



ACL Initiative Project Report

Name of project lead	Tim Keeling
Name of organisation	Staffordshire ACL

Brief description of what you proposed to do

1. Video Blog. A trial video blog will be created using the staffordshire e-learning network ning. The blog will use the Eee PC to create video information, advice and guidance to ACL tutors with regard to improving teaching and learning within their courses. In the first instance this will be mainly IT tutors. The video will be used to enable ACL to reach those tutors who are unable to attend other PDR events organised by ACL.
2. Stop frame animation. A taster session on stop frame animation using a digital camera and the Eee PC. The session will enable ACL to assess the feasibility of offering stop frame animation courses. The programme plan would be made available to all ACL tutors and other ACL organisation via our online file repository.

<http://staffsenetwork.ning.com/>

<http://staffs-e-learners.ning.com/>

Summary of your project (*How did your organisation integrate the mini laptops and camera into e-learning in your Adult Education Service?*)

1. Video Blog. The online video blog did not happen, mainly due to time constraints. i.e. the extra time taken to write a script then record it and additionally upload it. However, it did inspire me to try uploading photos direct to the nings, and other videos were also uploaded all using the Eee pcs. I was able to use them from home or any other wireless venue I was working in.

The portability of the Eee pcs also enabled me to carry them around to teaching venues which were not in a standard windows environment, such as libraries. I was then able to demonstrate how to change settings, in windows and in internet explorer which are normally not available.

2. Stop frame animation: The camera proved very useful for this project. I prepared learning materials which have been uploaded to our resource repository. Example videos have been created using Eee pc with movie maker and has been upload to the nings and youtube using the Eee pc.

A foyer project is planned for later in 2009 in Rugeley using the technology.

The camera has also been used for collecting evidence for RARPA and as a demonstration camera for learners interested in digital photography.

Evaluation of project

The Eee pc with windows worked well as a potable demonstration model when connected to a large screen or projector.

The size of the screen and keyboard was an issue as many learners were unable to view the actual screen or use the keyboard.

However, when Service Pack 3 was added very little space was left on the hard drive.

The Linux Eee pc was difficult to connect wirelessly for a non expert and this meant that its use was limited. The lack of additional software was also a problem. The Linux software was also incompatible with our exchange servers and the thin client pilot which meant it could not be used to connect to email and our other services and ACL. However, it can be used as an internet connection device when used with a large screen or projector.

The camera has been used extensively on many different projects. What would be good now is a 5.0 m pixel camera on a mobile phone to enable direct uploading of photos over the internet or by Bluetooth to a pc.

Project outputs

Generally, I believe the small pcs can be best used when connected to the internet via a G3 network. However, the small screen size would still normally be a problem unless they are also connected to a projector or other monitor.

I use the XP Eee pc regularly to keep track of my outlook email and calendar when connected to my home network.

It is also great for presentations

The Linux Eee pc became seldom used.

The digital camera was great and I am recommending that one is made available to all out teaching staff, together with a carrying pouch. (People have a habit of keeping them in their boxes for some reason?)

Any plans for the future?

Linux Eee pc. I am considering if there is a suitable venue could use it on a permanent basis say for showing you clips or advertising ACL via a presentation etc.

XP Eee pc. This will continue to be used a demonstration laptop in conjunction with a projector and screen, in library and other venues.

Camera. The time has come to try to ensure that all teaching staff have a camera to use.