Teaching Graphic Design through a Moodle based ePortfolio

David Sinfield
Auckland University of Technology
question: How can we keep our standards of excellence and still provide the level of learning under these conditions

answer: We have to re-evaluate how we teach
1. The use of digital drawing monitors
2. A series of recorded technical lectures in downloadable format
3. An interactive ePortfolio website
One of the purposes of this project was to engage in out-of-class communication that would enhance the learning and teaching.
what are the benefits?

Online feedback from peers and tutors
Up-to-date notes
Reduced marking
Independent learning

The ability to see all the work collectively (as a group or individual)
Mahara is an open source electronic portfolio, blogging and social networking tool. It provides users with blogging tools, a file repository, resume builder and the innovative views framework, which allows users to lay out their portfolio using a drag and drop interface.
A moodle based ePortfolio platform for Graphic Design students

So what was required from this ePortfolio site?
What did the students want from this ePortfolio site?

- The students wanted an area where they could easily upload their images.
- The ability to also upload moving image files or animated gif files easily.
- Working in a safe environment that they control.
- The students wanted an exclusive area that was only for that particular class.
- An area where their uploaded images could be shared with peer and tutor critiquing.
- To be able to give comments on the work.
- The students wanted this area to be fun and user friendly.
- A user-friendly area that was simple in its aesthetics and functionality.
What did the tutors want from this ePortfolio site?

• The need to easily see the images and associate them against the student
• To be able to comment on the images
• The ability to send email from this area
• The uploading of finished projects and work works (PDF files)
• Being able to critique work, give feedback and to grade work
• Date stamp against the file
• Contact details of the students so easily contact can take place
• A area within the site so resources can be up-loaded
• A news section for quick notes such as a bulletin board
• The ability for the tutor to have editing access to this area
imageblog vs mahara

How to get students interacting with university based ePortfolio platforms

one size doesn't fit all
Examples from the ImageBlog site
The students were asked what they thought about Mahara.
I then asked the students about ImageBlog in comparison to Mahara.
Then the students were asked did they enjoy using ImageBlog
Conclusion to the interviews
end: thank you