

PebblePad Generic 'Resource Accounts'

What is a generic Resource Account and why is it needed?

A generic Resource Account is a normal PebblePad internal account (created within the PebblePad Admin Portal) where the username and password is shared amongst a small group of colleagues.

It is created so that PebblePad resources that are distributed to students via ATLAS are not 'owned' by an individual. If a resource is added to ATLAS from an individual user account and that person leaves the institution or is away for a period of time, no-one else can access the distributed resource if any changes are required or if it is to be used in another workspace or another teaching period. A generic Resource Account ensures that the distributed resources are available to others as needed.

How does a generic Resource Account work?

Generic Resource Accounts are typically set up to support a particular program of study or a department (depending on the context). Account login details are usually shared with learning designers and sometimes academics if they are doing the design work themselves. In some cases, all design work is done in the Resource Account and in other cases it is done in individual accounts and resources are then shared with the Resource Account (with copy permissions) when ready to be distributed to students. The important factor is that all resources added to ATLAS workspaces come from the Resource Account and not individual user accounts.

Pros and cons of generic Resource Accounts

Pros

- Resources distributed to students are not 'owned' by an individual and so can be managed by more than one person.
- If someone leaves the institution there are no concerns around losing access to distributed resources. Similarly, someone new coming in can easily be given access to these resources.

- One advantage of creating resources in individual user accounts and then sharing them with the Resource Account is that everyone knows that the resources in the resource account are distributed to students and therefore are not to be edited without extreme caution. This removes some of the risk of accidentally editing something that is in use.
- It is easier to set up and stick to naming conventions and processes for managing resources from one semester to the next if this is all done in a generic account.

Cons

- Multiple people have access to the account and are all using the same login so you cannot see who has done what – especially if something was done in error.
- The more people who have access to distributed resources, the higher the risk of mistakes being made
- Academics can get used to working in the Resource Account and start using it for assessment – this results in feedback being left with a generic name and the actual assessor not being identified

Good Practice Pointers

- Keep the number of users of the Resource Account to a minimum.
- Where possible do resource development in individual accounts and then share with the Resource Account when ready to be distributed.
- The shared resource has to be copied in the Resource Account in order to be available to be added to ATLAS. It is important to be aware that the distributed resource is the COPY and not the original. It is recommended to unshare the original after the copy is made to avoid having multiple versions in the Resource Account.
- Set up clear resource naming conventions that everyone who has access is familiar with.
- Set up clear processes for managing resources from one semester to the next.
- Do not use the Resource Account for any other activities such as assessment.