



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Dumfries & Galloway College

Using EduApps resource to support the delivery of learning and teaching

Summary

Stephen Shellard Lecturer for Supported Learning Programmes at Dumfries and Galloway College has been using some of the free and portable technologies that feature on the EduApps suite of free enabling technology tools. In the Case Study podcast, Stephen will introduce some of the applications, discussing and demonstrating how he uses them in practice with his students.

About Dumfries and Galloway College

Dumfries and Galloway College is located in south of Scotland. The main campus is situated in Dumfries (the capital of the Region), the College has another campus in the town of Stranraer, 75 miles to the west of Dumfries.



The challenge

Using technologies to enhance the delivery of learning and teaching.

The activity

Using free and portable EduApps resources.

The outcomes and the impact

Using EduApps resources enhanced classroom presentation, in particular, to groups of students with learning difficulties. Also, the application Cam Studio was used to create demonstrations for staff training purposes.

The applications Stephen found most useful:

Sonar. A ring around the mouse pointer which emphasizes the particular item to which you wish to draw student attention. Ctrl+S toggles a show and no show of this feature once loaded.

Freemind. Mind mapping software. Yes there is other mindmapping software, but I chose to learn to use this one because of its obvious portability. It is an excellent tool for discussing a new topic with a group, particularly where they are having difficulties organizing and prioritizing their suggestions. There is a learning curve with this programme, but it basically fairly simple to use and can export in a wide range of formats.

Vu-bar. Very helpful for groups who have poor reading skills. I use this application when I am reviewing websites with groups and will try to highlight key sentences and phrases for the group to read.

Virtual magnifying glass. On websites it is mostly adequate to use the Zoom level in internet explorer, but where this does not suffice, this application can be very helpful in picking out a detail from whatever may be on screen.

Click and Type Virtual Keyboard. Useful on the interactive whiteboard to enable students to enter text. I use this mostly with less able groups where the words entered may be quite short. This can be preferable to keyboard entry to assist the continuity of the exercise and ensure the class group are fully engaged with what is happening.

Cam Studio – Desktop Recording. I have used this to create demonstrations for staff use. For example, I recently created some resources relating to the use of Moodle, the Open Source Virtual Learning Environment we use in Dumfries and Galloway College. These have been integrated into a course page and demonstrate a number of relevant procedures.

Lessons Learnt

Whilst I do carry my Access Apps memory stick, I have chosen to install Access applications on any computer I routinely use in College.

How to copy access application onto a shared drive

Copy all the content from the AccessApps folders from the memory stick - AccessApps, Applications and Documents – to the root directory of the C drive, then copy the Asuite shortcut from within the Applications folder to your desktop. You can't use the normal Access Apps shortcut for this purpose.

Setting this up is a bit of work but I have created a demonstration using Cam Studio, to make this easier for other staff, though it is a resource which only makes complete sense in a Dumfries and Galloway College context.

Useful links

Moodle - <http://moodle.org/>

EduApps - www.eduapps.org

Disclaimer

The Regional Support Centre (RSC) supports the development of educational e-learning. We may refer to specific products, processes or services. Such references are examples and are not endorsements or recommendations and should not be used for product endorsement purposes.