issues. It is not intended to act across more detailed or authoritative guidelines or policy that may follow from assessments.
Apps & OU Anywhere
Initial version created as ‘native’ specific apps for iOS & Android only. Now cross-platform, more open ‘HTML5’ approach allowing enhancements.
Staff use of OU Anywhere
Mobile collaboration...
Mobile available since Q4 2013
iOS & Android/Kindle Fire app provided - Basic OU support only
[mobiles & tablets] v2 expected later in Summer’14

NO expectation on use - enhancement to current (desktop) provision only at present - due to limited functionality and interaction
Launched as normal from browsing via mobile web
Download the Collaborate app as required [iOS/Android only]

Due to our VLE integration, after downloading the app, you may need to launch the session again from the browser links
OU Live [BbCollaborate]

trend similar to desktop - while Collaborate app available, not explicitly mentioned nor OU initial support until Dec’13
Google Apps and group work
Google Docs upgraded to Drive

Shopping List

- Skim Milk - 1 gallon
- Celery - 1 bunch
- Carrots - 1 bag
- Squash - 1
- Pears - 5
- Tomatoes - roma (5)
- Potatoes - 5 lb bag
OU Annotate and shared experiences
OU Annotate on a range of devices

Within this document you last viewed: Touchscreen use

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OU Annotate mobile

OU Annotate mobile allows you to bookmark and comment on OU websites using a tablet. Tablet-specific aspects of OU Annotate mobile are explained here. Refer to the general OU Annotate guidance for general instructions on how to use the manager and toolbar.

Bookmarks and bookmarklets

A bookmark is a ‘favourite’ URL or ‘internet-based shortcut’ that is stored on a device. You can select it to view an area of the internet rather than typing the whole URL into a browser every time you want to visit the website.

A bookmarklet is like a bookmark but includes some programming (normally JavaScript) that extends its features and usually performs a function when selected. If you’ve used the OU Annotate toolbar on a desktop or laptop computer before, the bookmark that activates OU Annotate is in fact a bookmarklet.

OU Annotate mobile on smartphones

OU Annotate mobile is not suitable for small-screen, low-resolution devices like the majority of smartphones. Although it is possible to use OU Annotate on any smartphone, using the toolbar while trying to read or highlight text on a small screen is impractical. You can however use OU Annotate to bookmark content to read and annotate later when using a different device.

Some large-screen (~6 inch) high-resolution smartphones like the Galaxy Note series (sometimes called a ‘large mobile device’, phone-tablet or ‘phablet’) may be usable. However there may be issues with small ‘touch zones’ on these devices.

We therefore strongly recommend that OU Annotate mobile is used on tablet devices with displays at least 7 inches in size.
This presentation:
googl/WIT607

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