

Making the 'Case' for the iPad

Love it or hate it, the iPad has had a major impact on the world. It has sparked significant change in mobile computing, causing a shift in focus of computer manufacturers towards the tablet format. While a major success in the consumer market, these devices have also found a home in the corporate, health and education sectors. The potential of the iPad as a mobile learning educational tool is being explored at a tertiary institution. Significant effort has gone into re-invigorating the Law portion of a Diploma of Business and the iPad was identified as one potential piece of the puzzle. This paper explores the impact of the introduction of the iPad as a student-enabling device within the course.

Students in the Introduction to Commercial Law course were given a first generation wifi only iPad in the second week of class to keep for the duration of the 13 week course. They were encouraged to bring and use the devices as much as possible and had access to wireless coverage throughout the campus.

Several objectives for the course were identified at the beginning of the project and these involve integrating the iPad directly into course activities and assessments. The iPads were used by students to blog, encouraging them to reflect on the role of law in society. They supported online media analysis, encouraging critical engagement with external and LMS based materials. The iPads also acted as a medium for the preparation and negotiation of collaborative documents. These objectives all support the final objective of making the law fun and interesting.

The paper evaluates the project and makes recommendations for the potential integration of the iPad as a core student-owned tool for the Diploma in the future.