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Migrating schools to FOSS with ease: the LibreSchool project



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Agenda

- The LibreSchool Project
 - The 5 Ws
- Typical implementation
 - Communication
 - Lab deployment
 - Training
- Technical aspects
- Results
- Contribute!

The LibreSchool project



The LibreSchool Project (1)

- Who
 - BgLUG – Bergamo Linux Users Group
 - Libreltalia
 - Other italian non-profit associations
 - NOW: LibreSchool
- What – *Project goals*
 - Support schools which want to create or migrate didactic laboratory to GNU/Linux and FOSS
 - Foster sharing, collaboration and participation culture (community) within scholastic environments
- When
 - Started in Late 2015
 - Re-boot on September 2017

The LibreSchool Project (2)

- Where
 - Schools in Northern Italy
 - Schools in the whole world?
- Why
 - We all love FOSS
 - We all love LibreOffice
 - We want freedom
 - We want to build a better world
 - We wanted to help Italian schools which need help (mainly from economical POV)
 - We definitely think Public Administrations should use only FOSS

Typical implementation

How?

Communication

Lab deployment

Training

Communication

- Who
 - School Manager and teachers, sometimes *parents*
- What
 - Ethical, technical and quality choice
- When
 - Before implementing the lab; usually before September
- Where
 - Usually at the same school (site survey!)
- Why
 - It is *mandatory* that involved people knows the importance and how their didactic process will change with the new laboratory

Lab deployment

- Who
 - LibreSchool people
- What – *Implementation of a new FOSS lab*
 - Lab optimization
 - Server deployment (1h)
 - Teachers' client deployment (1,5h)
 - Other clients deployment (1,5h)
 - **Total time:** about 4 hours
- When
 - Usually before September
- Where
 - Designated room for the lab
- Why
 - By installing a new lab, people can train and improve their methods for didactics with new and innovative tools

Training

- Who
 - LibreSchool people, TDF certified trainers
- What – *Training of the teachers*
 - FOSS ethics and GNU/Linux basics (8h) – all teachers
 - Lab maintenance (8h) – people in charge of maintenance
 - Office automation (20h) – all teachers
 - Specific software (2h/software) – teachers
 - **Total time:** about 36 hours
- When
 - Between September and November
- Where
 - In the same lab implemented before
- Why
 - FOSS software is not difficult, is simply *different*. So yes, you need anyways training, also if things are only a slight off.

Technical aspects

Goals of the implementation

- Fully manageable by non-technical people
- Client independent (from user/hardware)
- Centralized authentication with personal credentials
- Shared folders
- Web content filtering
- Automatic non-presidiate backups
- Automatic “centralized” updates
- Reuse of old hardware

Interesting technical traits

- Fat client/Server infrastructure
- Separate school network from the lab
- PXE boot for quick/easy deployment
- *Roaming profiles*
- Ansible playbooks for server deployment
- Ansible to simulate Windows Group Policies
- Client OS is Edubuntu 14.04 LTS (still?)
- LibreOffice 5.x (LibreOffice PPA)
- Server OS is NethServer 6.x

Results



CARAVAGGIO

I.C. «Mastri Caravaggini»



BERGAMO

I.C. «Gabriele Camozzi»



BERGAMO

Liceo Seminario vescovile

MILANO - IC «Ilaria Alpi»



Contribute!

How you can contribute?

- Development
- Translations
- Videos
- Training
- Porting our experience to your country!

How to find us and the project

- E-mail: info@libreschool.org
- Homepage: libreschool.org
- Sources (GNU GPLv3):
github.com/bglug-it
- Demo video: [YouTube](#)

Grazie!
Thank you very much!



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