Migrating schools to FOSS with ease: the LibreSchool project

Emiliano Vavassori
syntaxerror@libreoffice.org
@syntaxerror

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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
  - LibreItalia
  - 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
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!