The project has helped the University of Abertay Dundee to establish new ways of making available the backlog of computer games based Intellectual Property (IP) from the archive of its computer games design and development competition “Dare to be Digital” and from student teams. The Dare archive contains a wealth of undistributed computer games related content and software that has been generated since 1999. The Dare Repository seeks to unlock the archive for potential academic or commercial use while maintaining a balance between accessibility and the integrity of the creators’ IP.

In order to achieve this outcome, the project has undertaken a substantial review of the archive to establish the technological, contractual and legal status of each game. The project set about assessing the viability of over 100 computer games in a phased process which lasted the duration of the project. This number was reduced to 35 games that were technologically accessible, then to 22 games that were legally and contractually eligible. Ultimately agreement was reached with 7 teams to make their games available on the platform. The Fast Forward funding has enabled the University to access significant expert contributions to the project from both computer games and legal professionals. Their contribution informed the creation of an online distribution platform that is underpinned by robust legal, contractual and security processes.
In March 2013 the project launched ‘The Code Bar’ (http://thecodebar.abertay.ac.uk/) to provide the computer games development sector one-click access to innovative projects created by students in the University. Projects are available for educational use on an evaluation-only basis. The rights to each project can also be acquired by a developer or publisher who has the means to finish and release the game to market.

The project has consulted widely with the computer games industry sector, who have contributed to the development of policy and processes throughout. The launch of the platform was met with qualified enthusiasm. Although there is a level of access to the products, there is still some work to be done on the model and processes for the IP acquisition to be able to respond to industry demand.

The launch of The Code Bar represents the culmination of the Fast Forward project through the integration of the work detailed previously into the final platform and service. The platform will deliver increased access to Dare to be Digital IP and will transform technology transfer in the University’s Institute of Arts, Media and Computer Games. It represents the fulfilment of the project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and strategic objectives of the University. Going forward the University and Dare to be Digital are much better placed to exploit, share and disseminate digital IP through the platform and the legal, contractual and procedural processes it has established.

― Gregor White  
Director of Academic Enterprise  
University of Abertay Dundee