



The SchoolWAN Project

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www.schoolwan.org.za

Overview

The SchoolWAN project aims to develop a cost effective Wide Area Network (WAN) model for connecting schools in South Africa. The initial goal was to connect 100 schools in the Western Cape. First with a private WAN and secondly to provide services such as email, educational content and internet access.

History

The project started in August 2007 with the help of various sponsors. The idea was to interconnect a number of tuXlab's using outdoor fixed wireless technologies and ISM frequency spectrum.

How?

Amobia Communications is an independent wireless network operator with coverage in the greater Cape Town and Johannesburg areas. Amobia's install teams install and maintain wireless equipment at the schools. Cost of the equipment is about R2000 per school.

Amobia provides wireless "last mile" access services to the schools. School connects to a central access server hosted in Newlands, Cape Town.

Today

About 60 schools are (actively) connected with access to email and educational content hosted by UWC. As many as 90 installations have been done, but not all are active.

Moving Forward

The next step for SchoolWAN is to provide internet access to the connected schools and tuXlabs. Amobia has offered to sponsor the following:

- 512Kbps Connection speed per link
- 1 GB Internet access per school per month, for a period of 12 months from commencement of roll-out.
- After this 12 month period schools may choose to continue using Amobia's services at the standard pricing or possibly negotiate a collective buying agreement.
- Optional Top-up's after the above cap has been reached will be available at the following rates: R89 per 1000MB or R25 for 200MB

Get Involved

SchoolWAN is largely a volunteer driven project. Please have a look at the SchoolWAN website and get in touch if you would like to contribute.



www.wapa.org.za