

DIGITAL CAPABILITIES CASE STUDY

1MINUTECPD: AN
EXAMPLE OF A MICRO-
LEARNING APPROACH TO
IMPROVE DIGITAL
CAPABILITIES



[https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/
umitl/resources/delivering-blended-
learning/digital-capabilities/](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umitl/resources/delivering-blended-learning/digital-capabilities/)



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Purpose

To remove time and location barriers to learning, by creating micro-learning resources with the aim of improving staff digital skills and capabilities.

Context/Scope

Background Issues

Time is often a key barrier for academic staff in engaging with staff development. This can range from the amount of time required to attend a face-to-face session as well as the perceived amount of time that it takes to learn and use new technology. To overcome this, 1minuteCPD (<https://1minutecpd.wordpress.com/>) turns staff development on its head by removing time and location barriers to learning that academics often face by developing videos using a micro-learning format aimed at improving staff digital skills 1 minute at a time, posted at regular intervals on an open blog platform.

Context/Scope

Micro-learning is a method of delivering short bursts of information within a narrow time frame afforded by the use of technology for delivery. It doesn't replace face-to-face staff development sessions or more in-depth academic development, however, it can be a powerful engagement tool that sits alongside the more 'traditional' staff development. The underpinning philosophies guiding the creation of 1minuteCPD is ease of access, openness and relevance to learning.

Outcomes

The blog launched in 2016. Today, the blog has almost 600 posts on a broad range of technologies and their application to teaching and learning. The blog is fully open, searchable and categorised by technology. The blog has had over 135k views and over 40k visitors since launch.

The process, including practical advice about how to implement, resources needed, etc.

The content for each 1-minute video is drawn from:

- A general understanding of issues facing academics (how do I...? Which tool can I use to...?)
- Institutional priorities
- Wider professional networks
- New emerging technologies
- Feedback on blog / Twitter

Once the content of the post has been decided, the video is created and uploaded to YouTube. A post is created on the blog (WordPress) with a title containing a hook (usually the name of the technology: why you would want to use the technology), a short introductory text to the technology and its potential pedagogical application to teaching and learning, and then a link to the video. For example -

<https://1minutecpd.wordpress.com/2020/08/19/585-loom-1-2-an-introduction-to-a-free-screen-and-video-recording-software/>

#585 Loom [1/2]: An introduction to a free screen and video recording software

August 19, 2020 · @heydfba · Edit

There are lots of different screen and video recording software out there. In this short post, here are a few things that I like about Loom:

1. [The Loom Pro account is free for students and teachers.](#) All you need to do is sign up with your institutional email address.
2. You can easily record the screen and presenter, which adds a little bit more personality to your recordings and lets your students put a name to a face. You don't have to have your face in the whole recording, you can easily switch between a camera and an avatar.
3. You can record annotations on your screen as you're talking. This is great for drawing the viewer's attention to what you're talking about on-screen.
4. You can highlight the mouse so viewers can follow what you are doing with the mouse (great for demos)
5. Once your video has recorded, easily share from Loom

Here is what a Loom recording looks like with an avatar (default bottom left but you can move it around), mouse highlighter and with some annotations on screen:



Benefits/Challenges

Benefits of a micro-learning approach:

- Videos are quick to develop and easy to update - no need to spend time re-recording and editing as most videos are made in real-time
- Using an open format such as a blog (instead of a VLE, like Blackboard) removes any barriers to learning and enables ease of sharing
- Videos are short and content-specific, focussing on one topic, which is a quick win for staff and works well for learners

Challenges of a micro-learning approach:

- Although each post is only a minute long, it is still sometimes difficult to get viewers to watch an entire video. YouTube stats (where the 1minuteCPD videos are stored) reveal that viewers don't always get to the end of a 1-minute video.
 - Fitting everything into a minute can be a challenge - this can be overcome by creating a series of videos to cover a topic or separating the context of the video from the video content e.g. reference to dates, any reference to prior learning materials, speaker introductions, etc. can alternatively be introduced via text.
 - It can be quite time-consuming to begin with, so it may be worth considering creating more than one video at the same time. You could save time working on a block of 1minuteCPD videos rather than setting time aside to do one at a time.
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Quick Wins

1. Explore the blog for new ideas and tips on how to embed technology into teaching, learning and assessment.
 2. Read a few posts to understand the format and style of micro-learning videos
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Longer-term Goals

Continue to share 1minuteCPD posts more widely to support effective digital practice and promote a micro-learning approach to developing online materials, especially focussing on reusability in different contexts and platforms.

Which of the '6 elements' from the [Jisc Building Digital Capability Framework](#) does this case study relate to?



ICT Proficiency



Information, data and media literacies



Digital identity and wellbeing



Digital learning and development



Digital creation, problem solving and innovation



Digital communication, collaboration and participation



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Each post in the 1minuteCPD blog is aligned to at least 1 of Jisc's 6 elements of digital capability. This means that the entire blog (almost 600 posts) is categorised and can be searched using the Digital Capability Framework.

Relevant links to elearning or other training/resources

This short course, <https://online.manchester.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/orgs/I3116-ADHOC-I3HS-HUB-1/1minuteCPD/content/index.html#/> will take you through each stage of creating a 1minuteCPD - from design to delivery.

Feedback

In a short survey of blog visitors, 70% of respondents had embedded a tip from a 1minuteCPD post into their practice. 98% of respondents rated 1minuteCPD as useful (34%) or very useful (64%). These stats provide a measure of the effectiveness of micro-learning as a delivery method and demonstrates the impact on the development of academics' digital skills and capabilities.

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