

TLT Committee: Recommendation of Next Steps

After reviewing the beta version of New Digication and seeing a demo of PebblePad, the most viable platform that surfaced from our nine-platform review, the Digication Steering Committee considered two paths moving forward:

Option A: Switch to PebblePad in AY 2018-19; devote all resources to that change; stay with current Digication for AY 2017-18 (no upgrade to New Digication in Autumn 2017)

Option B: Stay with Digication for one year; upgrade to New Digication in Autumn 2017; keep PebblePad as our next best option, if the Autumn 2017 rollout goes poorly

The Digication Steering Committee would like to recommend **Option B** to the Teaching, Learning and Technology Committee. Below, please find a summary of our review of the two platforms. Key points in our recommendation:

- PebblePad's portfolio design tools are very user-friendly, and the overall design of their platform is more thoughtful and educator-centric than Digication's. But, it seems that Digication is aiming to meet similar benchmarks with their new release.
- PebblePad does not offer the edTPA integration and assessment features needed by the College of Education, and they've only recently begun development on the program assessment tools that Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse uses.
- PebblePad currently has two US-based clients, so while we anticipate that we'd get excellent service from them in the first couple of years (as we did with Digication), we're concerned that the service level might drop off (as it has with Digication).
- In order to recommend switching to a new system, we needed to find a platform that would meet many of our requirements significantly better than Digication or in a way that Digication currently doesn't offer, and in this review process, no platform met that high standard.



Available and functions well



Only somewhat available or somewhat functional



Not presently available or functions poorly

Feature	New Digication	PebblePad	Notes
Portfolio authors control access to their portfolios and can customize with granularity (public, DePaul, private, individuals, courses)			Both platforms allow for customized sharing.
Portfolio authors retain access to the platform after graduation			Both platforms allow students to retain access after graduation.
Portfolio authors can easily add others to portfolios for collaboration			Both platforms allow for intra-institution collaboration.
Portfolio authors can create multiple portfolios (and multiple versions of one portfolio)			Both platforms allow for flexible portfolio creation.
Portfolio authors can export their portfolios in an HTML format that can transfer (manually, but still relatively quickly) to other platforms			Both platforms allow for a clean portfolio export.

Ability to easily add multimodal elements - video, audio, images, links, etc.			New Digication versus PebblePad
Ability to easily and cleanly compose text and integrate other text documents, like PDFs			See above videos; text editors are similar (PebblePad has more font options), but New Digication allows for document embeds
Ability to easily organize content using standard website conventions			Both platforms use a forced horizontal global navigation.
Faculty ability to provide contextualized feedback on student portfolio content			Improvements are in development in both systems.
Course feature that gathers students/faculty using our PeopleSoft course data			Both platforms do/would connect to PeopleSoft.
Assignment feature for collecting portfolios and providing assessment/feedback			Both platforms have assignment collection and feedback features.
Ability to conduct programmatic assessment through gathering student portfolios (and ability to input comments and collect scores in the assessment process)			New Digication currently has this (and has shown Sarah a beta of a much-improved assessment interface); PebblePad is beta testing something like this with Portland State.
Ability to conduct programmatic assessment through attaching standards to courses that are assessed through Assignments in those courses			New Digication improves this process; in PebblePad, we'd need to explore further if there's any possibility of doing COE assessment.
Ability for COE students to submit materials to Pearson for edTPA assessment			PebblePad has indicated they'd be willing to work with Pearson on integration, but they don't have any other US clients asking for this.

Integration with learning management system (D2L)			Neither system integrates with D2L.
More course management features (discussion boards, grading, email)		?	We haven't had access to the PebblePad Atlas (course and assessment system) yet.
Better ability to give feedback (in-line editing, track changes, annotations, comments), both on live portfolios and submitted portfolios			From the demo with PebblePad, seems currently on par with Digicaiton; both have promised updates.
Ability to style content across a portfolio using CSS conventions (H1, H2, etc.)			New Digication shows this capability, but it doesn't work yet; PebblePad limits how much you can style.
Alt tags for images			Neither system offers this option when you upload an image.
More robust template tool			PebblePad had the ability to build portfolio pages as templates; Digication has promised a similar feature.
Ability to export to WordPress format			Both have good export tools, but neither exports in a way that would allow for a direct import to WordPress.
Ability to make a template shareable to the university outside of the limiting parameters currently in place			This will be more flexible in New Digication, though we'll always be limited by the size of our institution (50 templates is a lot to sort through no matter how large the interface space).
Cleaner and more manageable homepage (control over portfolios and courses)			Digication made recent improvements that were somewhat helpful; PebblePad seems like it might have the same issues.

