

CWRC WEEKLY MEETING

MONDAY 20TH AUGUST 2007

PRESENT

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

VIA E-MAIL

1. Alberto Escudero
2. Louise Berthilson

Proceedings:

Introduction

Dr. Dorothy welcomed everyone for the meeting and was particularly happy that the Kabale implementation had ended successfully.

It was agreed that any issues that were being carried through from previous meetings but were to be attended to at a later unspecified time should be indicated as 'pending issue'.

1. Nakaseke (pending issue)

After review with all key parties – CWRC, IT+46, IDRC – it was agreed to withdraw from Nakaseke. To be taken up after the Kabale implementation is the issue of what to do with the equipment that was originally meant for Nakaseke.

Action

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. However this matter will remain pending till the Kabale network implementation is completed.

2. Nabweru follow-up (pending issue)

The issue of no internet access was followed up and Louise provided Edwin with options of what can be done with the wireless network in the meantime. Edwin shared the information with everyone concerned. In light of the above, Dr.Dorothy suggested that the team comes up with a needs assessment before actually setting up any system.

Action

1. The team to come up with a needs assessment for the case of Nabweru before planning to install a Content Management System there.
2. In the mean time, CWRC should continue to encourage Nabweru Telecentre to set up internet access once again.
3. CWRC staff and trainees to carry out a site survey of Nansana Town council premises after the Kabale deployment.

3. Kabale Deployment

Edwin informed the meeting that the Kabale implementation commenced on Wednesday, 8th Aug 2007 as planned. The team included 3 CWRC staff, 4 students and 2 mast experts. Work started at Kachwekano telecentre, which acts as the hub of the wireless network, with the team installing two powerful AirPoint radios in the mast at this location. This was followed by installation of radio equipment at the 3 clients located on L. Bunyonyi. The team then moved to Kabale town where they installed radio equipment at six client sites, including 2 repeaters.

In addition to the installations, CWRC staff met and discussed with NARO and Kachwekano telecentre officials on the way forward as regards the internet access at the telecentre. NARO management promised that as soon as money is availed by government, internet will be reconnected immediately. A pending matter, however, is whether the VSAT equipment which will be used for internet access will be left in its current location at NARO or whether it will be moved to the telecentre premises, only about 200 meters from NARO.

The team made a number of changes to the initial implementation plan but with reason. For example, the repeater which was supposed to be installed at UNSPPA was moved to a nearby site called GESES Uganda Limited because this new site provided a better LOS path. The manager of GESES, Peter Nkurunungi, promised to help out CWRC with much needed technical capability on the ground. CWRC also noted a big potential for growth of the network as many other partners around Kabale town are interested in joining the network.

Action

1. Edwin to complete and distribute the Kabale implementation report, and then request for comments.

4. September workshop preparation

The CWRC workshop, slated for 3rd-14th September 2007, will include both practical and theoretical training sessions as well as site visits. The training will require a number of PCs that will be borrowed from the Faculty of Technology (FOT) computer laboratory. However, CWRC will procure a NIC with 2 ethernet ports for each PC as this will be a requirement for the training. FOT computers have NICs with only one ethernet port.

Louise has confirmed that Kabale and Nabweru will be visited during the workshop which again leaves out Lira, which was not visited even during the first workshop in November 2006. Louise has also disclosed to CWRC what will constitute the training although suggesting any more topics is still open. Frank suggested a topic on IP subnetting and forwarding and this was duly included.

Dorothy suggested that the workshop should include a public seminar where university officials can be invited to see what CWRC is doing. Dorothy also suggested that students should help with the workshop preparation and this was accepted. It was agreed that all people involved should make up three teams that will concentrate on different aspects so as to increase efficiency.

Edwin and Frank will make up the Technical team and they will look at program content and requirements, which training sites to visit (already decided), any more topics of interest that can be looked at, how many people to invite and which ones, among others.

Ssanyu and Emmanuel make up the Logistics team and they will concentrate on booking venue, ensuring that there is internet access in the room, ensuring that participants have meals, etc.

Peterson and Lillian make up the Inputs team that will determine how many PCs and/or laptops are needed, how many NICs, etc. They will also look at the website so as to get it ready before the workshop. This will involve updating it, putting the photo gallery, uploading necessary documents, including profiles of the CWRC telecentres, removing Nakaseke and Buwama telecentres, etc. Dorothy also suggested that profiles of CWRC trainees and staff (pictures, CVs, etc) should be included on the website.

Action:

1. CWRC staff and trainees to suggest more topics of interest to be covered in the workshop from their experience with Lira, Nabweru and Kabale.

2. The three teams are to work together and come up with a draft program for the workshop by Thursday 23rd Aug 2007.

5. CWRC Website and Press Release

The CWRC press release was sent out and Monitor newspaper run an article based on it. It has also been emailed on different mailing lists at the university. This is to make the general public especially the ICT community aware of CWRC and its activities. A lot of work is also to be done on the website to get it ready before the workshop.

Action:

1. Edwin to follow up with telecentre managers of Kabale, Kachwekano and Nabweru to avail profiles of their respective telecentres so as to continue with building the website.

6. A.O.B

The meeting agreed on a number of items for follow-up and in preparation of the September workshop.

Action

1. Material on Lira telecentre for updating the website has been sent by Juma. The trainees have updated the website with the same.
2. Both in Lira and Nabweru, there is a problem of a partner's connectivity directly depending on another partner's power supply. This issue needs to be taken up for further action. It is currently a pending issue.
3. Edwin to follow up with Juma on the documentary that was shot during the Lira implementation.
4. CWRC is to get in touch with a designer called Collins Sanya Fredrick, provide him with information, so that he can develop a brochure. This is the same designer that works on

Tech News, the FOT newsletter. The brochure is to be completed before the workshop begins.