Digital Education Revolution – NSW

Bulletin 9, October 2009

Since our last Bulletin a number of milestones have been achieved. They include:

- 2,026 student laptops commissioned on Friday 25 September alone
- 26,676 students have received their laptops
- 350 schools have had Phase 1 wireless network connected
- 44 of 47 DER-NSW Regional TSO positions have been filled
- All 10 DER-NSW Regional Managers have been appointed
- 3,000 applicants for 423 TSO positions
- 278 TSOs have entered on duty – bringing the total to 359 TSOs employed as of 25 September

LAPTOP NEWS

STUDENT ROLLOUT UPDATE

To overcome situations where Year 9 enrolments have increased over the school year, July ERN numbers are checked before orders are placed with Lenovo. Remember, your Regional DER-NSW Manager is the first point of contact if you require additional laptops.

We have received enquiries regarding laptop allocation i.e. why some schools are receiving their allocation before others within the same area. This is a direct result of an obligation by DER-NSW under the funding agreement with the Commonwealth to prioritise Round 1 schools over Round 2.1 schools.

Round 2.1 schools will receive their roll out in Term 4. Other factors that have influenced this term’s schedule have been the readiness of the wireless network and the appointment of Technology Support Officers. Laptop allocation is contingent on the successful implementation of these two factors.

There have also been enquiries about why senior schools and senior campuses are receiving laptops when they do not have Year 9 students. The Commonwealth DER-NSW agreement clearly stipulates that every school and campus in Australia receive sufficient devices to bring them to a ratio of one device to two students in Years 9 to 12 by June 2010. Senior schools and senior campuses must receive the number of devices allocated to them by Canberra in either Round 1 or Round 2.1 to meet this requirement. It should be noted that Years 7 to 10 middle schools will have moved to a 1:1 ratio in Years 9 and 10 by the start of 2010.

Refer to: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/schedule/index.htm

TEACHER LAPTOPS

The next rollout of 7000 laptops for teachers is scheduled to commence in Term 4.

To get the maximum advantage of the teacher laptops schools are reminded that teachers are able to log on using their DET logon ID to a laptop commissioned to another teacher.

REFRESH OF T1 TEACHER LAPTOPS

The upgrade of the operating system on the teacher (T1) laptops to elevate these devices to the most up to date supported platform will commence during the October school break. Please note that this will be a one off upgrade exercise that the Program has committed to as part of the decision to get the first round of teacher laptops out as soon as possible.

Your TSO or Regional TSO will contact you prior to the commencement of the refresh process to advise how the upgrade will be done.

BATTERY LIFE

During a school visit we made some enquiries about the duration of batteries on a regular school day. One student reported that 20% battery life remained even after having used the laptop all day. Another student reported having 1½ hours of battery life remaining when leaving school.
LAPTOP ACCESSORIES

Laptop accessories including storage cabinets, battery chargers and AC adaptors can be purchased through the Procurement site at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/procurement/products/index.htm

STOLEN OR LOST LAPTOPS

A number of deputy principals have contacted the Program Office to enquire about processes for lost or stolen laptops.

The Policy Implementation Procedures stipulate that students must notify the responsible person at the school as soon as possible. If this is the Deputy Principal, he or she would notify the Technology Support Officer (TSO) to ensure that the laptop is logged as ‘lost’ or ‘stolen’ in the Resource Management Unit (RMU).

The student would be required to fill in a Laptop Incident Report (see DER-NSW Policy website) and supply, where relevant, a Statutory Declaration or a Police Report Number. In the case of theft, the Deputy would also request the TSO to trigger a machine destruction order. In case of loss or in-school theft, he or she may choose to wait a day or two in case the laptop is recovered.

Once the paperwork is done the Deputy should authorise the TSO to issue a replacement. The Implementation Procedures provide advice in situations where a student has a poor laptop history.

A revised Laptop Incident Report has been developed to meet both Treasury Managed Fund and Computrace requirements. Please see: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/techsupport/incidents.pdf

For your information, attached are screens developed by the Resource Management Unit for Principals and school DER-NSW managers to help monitor the school’s laptops.

WIRELESS NETWORKING NEWS

REMEDICATION OF FIBRE OPTIC CABLING IN SCHOOLS

An email was sent by the Director-General on the 23 September to notify schools of the additional funding to cover the costs of fibre optic remediation. As a point of clarification, the payment will only be for schools with fibre optic remediation issues identified by IBM for the DER-NSW program. These are schools which have been or are in the process of being contacted by the Principal Liaison Officers from the DER-NSW Program Office. This team will continue to process quotes for reasonableness and make adjustments in consultation with Principals.
The funding arrangements are as follows:

- If schools have negotiated a DER loan this will now be paid in full by the DER-NSW Program.
- If a school has paid 75% (and DER-NSW 25%) the DER-NSW Program will reimburse the school.
- If a school has funded the remediation (as identified by IBM) then the DER-NSW Program will reimburse the school.
- If a schools existing network requires re-configuration to release spare fibre optic for the DER –NSW wireless network then the DER-NSW Program will reimburse the re-configuration costs.

If you have inquiries please contact Tony Fugaccia (9561 8123), Graeme Davies (9561 1924) or Terry Tunkunas (9561 1091). They are there explicitly to address your concerns and inform you of the due process.

SCHOOL FUNDED WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS

It is recognised that some schools may desire wireless coverage in areas that are not included in the DER-NSW program scope, such as: staffrooms; halls; or other specialist rooms.

It is now possible for schools to request quotes from IBM for additional school funded access points by completing a “School Funded Wireless Access Point Request” form which can be found at the following site: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/wireless/aprequestform.doc

Please note: indicative pricing can be found on page 2 of the form.

Standard inclusions with the purchase of each additional access point:

- Supply and install:
  - Aruba 125 Access point
  - mounting kit
  - patch cables
- Install Cat 6E cabling from existing building distributor to Access point (up to 80m)
- Configure, commission and test Access Point and cabling
- Add to management system and heat maps
- Schedule, test, stage and deliver equipment
- Provide warranty and service levels to match DER-NSW provided Access Points.

Note:

- Price also includes IBM administration costs including analysis of request, quotation and Statement of Work.
- Only wireless access points purchased through the DER-NSW program can be connected to the DER-NSW wireless network.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICERS NEWS

The advertisements for the travelling TSO positions have been published on the Jobs@DET website as well as local press publications to ensure maximum coverage. Successful applicants will support schools with smaller cohorts of students and where a full time employee cannot be justified. In most cases these travelling TSOs will be based in one school and will support another neighbouring site when necessary.

As part of the process each Regional team has been conducting TSO induction sessions as a requirement of their recruitment. This mandatory session covers in detail all of the new technologies that are being implemented as part of the DER-NSW program. Also covered are other important training materials such as Child Protection and OH&S responsibilities.

Training up this new large support group of TSOs is no small task. The DER-NSW Regional Managers are simultaneously managing the training of their school based TSOs as well as the rollout and implementation of the DER-NSW Laptops and technologies.

TSOs who have arrived at schools which are not scheduled to receive DER-NSW devices for a few weeks have been asked, where they can, to best prepare for the arrival. TSOs should contact their DER-NSW Regional TSO for support, but can find lots of useful materials on the DER-NSW Intranet site.

DER-NSW OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GUIDE – UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2009

Since version 1 of the Operational Support Guide (OSG) was published on the 3 August 2009 we have received lots of positive and constructive feedback from schools and Regional ICT teams.

Many improvements and updates have taken place in response to the feedback we have received and ask that all feedback is fed through to the DER-NSW Program via the DER-NSW Regional teams for maximum impact.
USEFUL WEBSITES
The DER-NSW Internet site for parents and students is now live at:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/dernsw
The DVD that is part of the Parent Information package can be found here as well as on YouTube at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-T71zmupiA
Translations of the Parent Information Sheet that accompanied Bulletin 5 are now live. They are still waiting to go on the individual languages pages but can be accessed from the by documents pages at:
The special DER edition Clicks Newsletter is available at:
https://staffowa.det.nsw.edu.au/owa/attachment.aspx?attach=1&id=RgAAABF%2fjaNzfUeSqrRH424%2bALW8bwCSQNq4FPB6RJAYuO42b5pNAA7h3ySyaACSQn4FPB6RJAYuO42b5pNAegM3sUgAAA&attid=0=EAAl5tfG6GW%2fTocTKnP24%2bSQ&attcnt=1
Laptop Incident Report is available at:

THE EDUCATION TAX REFUND – GET 50% BACK
Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to $1500 for secondary students. Laptops, educational software and home internet connections, printers, etc are eligible claim items under the Education Tax Refund. For eligibility and items that can be included see www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

GET EQUIPPED—RESOURCES FOR LAPTOPS

IMPROVED TALE SEARCH
TaLe (www.tale.edu.au) is the primary gateway to access resources from CLI and a range of other resource providers. You can now search TaLe for ‘DERNSW’ to discover new and existing resources that have been labelled and tested as ‘laptop friendly resources’. Other common search terms will also discover DER-NSW resources, including: laptop, DER, DER-NSW, and L4L.

TALE DER-NSW
To get an overview of the range of DER-NSW resources on TaLe there is a dedicated DER-NSW page. KLA based ‘saved searches’ make finding relevant resources easier. Go to TaLe, Secondary section, DER-NSW resources link on the right of the page.

LAPTOP WRAPS
Laptop wraps are topic-based resources for all KLAS, initially targeting Stage 5. These resources include links to stimulus materials students can explore before working on a series of online and offline activities that exploit the laptop tools and utilise the new suite of Adobe, Microsoft, and other educational software on the laptops.

Tale Tools+

The new Tools+ site contains a wealth of support resources for using Departmental technology tools. This includes sections supporting Software tools (eg Microsoft and Adobe suites), and Interactive classrooms (eg interactive whiteboards and video conferencing). Go to Tale, Secondary section, Tools+ link in the top right of the page.
**Tools4U**
Tools4U provide support for the new suite of Adobe, Microsoft, and other educational software. Tools4U resources include online tutorials, examples of classroom use and step-by-step guides. You will find a growing list of Tools4U including Adobe Captivate, Adobe Presenter, Adobe Acrobat Pro, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Microsoft OneNote, GeoGebra and more.

**UCreate**
The UCreate resources focus on a technology product that teachers and students can create, such as a podcast, vodcast, digital portfolio or webpage. The resources provide a step by step guide for novice users.

**GETTING STARTED WITH LAPTOPS**
Earlier this year CLI and the Curriculum K-12 Directorate partnered with teachers from each secondary KLA to run a 2-day DER-NSW Teachers Forum. The *Getting started with laptops* product includes video recordings, podcasts, presentations and presenter notes from the teacher forum.
VIDEO RESOURCES
Keep an eye out for Teachers talk laptops Students talk laptops and Leaders talk laptops. These video-based resources will capture the hopes, anxieties and excitement as the laptops are rolled out. The resources will be updated regularly as to reflect the changing understandings as students teachers and leaders gain experience and skills in using the laptops.

For further information contact
T 9561 8636 [leave a message]  E DER-NSW@det.nsw.edu.au
Internet website coming soon.