

## **Paper Submission to the Open University Widening Participation Conference 2016**

**Title:** The Big Red Button: A Video Toolkit for Open Education

**Conference Theme:** Flexibility and technology

**Paper Type:** Innovative Practice

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### **Abstract**

Digital video is now a ubiquitous part of our daily lives yet it remains underused in education – especially for assessment purposes. The nature of the media itself presents problems - large files that are difficult to navigate, reference and share. The Big Red Button is an open source toolkit that aims to overcome these obstacles by providing a toolkit that uses a simple but powerful concept. It enables users to identify and share extracts from video resources in the form of 'virtual clips'. No video file is altered or copied in the process. Once a clip has been specified users can then add textual annotations that are 'pinned' along the timeline of the virtual clip.

The Big Red Button will work on smart phones and be particularly useful for assessing learners who need to capture and share authentic evidence of their knowledge and skills in workplace and community settings and receive feedback from their learning and training providers in the same setting. The session will include a demonstration and report on user trials with a diverse set of learners including stonemasons, care workers and hairdressers.