Proposal for Learning Team Site

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I. Introduction

Over 2 million children now have XO laptops. This is in and of itself a success, but we need to bring more visibility to this number and harness its power. We need one collated, simple place where we cannot only start to easily usher in this OLPC generation to be effective Internet users, but provide them, their teachers, parents, etc. a place to share, collaborate and review work. This would be the first website of this kind designed solely for users in developing countries.

II. Proposal Summary

We propose to create an OLPC learning portal similar to the Scratch website (scratch.mit.edu). The design and use of the site will be simple, but will show, by the users themselves, what is being created in their respective countries. They will share and collaborate directly with each other.

III. Why?

- *Make 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 pointed to this site and see the true impact of each child owning their own laptop.
- *Allow for cross-country collaboration*
  Students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders will be able to share, talk and learn from each other without an intermediary.
- *Allow lesson-plan ideas to spread*
  Teachers (even students) can post their lesson plans as well as read tutorials, which will enhance their work in the classroom, again, with no intermediary
- *Introduction of web-use*
  Most XO users, both teachers and students, are new to internet-use, not personally, but their families, and communities—without this culture, a simple site is needed to usher them into effective use of the Internet
- *Analysis of project at scale*
  "As an alternative from experimental evaluations, a strategy is proposed for understanding OLPC at a much larger scale. This strategy involves the design and implementation of a repository of objects or artifact designed by children from different OLPC programs, different countries, all over the world." (Urrea, Bender) This can be done by tracking and assessing work and user information posted to the site.

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, volunteered focused.
For the first weeks, we will need 1 OLPC member focused on advising the design and planning and sharing early versions to OLPC management. The creator of the site can be found, through our community outlets, as a 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 to maintain the site and monitor questions/comments.