



Ray E Sheriff

# Investigation of the Applicability of an E-Portfolio Tool to Support Final Year Engineering Projects

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## Background and Rationale

- The Final Year Engineering Project (FYEP) requires students to apply a range of personal, practical and technical skills
- At Bradford, the FYEP spans two semesters and is assessed by a poster and a report
- Progress tends to be gauged through regular face-to-face meetings between supervisor and student
- As study patterns and employers' needs change, new ways of learning and teaching may be necessary
- E-portfolio tools have the potential to enhance the FYEP experience from the perspectives of supervisor and student

## Aim

- To determine whether e-portfolio tools can be used to enhance the FYEP experience

## Objectives

- To identify existing practice among supervisors and students
- To raise level of awareness of capabilities of e-portfolio tools
- To evaluate the performance of e-portfolio tools when used for FYEPs

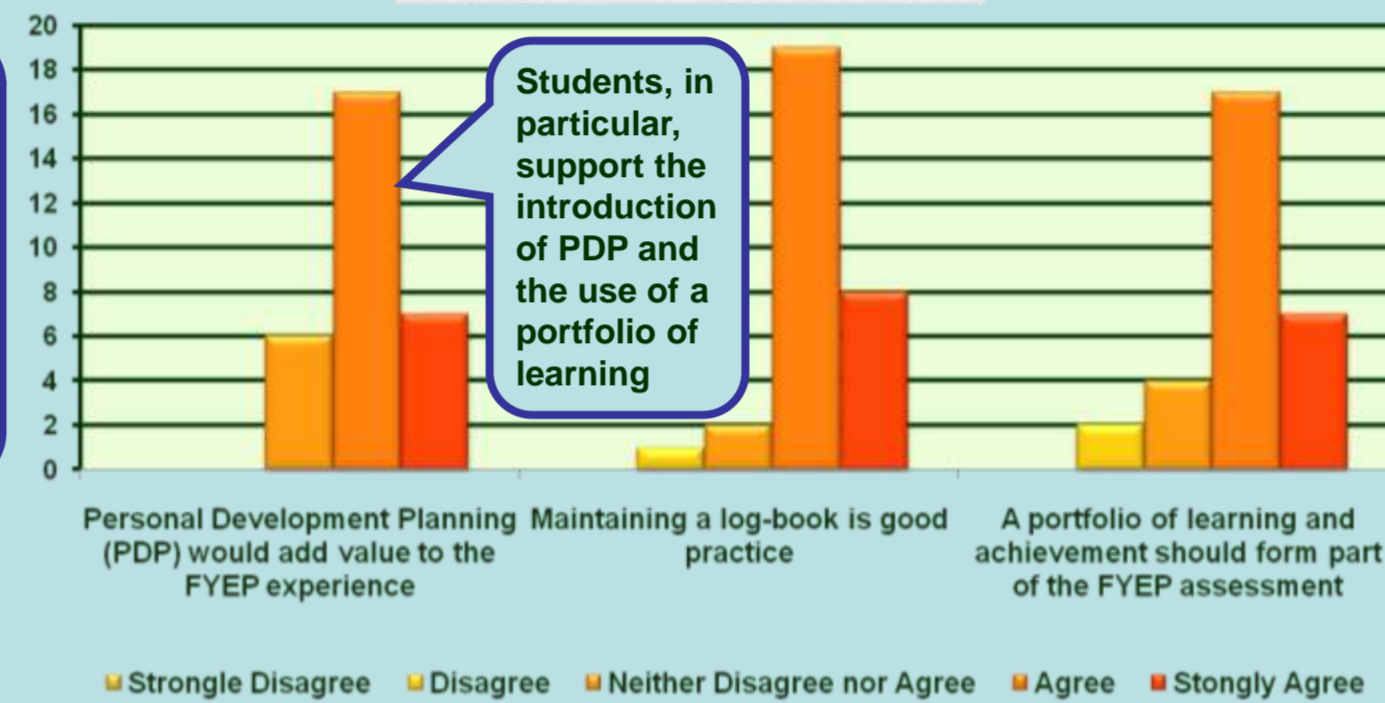
## Methodology

- Apply a mixture of qualitative and quantitative techniques
- Consult both supervisors and students
- Perform initial data gathering through on-line questionnaires and semi-structured face-to-face interviews
- Conclude with a pilot phase involving PebblePad, the University's e-portfolio tool

## Survey Results: Student Experience

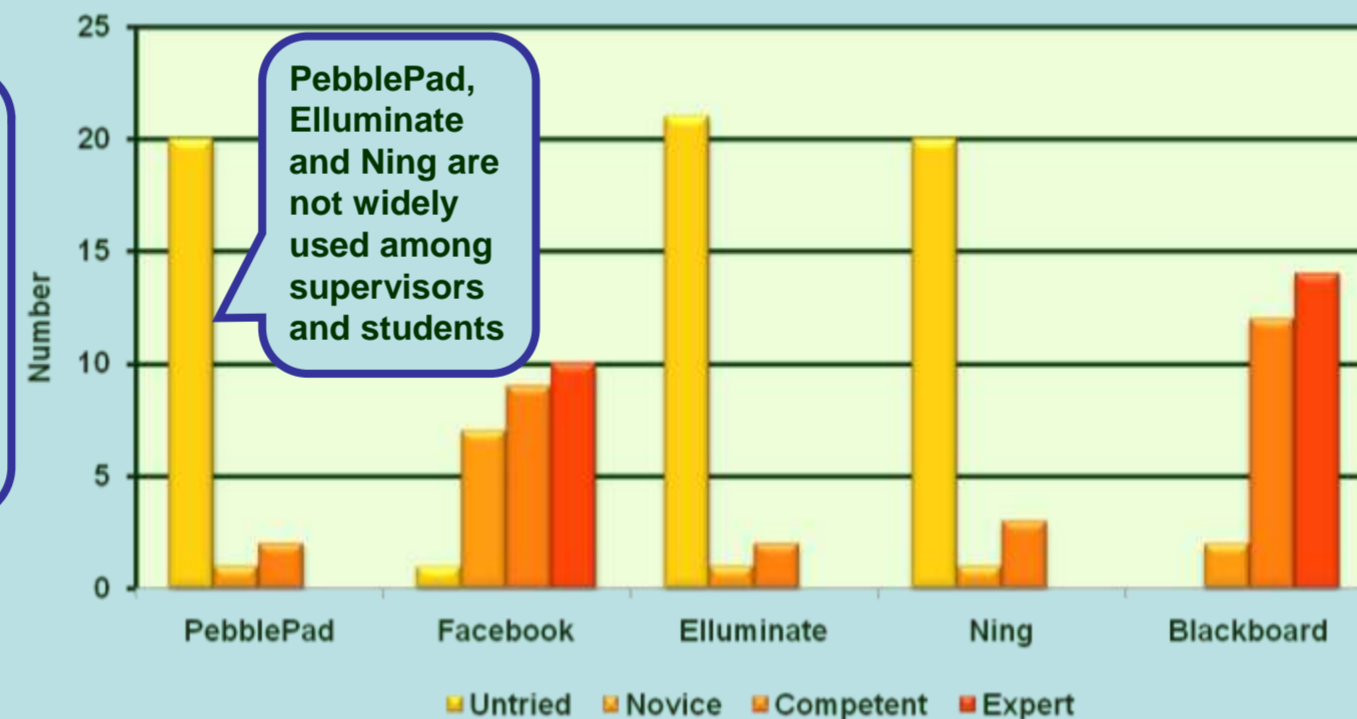
### Practice and Assessment

The questionnaires comprised five sections: Background, Meetings, Skills, Assessment and Technology



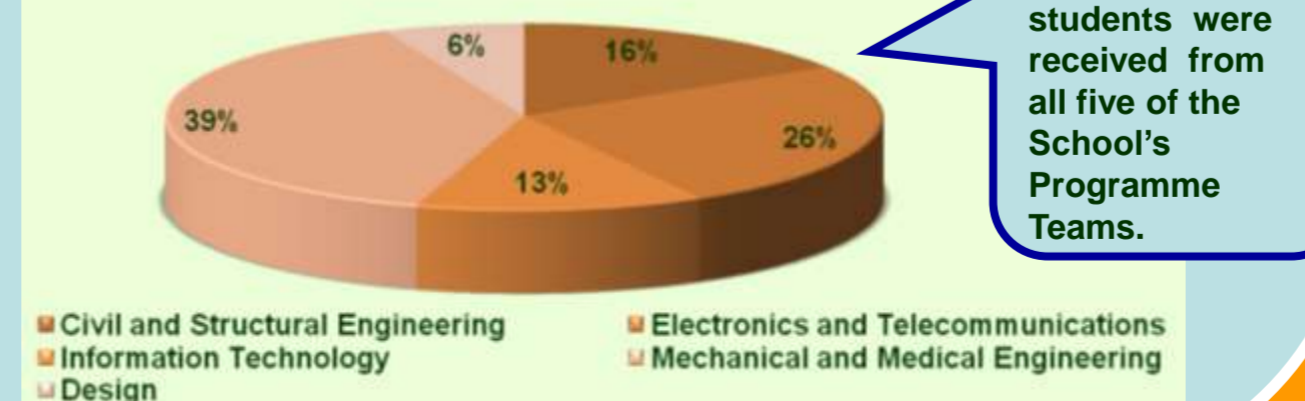
### How would you rate your proficiency in the following technologies?

On-line questionnaires were made available to FYEP students and supervisors from 20 May to 31 May 2011



### Which programme team are you most closely associated with?

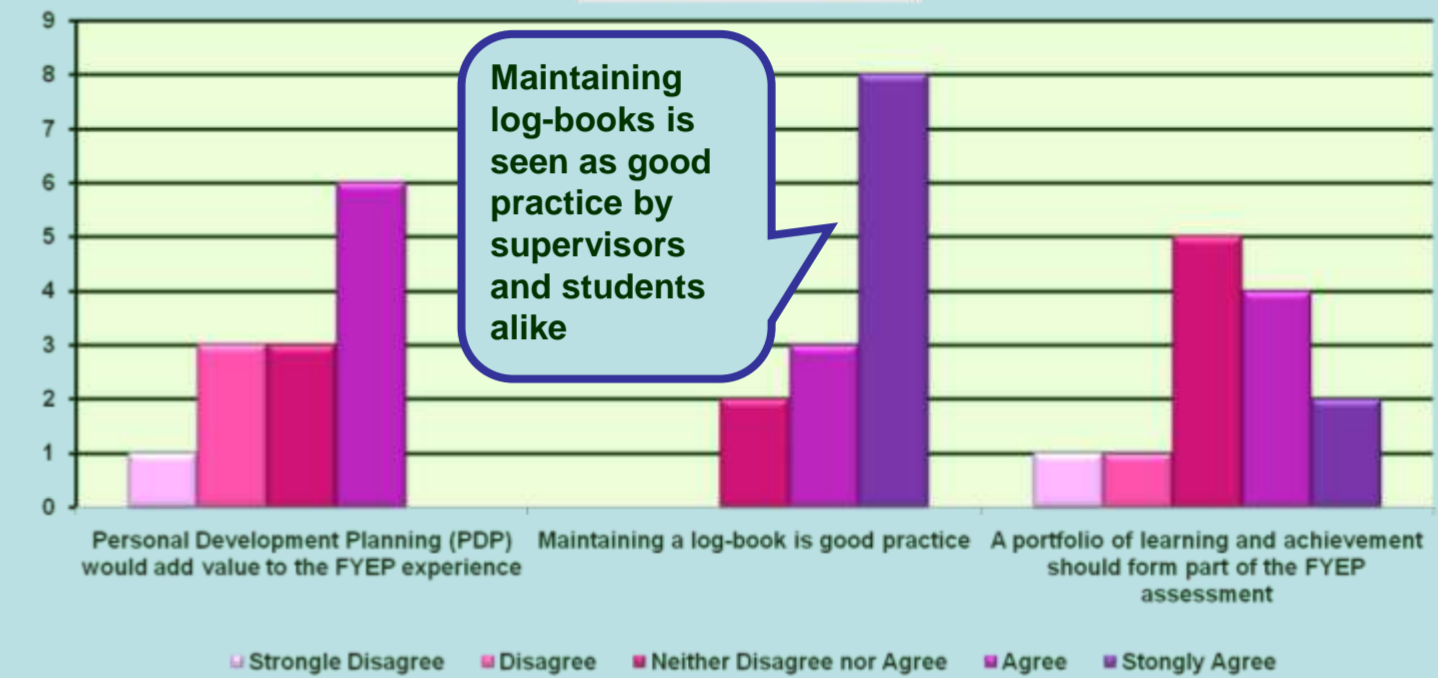
13 FYEP supervisors and 31 students completed the on-line questionnaires



## Survey Results: Supervisor Experience

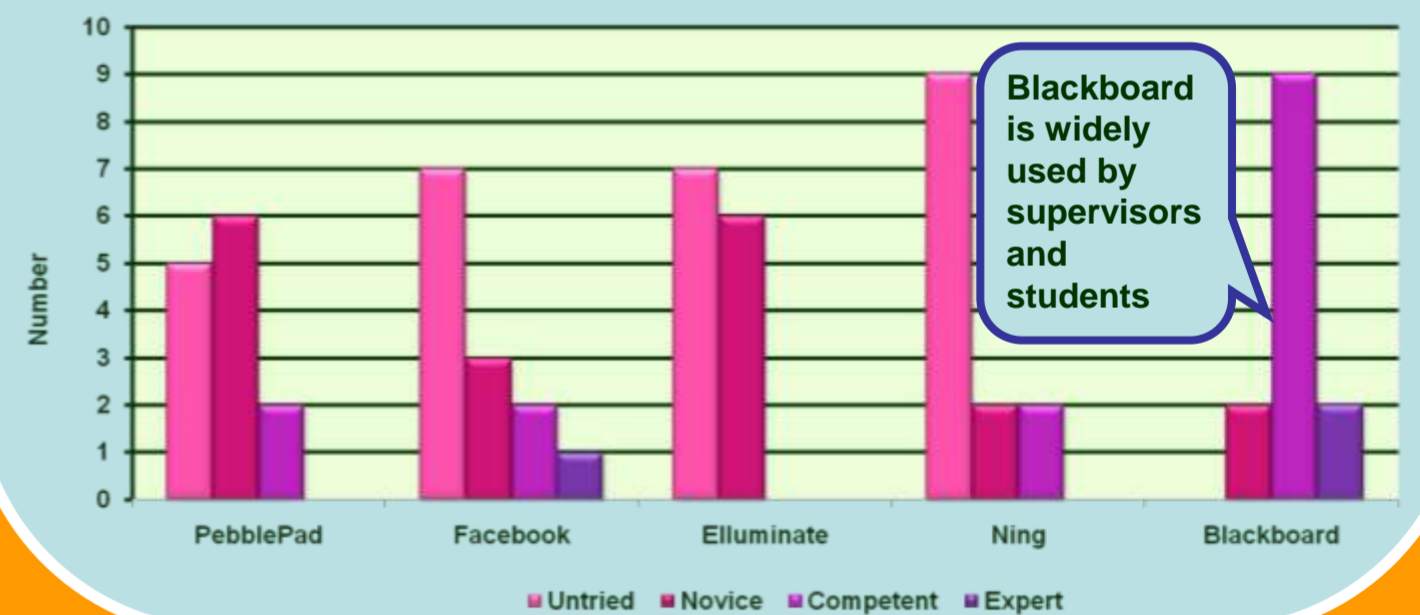
### Practice and Assessment

Maintaining log-books is seen as good practice by supervisors and students alike



### How would you rate your proficiency in the following technologies?

Blackboard is widely used by supervisors and students



## Future Plans

- Analyse results of on-line surveys and semi-structured face-to-face interviews with FYEP supervisors
- Provide PebblePad training for supervisors and students at start of 2011/12 academic Year
- Design suitable e-portfolio experiment for 2011/12 FYEPs
- Write-up results in the form of a Case Study

## Further Information



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