

WORKSHOP ON THE NEW DIMENSION TO COMPUTER EDUCATION
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

January 9, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

GREETINGS for the NEW YEAR!!

We can choose to wait and be reactive to welcome the 'tomorrow' or be proactive and **create** the 'tomorrow'. To create a better tomorrow, we need instruments to achieve and sustain **quality in education**. The mantra for achieving quality in education is **Integrated Learning**, connecting skills and knowledge to understand and solve problems.

If we hope to make the next generation of Indian students **educated** and **digitally literate**, Free and Open Source Software (**FOSS**) is the most logical choice. However, the syllabus in many academic institutions *mandates* proprietary software and mentions them by brand names. This prevents teachers and students from choosing the software that best suits their needs and budgets. It makes the education system **teach products not principles**. And the benefits go to the owners of the brand names, not to the country, or the students or the teachers. To bring the benefits of FOSS to Indian students, one of the first steps we need to take is to remove the proprietary bias from the syllabus.

We initiated the process with a seminar conducted on 16th November, 2006 wherein Dr. Nagarjun from the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mumbai helped us to explore FOSS. We have come up with an effective way of using FOSS along with the development of adequate study material. In continuation with our efforts to implement FOSS, we are organizing a workshop where we want to share with you our experience and success in the **use of FOSS upto class V**. The school has developed a full programme including study material, which we wish to share.

For further details please refer to **Appendix – I**.

I take this opportunity to invite you to participate in the workshop and help in binding and increasing the FOSS community. The workshop may be attended by IT Coordinators / HODs / Computer Faculties / Interested Individuals.

You are requested to send your consent latest by **January 22, 2009** along with the completed Registration Form and the participation fee of **Rs. 500/-** per participant to cover for the workshop expenses including meals.

For further clarification you are welcome to contact Mr. Deepak Bhargava, IT Coordinator, Mayoora School, Ajmer at 09413906979.

Yours sincerely,

(Neeraj K Bedhotiya)
PRINCIPAL

Appendix – I

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) has emerged as a powerful instrument for implementing integrated learning. The advantages are innumerable. As the declaration Free Software Leaders Stand Together states, the business model of FOSS “is to reduce the cost of software development and maintenance by distributing it among many collaborators”.

- FOSS costs less to initially acquire.
- Upgrade/maintenance costs are typically far less.
- FOSS does not impose license management costs, does not in practice include noxious licensing clauses, and avoids nearly all licensing litigation risks.
- Total cost of ownership for FOSS is often far less than proprietary software, especially as the number of platforms increases.
- FOSS is often the most reliable software, and in many cases has the best performance.
- FOSS software often has far better security (from viruses, worms and trojans), perhaps due to the possibility of worldwide review.

FOSS users have fundamental control and flexibility advantages, since they can modify and maintain their own software to their liking, thus FOSS is an example of the **incredible value** that can result when users have the freedom to tinker (the freedom to understand, discuss, repair, and modify the technological devices they own). Innovations are often created by combining pre-existing components in novel ways, which generally requires that users be able to modify those components.

Organizations can transition to OSS/FS in part or in stages, which for many is a far more practical transition approach.

Mayoor’s Experience with FOSS

Our IT Department has successfully implemented FOSS for the Primary Classes in the new primary computer lab with 40 Dual core computers using **EDUBUNTU** – Linux based operating system, freely available with community based support specially customized for schools adequately supported by the revised edition of the books called ‘**LINUX FOR KIDS**’.

The upcoming workshop is the second in the series of FOSS. It will include an **introduction and hands on practice** of all Open Source Software which can be used free of cost by the schools, followed by the discussion on the **study material** for the same.

We want to clear the haze that could have occurred while implementing FOSS. We are successfully using the following Open Source Software for the Primary classes,

- Tux Type (A very innovative software for English spellings and knowledge for Grade 1)
- Tux Math (A novel way to develop oral math skills)
- GCompris (Learning by fun and frolic for Grade 1)
- Tux Paint (analogous to MS-Paint for Grade 2)
- Open Office.org Word Processor 2.3 (analogous to MS Word)
- Open Office.org Impress 2.3 (analogous to MS PowerPoint)
- KTurtle for LOGO Programming
- YaBasic for BASIC programming
- OpenSchool (Software to monitor machines on LAN and deliver lessons more effectively)

The best feature of these software is that they can run on Edubuntu as well as Windows platform.

We are currently into research of the following Open Source Software

- Notepad++ (Excellent Source Code Editor and Notepad replacement)
- Inkscape (Replacement for Coral Draw and includes many more features)
- VideoLan (analogous to VLC Media Player)
- Open Office.org Calc 2.3 (analogous to MS-Excel)

So, let us all get together and enrich ourselves by sharing with each other our experiences, in order to create a better and enlightened ‘tomorrow’.

Yours sincerely,

(Deepak Bhargava)
IT Coordinator

MAYOOR SCHOOL, AJMER

WORKSHOP ON THE NEW DIMENSION TO COMPUTER EDUCATION

PROGRAMME

Day and Date:	Tuesday, January 27, 2009
8.45 a.m.	Registration
9.00 a.m.	Inauguration by Mr. P.I. Sabu, Regional Officer, CBSE, Ajmer
9.15 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.	Brief Introduction to Free and Open Source Software by Mr. Deepak Bhargava, IT Coordinator, Mayoora School, Ajmer
9.45 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.	Talk by Mr. Neeraj K. Bedhotiya, Principal, Mayoora School, Ajmer on “ Integrated Learning ”
10.45 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.	Tea break
11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Demonstration of various software used at Mayoora by Mrs. Gunjan Kotwani, Computer Faculty, Mayoora School, Ajmer
12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.	Machine Session
1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.	Lunch
2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.	Lesson Planning using Integrated Learning by Ms. Sindhu Chaturvedi, Primary Coordinator, Mayoora School, Ajmer
3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Demonstration of how to Install various free and open source software (Mentioned in Appendix – I) by Mr. Pawan Yadav, Computer Department, Mayoora School, Ajmer
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.	Discussion on study material
4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Q/A Session
5.00 p.m.	Vote of Thanks followed by Tea
Venue:	Computer Lab (Primary Block) Mayoora School Alwar Gate Ajmer

Note: Total number of seats: 50 (on first come first serve basis)

MAYOOR SCHOOL, AJMER

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REGISTRATION FORM

Details of Participants:

S.No	Name	Designation & Tel. No.
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____

Name of Institution _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Website _____

Is the school using any FOSS? (Yes/ No) _____, if Yes please mention:

DD favouring **Principal, Mayoora School, Ajmer**

Bank & Branch _____ DD No. _____

Date _____ Rs. _____ (in words _____)

Principal's Signature
With stamp of school

Please mail to:

Principal
Mayoora School
Alwar Gate
Ajmer (Raj.)
Ph: 0145-2660090 Fax: 0145-2660199
E-mail: office@mayoora-school.org