Proposal for Learning Team Site

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I. Introduction

Over 2 million children and teachers now have XO laptops. This is in and of itself a success, but we need to bring more visibility to this population and take full advantage of its potential. Therefore, in follow-up to last year's learning seminars and the proposal paper "Innovation in Evaluation[1]" the OLPC Learning Team is excited to put forth the current learning site proposal. Our team used the Scratch website,[2] developed by MIT's Lifelong Kindergarten group, and to which our team has been give full access, as a template and platform to solidify our goals to customize and extend a similar site for OLPC-users.

What we are proposing is a simple interface and design where OLPC-users will be seamlessly introduced to an interactive virtual space. The site will provide a forum for children, teachers, parents, etc. to share, create, collaborate, review and learn from others both in their own countries but connect with OLPC-users across the globe.

II. Proposal Summary

We propose to move forward in the creation of an OLPC Learning site, with the current Scratch website as a model, which will be designed specifically for OLPC-users. The site users will have access to content provided by both OLPC Association and the OLPC Community, they will have the opportunity to upload and share content, projects and other creations of their own, as well as collaborate and connect to other OLPC-users across the globe. Subsequently, this will provide our team with important statistical data that will enhance our understanding of XO uses and better inform our approaches.

III. Why?

- *Making learning visible*
  Anyone interested in the OLPC project, including the users themselves, can see what is being created and learn from it. Anyone can be directed to this site and see the impact of the laptop and what is being created. This would be a valuable sales tool.
- *Global collaboration*
  Students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders will be able to share, talk and learn from each other without an intermediary.
- *Lesson-plans & classroom approaches will spread*
  Teachers (even students) can post their lesson plans as well as watch tutorials, read guides, etc. which will enhance their work in the classroom, again, with no intermediary
- *Introduction of web 2.0 culture*
  Most XO users, both teachers and students, are new to collaboration and sharing in a virtual space—without this culture, a simple site is needed to usher them into effective use
- *Analysis of OLPC learning at scale*
  As users will be asked to enter data once they join the site and projects, lesson plans, etc. will be directly posted; this will provide our team with essential data, all

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[1] Urrea, C., Dr. & Bender, W. "Innovation in Evaluation." April 5th, 2011.
[2] scratch.mit.edu

compiled in one location, to assess the learning that is happening in countries. This information will not only provide important user information data but also inform our support structure and goals moving forward.

IV. Resources/Budget

This proposal can be achieved through multiple strategies, but we propose that the best approach would be to make it low-cost and, while coordinated by the OLPC Learning Team, volunteer focused.

For the first weeks, we will need 1 OLPC Learning Team member focused on advising the design and sharing early versions to the greater Learning Team as well as OLPC management. The creator of the site can be found, through our community outlets, as full-time pro-bono until the site is up and running. Moving forward the site will need a Webmaster. Similar to the Scratch website, we can have nominated students from the site-user community to maintain aspects of site-use and monitor questions/comments.