Learning without limits FAQ

Ultra-fast Broadband in Schools Programme

Q. When will my school / region get fibre?
A. The timeframe in which any particular school or region will receive fibre is not yet known. This will be determined by the procurement processes being undertaken for the Ultra-fast Broadband (UFB) and Rural Broadband Initiatives (RBI). Overseen by Crown Fibre Holdings and the Ministry of Economic Development respectively, negotiations for these are currently underway with the first successful bids by fibre providers expected to be announced in October. It is anticipated that installations will begin in late 2010 or early 2011.

Q. How can I get my school prioritised in the fibre roll out?
A. The UFB rollout to regions is likely to be announced over a period of time. Successful tenderers will then identify the most logical order in which to connect schools *within* their region.

Q How much will ultra-fast broadband cost schools?
A. There are a number of factors affecting the cost of ultra-fast broadband. These include:

   a) the one-off cost to run fibre-optic cable from the junction box in the street to a termination point within the school (known as the "fibre drop")
   b) the monthly network access charge (a fixed fee for connecting to the fibre provider)
   c) charges for those services that schools choose to then take over the fibre. Examples of such services include the provision of commodity internet through an ISP, provision of a hosted student management system, offsite data storage or VoIP phone systems.

Q. What will the monthly network access fee be??
A. Network access charges are currently being negotiated by Crown Fibre Holdings and the Ministry of Economic Development. Final levels will depend on which fibre provider is successful in a particular region.

The cost of any other services schools choose to take over fibre will depend on the level of collective demand for a particular service and any subsequent discount that can be negotiated

Q Which schools are defined as urban and which are 'rural'?
A For the purposes of the government's broadband approach urban New Zealand is comprised of the 33 "candidate areas" that contain populations greater than 9,500 people (the smallest of these being Greymouth).

75% of New Zealanders live in these locations and are covered by the urban fibre deployment. The other 25% live in the balance of the country. These schools will be

covered by the RBI deployment which will also be primarily fibre. A small number of schools will be connected through other technologies such as wireless or satellite.

The boundaries between rural and urban are currently subject to negotiation between the government and the various parties responding to the tenders.

Q. What does my school need to do to be prepared?
A. Schools can register for a School Network Upgrade (network.upgrades@minedu.govt.nz) to ensure their internal school network is ready for the ultra-fast broadband capacity that fibre will deliver. School leaders should also prioritise professional development to ensure that staff are confident in using online tools and environments in their work.

Q. If my school is already connected to a fibre service and our provider doesn't get the government contract, are we able to switch to the local fibre company who *has* been selected?
A. A principle of the UFB and RBI initiatives is that wherever possible existing fibre should not be over-built so it is very unlikely schools will be provided with a second connection.

Assuming a school is connected to an open access fibre provider (i.e. the current fibre company can deliver products and services from a range of service providers) that school should not *need* to change. However it may be that the school is not able to access the reduced network access charges that Crown Fibre Holdings may be able to negotiate across a region. Our advice is that schools should hold off from signing up with any fibre providers until the government announcements are made and the picture becomes clearer.

Q. Our school has recently connected to fibre – can we get funds back for this?
A. There is no mechanism to retrospectively fund schools which have chosen to install fibre ahead of the government rollout.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

learning
WITHOUT
LIMITS
Ultra-fast
broadband in schools

National Education Network

Q. What is a NEN?
A. A NEN is a dedicated education network that connects schools directly to a range of service providers in New Zealand and internationally. Examples of national education networks include the UK NEN (nen.gov.uk)

Q. Who would govern a NEN for NZ schools?

.A governance structure would need to be determined once a formal decision has been reached by the government about the viability of a NEN for all schools. This body would include user (schools) representation to determine and govern content and services to be provided across a NEN.

Q. Who governs the NEN trial extension?
A. The current NEN trial extension is overseen by a governance group comprised of representatives from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic Development, Treasury and REANNZ. Representatives of the schools involved meet fortnightly via videoconference.

The Ministry of Education has appointed a dedicated Trial Extension Manager with the physical connection of schools to the trial extension being handled by REANNZ.

Q. What would a NEN cost schools?
A. Until government has agreed to support a NEN and worked through greater detail on how it would work, this is unknown. However the combined buying power of a large number of schools in the sector would enable services to be provided at lower cost over a NEN than schools would be able to secure individually. Future processes would help determine this.

Q. What can we do to ensure our school can support and make use of a NEN, should this become available?
A. Schools should continue to develop the e-capability of teachers and support staff, and help ensure your school network is fibre-ready by registering your interest in an upgrade with SNUP (network.upgrades@minedu.govt.nz).

Q. Do schools on the NEN trial extension receive a free KAREN connecton?
A. For the duration of the trial, schools are funded for their KAREN membership fees, router and any connection charges to the nearest KAREN connection point Participating schools will also not pay for some basic content and services accessed over KAREN.

Q. What would a NEN provide that is not already available?
A. There are a number of potential benefits to such a network. Content and services currently accessed across the public internet could be delivered across a dedicated network that would not be competing with other internet traffic.

Education related content and services could be centrally procured and delivered at lower cost than schools would be able to secure individually.

It would also allow great collaboration and sharing of resources between schools across New Zealand.

Q. What professional learning will be required for teachers and who will provide this?
A. Just as ongoing professional learning for teachers is critical to their practices now, such learning will be equally important in the future. It is the place of leadership and management in schools to ensure this happens. There will be access to resources for schools through professional learning and development contracts tendered centrally and delivered locally through professional learning and development redesign notified in the 6th September 2010 edition of the NZ Education Gazette.

School Network Upgrade Programme *(SNUP)*

Q. When will my school be upgraded?
A. Given the number of schools to be upgraded it is not possible to schedule all the upgrades upfront and let schools know exactly when they will have their network upgraded.
The process is dependent on several factors such as government funding available at any one time and cabler and installer availability.

We are trying to align our upgrade programme with the fibre rollout where possible. Schools taking up a fibre service will continue to be prioritised where possible.

Q. Why does SNUP not include wireless?
A. The funding provided by the government is for capital investment in wired infrastructure. In addition the vast majority of the 185,000 computers in NZ schools have network cards, not wireless cards so installing wireless would be of little benefit to schools.

The Ministry is aware that this is likely to change to some extent over time but the investment being made now will provide a basis for any additional wireless deployment in the future. Wireless capability is an add-on to a properly designed and installed structured cabling system.

Q. Does SNUP include a mains power upgrade?
A. No. Schools are still responsible for the provision of mains power. SNUP will provide additional low-voltage power (i.e. 3 pin plugs) around the school

Q. How much should I plan for as my schools 20% contribution for the upgrade?
A. State schools should factor in approximately $100 per student in their 5YA or budget to cover their contribution to the cost. For state integrated schools, the proprietor should set aside up to $150 per student to fund their 32%. Both figures are based on an average cost of schools upgraded to date.

Q. Is there a list of schools in order of priority for SNUP – if so where can we check where our school is on the list?
A. There is no priority list apart, from a list of schools currently being upgraded. A list of the schools where upgrades are about to commence, already underway or completed will shortly be available online.

There are many factors that affect which schools are prioritised for upgrade – including the published criteria, the availability of funding, school size and the availability of cablers in each region.

Q. We have recently upgraded our network – can we get some funds back for this?
A. The Ministry does not provide retrospective funding for any property work.

Q. Can we still register for SNUP?
A. Yes. To register your interest for SNUP, send an email to network.upgrades@minedu.govt.nz. The subject heading must contain the following:

Q. Can we apply for SNUP even if we do not fit any of the criteria?
A. Yes. The criteria for SNUP is reviewed from time to time by the Minister to ensure it is still relevant to Government priorities.

For example, when fibre begins to be rolled out in certain regions, schools in those regions may be prioritised for SNUP to ensure as many as possible can enjoy the full benefit of ultra-fast broadband over fibre.

TELA

Q. Who is eligible for the TELA programme?
A. Teachers working in a state or integrated school and permanent full-time or part-time over 0.50 FTTE are eligible. Schools must apply on behalf of their staff.

Q. Why is the TELA lease three years long?
A. Three year leases are a standard industry timeframe for hardware provision.

This has proven to be a satisfactory period to ensure equipment does not become obsolete, addresses school needs and is still cost-effective.

Laptops are out of warranty after three years and as failure rates increase on machines of this age the cost of any repairs would increase considerably.

Two year leases are substantially more expensive.

Q. Why isn't the scheme being expanded - eg to students, support staff, or to part time teachers less than 0.5?
A. Funding was provided from the Government based on specific eligibility criteria. ab Non-permanent positions are less likely to remain in place for the three year duration of the lease, and would cause funding issues regarding lease termination

There is currently no intention to extend the scheme beyond the current criteria.

Q. Can we install Windows 7 on our older TELA laptops?
A. Yes. We have tested Windows 7 on a number of older TELA laptops that are currently on lease and find the software to perform well overall with few (if any) speed or stability issues observed. HP and Toshiba provide Windows 7 drivers and software installation instructions.

Schools that choose to install Windows 7 on their older TELA laptops will need to use suitably skilled and qualified personnel, as the scheme does not provide support for operating system upgrades. Support for installing software provided through the Microsoft Schools Agreement can be sought from the ICT Help Desk.

Schools can use the installation media provided through the Microsoft Schools Agreement for installing Windows 7 and Office 2010.

Q. How do new schools register for this programme?
A. Please email info.tela@minedu.govt.nz with your school details and Ministry number for us to set you up for ordering.

Q. Why are machines leased instead of bulk purchased?
A. The scheme leases laptops rather than purchasing them to ensure the technology for each teacher and principal is updated every three years.. This helps reduce the amount of obsolete equipment being retained in schools and the cost of software licensing required. Leasing also spreads the cost out as annual operational leases instead of bulk up-front capital payments for both the school and Ministry.

Further information on all of the above can be found at http://faq.tela.co.nz
Queries can be directed to info.tela@minedu.govt.nz

Hardware/Software

Q. What are the current options on server software and central purchasing power?
A. Since 2003 the Ministry of Education has run tenders to provide a range of software and support to schools.

Renaissance, Express Data, Novell and Datacom provide applications and support for Apple, Novell, Symantec and Microsoft software to schools. Telecom, Watchdog and Websense provide web filtering and firewall products.

Q. Where do schools go for guidance about purchasing hardware/software?
A. Information about Ministry funded software can be found at TKI http://ict-helpdesk.tki.org.nz/.

Q. What about Adobe products?
A. Adobe software is not currently funded by the Ministry. However, the Ministry has negotiated a preferential education rate at which schools can purchase. This rate is available from a number of software vendors. Schools should ensure they are getting the preferential pricing.

Q. Why is MS Office not available to schools that use Macs?
A. The Ministry was not able to negotiate a suitable agreement with Microsoft for the provision of Office for the Mac during the 2007 negotiation round. TELA laptops and school administration staff were provided with a licensed copy of Office 2004. The Ministry is currently in discussions with Microsoft for the re-inclusion of Macs into the scheme.

Capability

Q. What is the evidence that ICT enhances student learning?
A. There is growing evidence of how ICT impacts on student learning. A summary of some of the research to date is available at
www.educationalleaders.govt.nz/Leading-change/Learning-without-limits
.

Q. Will there be funding for teacher professional development in technological capability?
A. Yes. The investment of the last 10 years will continue through the new professional learning and development redesign outlined in the September 6, 2010 edition of NZ Education Gazette. In addition, the Ultra-fast Broadband in Schools programme is working on other initiatives for 2011, such as web-based resources and further training for school leaders and managers. Work is also beginning on an update of "Enabling the 21st Century Learner" which expires at the end of 2010.

Q. How will the current ICT PD programme be affected by the recently-announced redesign of the Ministry's Professional Learning and Development programme?

A. There is no change to the overall amount of PLD funding for e-learning. However, the Ministry will not be selecting any new ICT PD clusters for 2011.

As clusters exit the ICT PD programme, funding will transition to e-learning PLD which is regionally-based. It will enable schools to take advantage of educational opportunities available through ultra-fast broadband. This e-learning specific funding will be available in 2012. However, all PLD areas will be required to consider how they will support schools in integrating ICT into practice.

Leadership and Assessment PLD is the first area which will be available through the regional model in 2011. Schools will be contacted by regional offices in Term 4.

Schools participating in ICT PD clusters will continue until the end of their current contracts.

Q. How can we build teacher ICT capability in readiness for the roll-out of ultra-fast broadband?
A. This is an ongoing issue for leaders who must plan for the best use of available resources to ensure teachers and support staff continue to learn in their critically important roles, as schools transition to a fibre enabled environment for learning, teaching, assessing and school administration.

The integration of ICT in school systems and practices requires a whole school approach to building capability. School leaders need to ensure that issues relating to ICT are identified and addressed across all aspects of school life. This means ensuring that effective use of ICT is included in professional development plans.

Other

Q. Where can I view a copy of the *Learning without limits* seminar series presentation?
A. You can view video footage of the seminar presentation at
www.educationalleaders.govt.nz/Leading-change/Learning-without-limits.