Using SIMPLE on the iPad

Documentation for SIMPLE iPad plugin

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About this Document

This is the documentation for the SIMPLE iPad plugin. It contains the **Installation Guide**, with details of how to install and configure the plugin, and the **Usage Guide**, which describes how the user interacts with SIMPLE using the plugin.

Why is a plugin necessary?

An intrinsic part of SIMPLE is uploading files to the drafts folder, and sending them to characters in the simulation. This is done using a standard HTML form, where the user clicks a browse button and is then provided with a file browser where they select and upload the file. Apple have intentionally disabled the browse button on the iPad (and iPhone), therefore the iPad does not support HTML file uploads. This affects all websites, and web applications such as Drupal and Moodle. It is therefore necessary to find a workaround for users wanting to access SIMPLE from the iPad.

Installation Guide

Before installing the plugin:

- Setup an email address that works with IMAP (Note that Gmail does not work properly). This should be solely for use with your SIMPLE installation.
- Create a folder called **problems**
- Create a folder called **processed**

Installing and configuring the plugin:

- Download the plugin from the plugins page on simplecommunity.org
- Unzip the file and open the file EmailProcessor.php
- Near the top of the page, replace the configuration variables **$inbox_location**, **$email_address**, and **$email_password** with the settings for your dedicated email address.
- Zip the folder again
- Whilst logged into SIMPLE as superadmin, go into Site Admin → Plugins
- Browse to your zipped plugin, and click submit to upload.
- Ensure the plugin is enabled (if not, click **enable**).

The plugin should now be ready to use. You should test it by sending some test documents using the instructions below.

Note that the plugin has been tested with iPad 2 and using SIMPLE version 2.4. There is no guarantee that it will work with earlier versions of SIMPLE.

Usage Guide

If you do not already have it, you should purchase the **Pages** word processor from the App Store. At time of writing, cost is roughly 6 GBP / 10 USD

Once you have composed your document in Pages, click the spanner icon at the top-right of the screen, and select **Share and Print**. Click **Email Document**. A dialog appears with a choice of formats. Select Word or PDF. A blank email appears, with your document already attached. In the **To** field, enter the email address supplied by your administrator. Delete the **Subject** and replace with the ID of your Drafts folder. Your administrator can provide this ID, or you can find it yourself by hovering over your Drafts folder in the office environment and looking for the integer that follows "folder=" in the URL (or holding your finger on the folder until a dialog appears, if using the iPad). Ensure not to include anything in the subject field other than this ID number. Click **Send**.

Your attachment has now been emailed to the processing email address. The next time someone views the office environment, your email will be processed. You can view the office environment yourself to trigger this (log in and go into the simulation, or refresh by clicking your Drafts folder). If everything is ok the attachment will be uploaded to your drafts folder, and you will receive an email to tell you that your document was successfully uploaded. If there is a problem with your upload, you will receive an email with an error message.

Now that your document is in the Drafts folder, you can work with it as normal.

Troubleshooting

Reasons an upload may fail:

- The folder is not found. Check the Subject is an integer and it corresponds to an existing folder. Check that there is no text in the Subject line.
- The folder is not a Drafts folder. Check that you have the correct ID for the folder.
- User does not have permissions. Ensure that you have permissions for the simulation. If you can view the simulation in SIMPLE you have permissions. Also ensure that you are sending the email from the same email address that is associated with your SIMPLE account. You can check this by editing your profile.

If an error is encountered, the mail is moved to the **problems** folder, and an email sent to the user to tell them that the upload has failed. If successful, the email is moved to the **processed** folder. If necessary, the administrator can log into a webmail interface to view these folders and the inbox, and clear them out if necessary.