

CWRC WEEKLY MEETING

MONDAY 16TH JULY 2007

PRESENT

1. Dr Dorothy Okello
2. Edwin Mugume
3. Paul Kyoma
4. Lillian Olule
5. Miriam Ssanyu Nalule
6. Emmanuel Miyingo
7. Peterson Mwesiga

VIA E-MAIL

1. Alberto Escudero
2. Louise Berthilson
3. Frank Kitumba

Proceedings:

Introduction

Dr. Dorothy welcomed everyone for the meeting and was particularly happy that things had gone well in Nabweru but showed concern about the absence of Internet access at the Telecentre.

1. Work plan

The wireless network implementation in Nabweru was successfully done. This was according to the set plan though a few changes were made such as mounting a radio at the new sub-county building rather than at old one as originally planned. Dorothy emphasized the need for being flexible during implementation, but more so to document whatever changes are made. The other issue is to take note of the challenges faced during the implementation process.

Action

1. Frank was to provide a revised work plan based on the progress made so far in Lira and Nabweru and the plans for Kabale.

2. IT+46 Support

Edwin, Frank, and the CWRC team prepared a test bed for Nabweru and shared it with Louise and Alberto by mail. The Nabweru test bed considered advice given by Louise and Alberto on the Lira test bed for example use of more complex passwords.

Action

1. Frank to get feedback from Louise on the issues raised during the exercise with the routing node of the WPP54AG-6C access points. This should be taken as an emergency since this setup will be used in the Kabale network yet, implementation in Kabale starts in approximately two weeks time.

3. Nakaseke

Frank prepared and handed over a report on Nakaseke. Edith Adera, our contact at IDRC, has also recommended that CWRC withdraws from Nakaseke. Therefore, CWRC has pulled out of Nakaseke.

Action

1. The CWRC team needs to devise a plan on how to use the Nakaseke equipment in Kabale or any other place for that matter. Frank to take the lead in this matter.

4. Ministry of ICT

Edith Adera recommended that CWRC stays in touch with the ministry. Dr. Dorothy met the acting commissioner for ICT, Dr. David Turahi, and discussed the issue of CWRC maintaining contact with the Ministry. This was encouraged by the commissioner who promised to keep CWRC informed of whatever progress the Ministry would have taken. He noted however that implementation at Nakaseke had been delayed by political issues. In light of the above, Eng. Odoi, a Ministry official, will be subscribed to the CWRC mailing list so that the Ministry can be always informed of CWRC activities and plans.

Action

1. Dr. Dorothy is to subscribe Eng. Odoi to the CWRC mailing list.

5. Lira Deployment

The team headed out for on Monday 2nd July 2007 as planned. The Lira network was implemented from Tuesday 3rd July to Friday 6th July 2007. Everything was done successfully and a report has been prepared. An outdoor access point was used at NUSAF since the length of the RF cable required was more than the 7 m cable planned. The need to have professional mast experts as part of the CWRC team was fully acknowledged.

Action

1. Edwin to make a public copy of the Lira implementation documentation, convert it to PDF and then circulate it to the CWRC mailing list. Comments arising from the Lira report should be welcome.

6. Nabweru deployment

A team of four Industrial trainees, three CWRC staff and two mast experts set out for Nabweru on Tuesday 10th July 2007 for implementation as earlier planned. The implementation was successfully carried out leaving three clients connected i.e. the Nabweru Magistrate court, Sub-county-1, and Sub-county-2. However, the initial implementation plan was slightly changed in that the outdoor radio was mounted at Sub-county-2, and Sub-county-1 connected by Ethernet cable as opposed to the initial plan where Subcounty-2 was to be connected by Ethernet cable from Sub-county-1.

The other concern is that Nabweru Telecentre does not have access to Internet service at the moment. One client (Crown High school) was not connected due to the fact that the Headmaster of the school claimed that he had not seen the Service Level Agreement and therefore needed time to consider it with the management of the School.

Action

1. Edwin to prepare a report on Nabweru implementation, make a public copy, convert it to PDF and then circulate it to the mailing list. Comments arising from the Nabweru report should be welcome.

2. Edwin to consult Louise and Alberto via e-mail on what to do where there is no Internet access such as Nabweru.

3. CWRC staff and Trainees to carry out a site-survey of Nansana Town council premises.

7. Kabale Deployment:

A CWRC team is to travel to Kabale in approximately two week's time (i.e. first week of August). The two weeks are to give the team ample time to prepare for the deployment as well as allow CWRC staff (notably Edwin and Dorothy) perform most of the administrative work at the office in preparation for Kabale. Dorothy noted that it is likely that the Kabale implementation will be done in two phases. The first phase will also be used to note the necessary requirements, unforeseen expenses, etc so as to prepare well for the second phase.

It was noted that issues concerning Service level Agreement (for Kabale) had been sufficiently sorted out. Edwin noted that there were issues delaying the requisitions put in for the Kabale implementations, for example the University auditor wonders why the per diem rate varies for Nabweru as for Kabale. Edwin also informed the meeting that Adrian had asked whether it was important to re-activate their contract with AFSAT in time for the Implementation. Edwin advised that it was very important. However, Dorothy noted that there were other ISPs (say MTN Broadband) that could be considered by Adrian and that CWRC would only advise.

Action:

1. CWRC staff and Trainees to consider the Routing Node problem.
2. Edwin to verify with Adrian of Kabale Telecentre about the number of partners to be connected.
3. CWRC staff and Trainees to set up a test Bed for Kabale and share it with Louise and Alberto.
4. Trainees to find out more about "MTN Broadband", focusing on its coverage and how it compares with existing Internet service providers such as VSAT. They are to give the details during the next meeting upon which Kabale Telecentre management can be advised.

7. September workshop preparation:

The September workshop, which will include theoretical training and site visits, is scheduled for 3-14th September 2007. Louise and Alberto are due to arrive in Uganda on 1st September and depart on 15th September 2007. They proposed a hotel but no one had first hand information on how good it is.

The training will require two tower PCs which are to be borrowed from FOT (Faculty of Technology) Computer Laboratory. However, since two ethernet interface ports are necessary, CWRC will buy two-port NICs for each PC. CWRC will look to book a venue at the Department of Food Science for theory sessions while the FOT Computer Lab will be booked for practical training.

Action:

1. CWRC staff and Trainees to suggest more topics of interest to be covered in the workshop from their experience with Lira and Nabweru.
2. CWRC is to procure two NICs for the workshop.

9. A.O.B:

Alberto and Louise would like to begin plans for the September workshop. It will include theoretical training and site visits where practical training is to be undertaken. It is due to take place from 3-14th September 2007. Louise also requested for many photos to be taken in Lira.

Dr. Dorothy suggested that after getting a profile for Nabweru, the information could be shared with the partners so as to get similar information from them for the website. This is to be done in Lira as well. Nabweru deployment is tentatively to start on Tuesday 10th July.

Action

1. Material on Lira telecentre for updating the website to be sent by Juma. Edwin to follow up on the same plus the documentary done by Juma.
2. Albert Lumu addressed some problems concerning the website and the blog but more are coming up now and then. So Dr. Dorothy and Peterson to follow up on the same.
3. Ivan (manager Nabweru) to help with profiling Nabweru Telecentre.
4. Peterson, Paul and Edwin to prepare a press release and an article (to feature in the Tech News Letter) on Nabweru, Lira, Nakaseke and the entire project to circulate on the Makerere mailing list, and the website photo gallery. To be done by next meeting.
6. It was noted in Lira that the power supply at CCE is not reliable. After the connection was done as pre-destined, a patch code would be used to power the access point at CCE from NAADS to enable reliable power supply to the access point. Frank and Edwin to take the lead in this issue.

Other possible solutions to the problem of unreliable power supply to the access point that arose from the members included:

- Using a solar panel to power the access point.

- Not using Ethernet to connect any two partners at all in the network so that all partners are independent and are connected directly to the hub.