WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

Fibre optic issues
Site surveys have identified some buildings within schools where fibre optic issues are preventing wireless installation. Wireless installation is dependent on spare, usable fibre optic cabling existing between school buildings.

The issues are typically:
- fibre optic exists but there are no spare pairs
- no fibre optic at all
- spare fibre but not terminated
- spare fibre optic that is faulty or damaged.

Schools with fibre optic issues will be contacted by a School Liaison Officer listing the buildings, problem type, and number of learning spaces impacted.

Graeme Davies, Tony Fugaccia and Terry Tunkanas from the program office will be working closely with principals of these schools to make the changes needed to complete the wireless network.

Discretionary purchases
A number of schools have indicated they want to purchase additional access points to cover areas like halls and staff rooms.

Find the process for discretionary purchases on the intranet under Wireless. See additional access point request form.

Only access points purchased through the DER program will be enabled, monitored, and supported by the program. Access points purchased outside of the program will not function on the DER wireless network.

We recommend additional access points are purchased at the same time as phase 2 installations. This will reduce costs such as call out fees.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICERS
Welcome to the newly appointed DER-NSW Regional Managers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDING AN OFFICE FOR THE TSO
The Public Service Association has made representation to the Department that wherever possible the Technology Support Officer should not be located near the front office. Principals are encouraged to give consideration when finding appropriate facilities to providing a secure environment in which TSOs can perform their role.

SUPPORTING THE TSO
A DER-NSW Operational Support Guide is being developed to assist TSOs in their role. This guide along with additional support materials will be made available on the DER-NSW intranet site.

USING SOFTWARE ON HOME COMPUTERS
Adobe and Microsoft will licence DET employees to install and use software on a home computer. However conditions apply. Only those products included in the enterprise agreements and installed on a user’s workplace computer can be installed at home. Only one home computer can be used for this purpose. No support is available for home computers. For full details see Software under IT on the intranet site.


TEACHER LAPTOPS
Teachers will have unrestricted access to the internet through their personal internet provider when using their laptop outside school. While filtering is disabled, all internet activity will be logged by a Bluecoat client and can be queried at a later date if necessary.

Departmental policies and procedures will apply, including:
• the Code of Conduct
• Employer Communication Devices Staff Use policy.

PRINTING
Print services will be established for each school to allow staff and students to print to local network enabled printers from their laptops.

Initial support will be provided for a set of HP printers. TSOs will be able to setup, configure, and manage the DER network print queues and printers at their schools. The setup will include setting permissions for groups or individuals to use specific school printers. After the print services are established school staff and students will be able to install particular school printers on their laptops via a web interface. TSOs will have information on this process and the list of supported printers and will provide details to staff and students.
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Funding is being provided for professional learning supporting the use of laptops in teaching and learning.

Regions have been allocated funding to support Professional Learning in schools. Some strategies already being implemented include action learning projects, leading learner initiatives, lighthouse school projects, mentoring programs and collaboration and network projects.

Funding to schools was calculated on the FTE and number of teacher laptops allocated in the initial roll-out. Schools with Intensive English Centres will need to do a pro rata calculation based on the number of laptops allocated to their centre.

Resources supporting the DER-NSW program are now live on the intranet. For more information on funding, see Roll-out Schedule. Then go to the right-hand column to Professional Learning Funding to Schools – 2009/10 Funding.

TEST DRIVE FINDINGS

The laptop test drive kicked off in May in three high schools – the Bathurst High Campus of Denison College, Arthur Phillip High School and Cherrybrook Technology High School.

The full evaluation report is available on the intranet at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/rrql/support/index.htm

Teachers, students and their parents were excited by the possibilities of learning with laptops. Some student comments included:

“There was so much we could do in lessons we couldn’t do before”
“We can learn in our own way if the teacher’s style doesn’t suit us”
“It changed my headspace; it made me enjoy some subjects I had hated”
“We have this great new resource and I didn’t want to miss out on one day of using it”

Teachers in the test drive described student-centred, collaborative lessons with sophisticated, media rich results. Lessons were spread across the key learning areas.

Geoff Hastings, Principal of Bathurst High Campus observed:

“It’s critical our students love these laptops – that they feel strong ownership of them, like they own and love their mobile phones. If we can achieve that we’ll have fewer laptops left at home, broken or lost.”

If one student’s final comment in the survey – “Give Kevin a big hug” – is anything to go by, the laptops will usher in an exciting time in education in NSW public high schools.

SECURITY NEWS

Securing laptop deliveries

The Safety and Security Directorate will liaise with local police on the delivery of student laptops. Deliveries will not be made on Fridays to alleviate the need for schools to store laptops over the weekend.

What to do if a laptop is stolen or lost

Students or teachers must notify the school as soon as possible.

1. The school representative notifies the TSO.
2. The TSO logs the laptop as lost or stolen in the Resource Management Unit (RMU).
3. The student or teacher fills in a Laptop Incident Report (see DER-NSW policy website) and supplies a Statutory Declaration or a Police Report Number as necessary. In case of theft, the Principal and TSO would discuss and implement a machine destruction order. In case of loss or an in-school theft, the Principal and TSO may choose to wait a day or two in case the laptop is recovered.
4. Once the paperwork is done the Principal authorises the TSO to issue a replacement. If a student or teacher has a poor laptop history, check implementation procedures for advice.

In order for stolen or lost laptops to be effectively tracked, RMU details must be kept up to date.

How does tracking work?

We’ve already had proof of the success of laptop tracking. During the teacher rollout a laptop was reported stolen. The tracking service tagged the laptop to be disabled. However the school then found the missing laptop. The remote disable was removed.

At the same time the tracking service noted a laptop logged on from New Zealand. We were able to confirm this laptop was with a teacher on a school excursion.

The effectiveness of the laptop security regime means laptops have little resale value and therefore little value to thieves.

Engraving

Engraving is not recommended. However if the school deems it necessary for some – for example laptops on the loan register – engraving should be done on the base of the laptop.
LAPTOPS: THE ARTIST’S TOOL

Artists are prolific users of technology. They comment on technology and lead innovative uses of technology, particularly in audio and visual fields. Arts students will have an extraordinary and powerful creative tool when they receive their laptops as part of the Digital Education Revolution in NSW.

NSW Creative Arts Stage 5 syllabuses clearly set out ICT skills for students of dance, drama, music and visual arts. Until now, some of those skills could only be perfected if schools purchased software programs.

The inclusion of Adobe Creative Suite changes all that. Using Adobe’s Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements, in combination with Audacity and Microsoft’s Publisher and PowerPoint, students will be able to:

- create and manipulate digital images to develop digital artworks
- create and manipulate images to produce theatre posters, programs and flyers, costume, lighting and set designs
- capture and edit video footage
- record, edit and sequence sound and music
- create online performances
- master audio and video works to publish on CD/DVD
- create presentations that include text, graphics, sound, and video.

Students can use Adobe Dreamweaver to build websites and user interfaces, incorporating image, text, video, audio, animations and interactive flash objects.

Using Adobe Flash, students can construct animations and interactive objects, which can be exported as videos, or embedded in web designs.

Artists document, collect and organise ideas and experiments as part of the process of making works. On the new laptops, students will have a number of software applications that allow them to collect and organise work in a digital format.

Using Photoshop’s extraction tool in the Visual Arts Year 9 program Coastal Landscapes.

Documenting and organising dance in a digital diary using Microsoft OneNote.

Microsoft’s OneNote will allow students to document their work in text, image, video and audio formats while also providing opportunities for teacher and peer feedback.

FESTIVAL OF LAPTOP LEARNING

The Digital Education Revolution in NSW and Macquarie ICT Innovations Centre has designed two weeks of short video conferences focusing on the rollout of laptops in NSW. The Festival of Laptop Learning will include a range of sessions from formal keynotes to subject specific sharing sessions.

What: 10 days of video conference activities

When: 17–28 August (Term 3, Week 4–5)

Where: Your closest Connected Classroom


For further information contact

T 9561 8636 [leave a message] E DER-NSW@det.nsw.edu.au

Internet website coming soon.