WORKPACKAGE WP1:

OPEN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Objectives and Planning

Deliverable 1.2.1 –Deployment and Trial Plans

TODAY'S STORIES

Open School Communities

Objectives and Planning

D1.2.1 Deployment and Trial Plan – first year (T11) (internal)

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Deployment and Trial Plans D1.2.1

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Keywords	School trial objectives, co-ordination.
T1.2 Objective and Planning	Concrete objectives that the school trials. Day to day planning of trial work. Co-ordination of technological and pedagogical project teams, as well as the different parties at the school sites. Co-ordinated trial plans to the extent possible, in order to facilitate research on cross-cultural implications. Requirements on results and materials to be produced by the trials are collected from WP2 and WP3 activities.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Please refer to deliverable main executive and co-ordinator's executive project summary

Activities

Envisaged scenarios and the technology

At Nr. Broby Skole presentations and discussions have taken place to re-present the current 'Today's Stories' concept, to the core staff team which this term constitutes: Tove Husted (technology co-ordinator) and activities have been focused on class 3 with core teaching staff Hans Erik and Suzanne Hebsgaard. Facilities have been set in place for trials with Class 3. Involvement of the younger and older class is to be arranged on as needed basis. Staff at the school remains committed to the project. Work on developing sensitisation of the children and development of core skills continues. Interactive sessions have been designed where the use of the 'experimental probes' (digital camera) will help children think about the issues of wearable technology in comparison to hand-held devices.

Questions such as 'what is secret', 'what would you wish to share', 'what would I film in the life of x ?' are being thought about. Issues of ownership of material, privacy, secrecy, comfort, consent to filming, functionality, location are beginning to emerge.

Outcomes from these sessions with children and staff have contributed to the creation of **'scenarios of use'** (Appendix A1), these will be discussed with staff prior to the trials.

'Experimental probes' and design challenges

In phase two of the first year, 1999, we have introduced the 'experimental probe' of a digital video camera and the Nintendo games boy with camera and printer. We continue using photographic media. Design challenges have focused on both wearable 'smart clothes' and 'smart machines'. The concept of the KidsCam has been re-introduced and prototypes created by the children. The new concepts of a 'Magic Mirror' and 'Video Explorer world' have also been used in interaction design sessions. Children have worked through paper prototyping exercises on features of functionality for the 'video explorer world', 'emotion annotations', and 'kinds of worlds' they would take their video material to, 'features of the software' that would allow them to 're-construct' their video material.

These paper prototyping, drama/imagineering, wizard-of-oz simulation games, and 'community of enquiry dialogues' have been designed specifically for working with children to develop concepts and requirements that relate to the deployment of new technology. These activities have been designed to support the preparation of trials of new technology e.g.'magic boxes', magic mirrors', 'video explorer'(D1.2.1, 1.3.1 Deployment and Trial Plan, reports and Materials).

'Media Documents'
The first in a series of video's/CD's has been produced in English and Danish, by the Danish site that illustrating interactive session that have been linked to the Stories project. The video an 8-minute video in Danish and English titled' How Do they Do That? – Wearable Technology 1, October 1999. The video illustrates story-making activities, filmmaking (use of base line technologies), design work and reflective dialogues using 'Community of Enquiry' paradigm.
As a guesstimate of about 90% of the footage and still photographs have been shot by the children, the editing has been done professionally a collaboration between NIS research team and MediaStudioWorkshop, at Southern Danish University.

Points of particular interest from a staff perspective were:
- The potential to use 'media documents' for the staff and children to reflect on their work practises with video and photography and 'filming; work.
- Beginning of children's heightened awareness of 'smart/clever' technologies in their environment and potential use in home/school situations.

Links to the Israeli school and colleagues are being planned and will be supported by the UGO team. We have proposed the first exchange of information could be using the 'magic boxes'. A series of drama games have been design to start to explore information exchange.

In Israel the re-presentation of the new scenarios and ideas for technology deployment (developed in Brussels in October 1999), are planned for early in 2000 at the beginning of the next school term.

Today's Stories, curriculum activity and pedagogic objectives
Ms Husted continues in on site project co-ordination and advice. She continues to facilitate our contact and sensibilisation. The work for the second half of the first year, 1999, was restricted to class 3 and integrated into the curriculum. Class teachers Hans-Erik Christensen and Susanne Hebsgaard continue to share the classroom teaching. They have both been facilitating the interactive sessions with the research team. They follow through with the planned activities in the curriculum that relate to the Stories project.

The Danish site's provisional plan for the first part of the new term 2000 is that we shall continue with interactive session with both reference groups and prepare for the deployment trails of the technology. Brief discussions have taken place as to the possible nature of the trials during early on next term, January- April, April – June 2000. The school has agreed in principle for a 'Stories' theme week either in March or May where we can work on the deployment and trials in the context of a curriculum theme to be developed.

The research teams from Stories will participate as using the guest 'resident artists/technologist' paradigm. The 'theme' format will allow for a focused effort on the trials and opportunities to iterate aspects of the functionalities of KidsCam system. In terms of pedagogic objectives these will be linked to the aims of the 'theme' week and possibly related to earlier schoolwork scheduled for (February/March 2000) on 'friendship' where it is planned to used digital technology.

Preliminary work that will feed into the trial development will involve the creation of the next in the series of 'media documents'. Meaningful 'episodes in a child's life' will be captured. This is based on the central project aim, which is the use of KidsCam technology to support reflection. Children will be given the chance to document short clips (of a maximum of 3 minutes each) to illustrate 'A day in the life of.' The children will have access to digital cameras (video & stills), analogue, Polaroid and Nintendo game boy with camera. Multi-media editing software has been installed on the school iMac. We shall integrate the trial work related to editing feature of the 'Composer' to work the children will do with existing software. The focus will include interactions were we explore what and when children are choosing to record from their 'everyday experience'. Initially adults will guide these activities. Reflection of the footage, stills will also be documented. This activity has been schedule for the end of the Christmas term, 1999 and start of the New Year term, 2000.

The Stories research team have provided technology infrastructure and training (through a local supplier – Office Line) during the Autumn Term, 1999. The 'experimental probes' in the Spring/Summer/Autumn term, 1999, took the form of digital video camera and film/character construction resources, analogue camera, storytelling support software, web cams and video editing software. The school has installed an ISDN line, which we can integrate into the plans to create a link with consortium partners and Israeli school site. Web sites are under development at both sites. We are currently supporting school discussions with respect to content, design and access. This activity in time will link with i3net ESE web site. This is being planned for the Spring Term, 2000.

The Israeli team continues the formulation of the project activities in terms of deployment and trials will be integrate with the schools' regular activities in order for the children (and schools) to benefit most from the project trials. The format of the trials is currently subject to discussion. Extensive discussions have taken place in terms of the pedagogic elements of the Stories projects (D2.1.1).

Outcomes from these discussions will assist in the development of the deployment and trial documentation. A discussion document has been prepared that outlines the methodological choices in terms of human-centred design practise. This has been made available for the Stories project in relation to technology deployment. Guidelines will be created and adapted for two pedagogic communities (1.3.1 Appendix A, A1).

Evaluation and Feedback

At the Danish site periodic informal evaluation and feedback sessions have been scheduled during regular meeting times. These are available typically weekly, used this term typically very three weeks.

'Video dialogues' and 'audio dialogues (D1.1.1) will be continued and planned for the early next term, 2000. Brief evaluative comments from staff have been taken during children's 'reflection/evaluation sessions. Parent sessions film of work took place in November 1999, including a presentation of video. Parents have re-iterated their commitment to the project. It was agreed that the 'newsletter' communication should continue. Parents were invited to make direct contact with researchers or through the staff contacts to raise any questions or issues. The research team has committed to support the development of the web site and assist in access and privacy issues. Permission was re-affirmed for use of selected images for research presentations e.g. paper, posters. The content composition of the video was accepted. In terms of images of children on the Stories web site. This permission was withheld and deferred as overall permission was being sought from parents with respect to the Schools own web site. Impressions of the project were in general positive and the technology was perceived as one that could support children's reflections. General issues of privacy and ownership and use in the classroom were raised. A future parent/staff session to explore these issue could be integrated into the next year plan.

Ideas that were difficult to grasp were the tangible nature of the 'look and feel' of the technology. The project could benefit from lay literature and/or video simulation that describes the current concept and scenarios of use, that were recently developed More detailed evaluation and reflective comments from staff have been requested for the beginning of next term. Co-ordination of this activity with colleagues in Israel and Sweden should be considered. Swedish colleagues will also focus on supporting the interaction between staff, parents and children involved in the Stories reference groups early in the next term. Internal discussions have been initiated within the consortium.

At the Israeli site the research team continues the established practise of contacting teachers and principals. The parents have learned about the project through a series of PTA meetings conducted at the beginning of the school year, September 1999. They learned about the AOE paradigm and the project method. The research team plan to conduct activities with parents in the future.

The documentation of the trial plan and evaluation meetings with the reference groups is currently under discussions. Outcome documentation has been re-scheduled for Feb15th 2000. These discussions will also include the preparation of documentation and reporting framework of the trials to produce materials in adequate form. Web sites are under development at both sites. We are currently supporting school discussions with respect to content, design and access. This activity in time will link with i3net ESE web site.