Regional Policy Dialogue



Pedagogical Considerations of the OLPC

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IX Hemispherical Meeting of the Education Network ONE-To-ONE Computing Models

Panel IV: Software and Hardware in One-To-One Computing Programs

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- Brasil reached the school access universalization goal (~55Million students at Basic Education – 90% public 7.2M kindergarden, 33.5M K8, 9M high-school, 4M younger/adults)
- All Public High-Schools have at least one computer lab with 10 computers, shared by all students and teachers

However

- Last in 32 countries on the PISA-OECD (Programme for International Student Assessment) in reading, math and sciences
- 60% of the teachers need complimentary formation
- Teachers almost do not invest buying books or doing continuous formation
- 75% of our population => functional illiterate



Challenges for the New Education

- Education of Quality for ALL
- The focus of the School is NOT in the transmission of contents
- The School must form citizens
 - creative,
 - flexible,
 - with critical spirit,
 - curious and capable to formulate questions,
 - capable of recognizing and characterizing problems,
 - capable of searching and creating solutions,
 - that learn to learn,
 - that know how to live, to coexist and to collaborate in society.
- → Curiosity Pedagogy Paulo Freire
- → Better Strategies amplified (or enabled) by Better Tools



- One computer lab with ~10 computers per High-School
- Teachers have few time to be familiar with the technologies and with the pedagogical practices using these technologies
- Most of the time the use by students and teachers is fast and superficial
- Difficulties in configuration and maintenance of hardware, software and data storage
- In some schools these laboratories practically remain closed
- Low durability and sensation of fast obsolescence
- → High investments and few concrete results



New paradigm One-to-One OLPC

Different pedagogical approaches, and different use contexts

Fundamental Requirements for ALL:

- Low cost
- Robust and durable
- Intuitive (very easy to use, focus on WEB applications)
- Very easy to install, configure, reinstall, reconfigure
- Flexible (light, portable)
- Mobility (wireless connection WiFi, WiMesh)
- Low energy consumption
 - more battery autonomy
 - more battery durability (=> less ambiental impact)
- 100% available e 100% connected (ONE-to-ONE)
 - Access to several qualified contents and tools (public and private)
 - Authorship socialization and valorization
- Hardware and Software based on OPEN Standards
- Possibilty of use with free/open software (OS and applications)



Teachers impressions about OLPC

- The one-to-one aproach at classroom will have a positive impact in the education quality (72% of 120 teachers from 22 different states)
- The educational strategies must change (77%)
- "The computer can substitute some things. The digital memory can reduce paper. The information comes faster, but it is not good to interact only with computers"
- "Mobility can be a problem, they will loose, sell, break, be robed and have mantainance problems"
- "A security mechanism and maintance program must be provided"
- "It is necessary to work with the comunity to introduce this at school"



OLPC Software – Basic and Applications



RIGHT NOW

- All WEB resources can be used
 - Digital libraries, learning objects, web dictionaries, web enciclopedias, web collaborative learning environments ...
- Several Open/Free Educational software (some with a minimum additional development)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Focus on Open Standards, Interoperability
- Stimulus to Free/Open Software development
- Optimized applications that consider different screen sizes and different usage modes
 - individual off-line
 - individual on-line
 - collaborative local (closer devices)
 - collaborative on-line





OTHER Related Innitiatives



- COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
 - MEC Web tools for teacher distance education (e-PROINFO, ..)
 - FAPESP special program TIDIA
 - Several public and private innitiatives
- DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND LEARNING OBJECTS
 - MEC WebEduc Portal
 - MEC RIVED
 - Several public and private innitiatives
 - **DIGITAL TV**
 - "bigger screen" at home
 - Complimentary possibilities of computing and Internet access





OLPC - Some important aspects



INTERNET Access to ALL

As essencial as electricity!

COST x DISPLAY SIZE

 It is better to have <u>now</u> for <u>all</u> students and teachers a <u>low cost</u> small window openned to the world, instead of remaining constrained inside four walls

ENERGY

 Less consumption is an important aspect both to enable battery autonomy without the need of recharging during schoolar activities and to reduce ambiental impact (longer life batteries)





- <u>Low cost</u> computing and internet access devices (such as the 2B1 from OLPC) must be available for ALL, specially for students and teachers
 - through special acquisition channels and in the regular market
 - Different solutions based Open Standards, same basic capabilities and interoperability
 (VWBeatle x Ferrari)
- We must intensify the efforts to offer high speed Internet connection at <u>low cost</u> everywhere (INSIDE and outside school)
- → OLPC innitiate opened a unique opportunity for us to make a <u>Revolution at Education</u>



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