

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN PARAGUAY SCHOOLS WITH THE C3 MICRO-CLOUD

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO KNOWLEDGE



IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN PARAGUAY

Paraguay has a population of nearly seven million people. One-fifth of the people who live in Asunción (Paraguay's capital) live in slums. Underemployment is high and working conditions are poor. The country's economic level still faces some difficulties and the current issues surrounding education go hand in hand with poverty.

In Paraguay the first twelve years of education are mandatory and free. However, the latest 2017 household survey showed that roughly 280,000 of the adult population are still illiterate. The survey also revealed that only 45 percent of students complete sixth grade and adults have an average of just 6 years of education in total. Almost 107,000 young people between the ages of 13 and 17 had dropped out of the education system between 2012 and 2016. 10 percent of the children don't have any access to schooling and schools that are run by the government are often crowded.

VALUE PROPOSITION:

- Cached content repository
- Remote management/ curation/ control
- Network management and control
- Low maintenance technology

In 2017 962 schools received the C3 Micro-Cloud and it changed 500,000 students' lives. The project enhanced the quality and access to teaching and learning resources in a safe, cost effective, and user friendly way.

The program uses the power of a localized cloud environment combined with centralized cloud control solutions to provide students and teachers with access to the libraries and information sources and connecting students to knowledge all over the world!



Using Digital technology in the classroom can be transformative and a great game changer. It can transform the students, helping them learn and grow and fulfil their potential.

We can't wait to see how teachers' and students' lives will change for the better!

Paraguay has always struggled searching for a well developed education system. In 2017 the Paraguayan government announced an education reform that included, among other things, more budget for infrastructure, support for technical high school students as well as access to better technical equipment. The government made a substantial commitment to supporting education in Paraguay and developed a project to integrate the use of technologies in schools to ensure that all students have the opportunity to maximize their potential.

The project was largely made possible through a strategic partnership between Critical Links and CELEXX, a company that provides integrated information technology services and networking solutions to its clients.

Since the project began in 2017, 962 Paraguayan schools have received the C3 Micro-Cloud and this is changing over a half million students' lives.

The C3 Micro-Cloud creates a safe networking environment with a local content repository and e-Learning tools. Teachers and students connect via Wi-Fi to the local micro-cloud and they have access to a complete cloud-based learning environment. If content such as texts, subject media, guides, tests, and other resources are cached on the micro-cloud, they are always available regardless of 'upstream' network connectivity. It also has battery backup which means students can learn without interruption, even when power is unstable or momentarily nonexistent.

When asked about the C3 Micro-Cloud, teachers said that it promises a better future because everything they want to teach can be better taught with technological help and it is reflected in students' knowledge retention. The C3 Micro-Cloud provides additional materials and methods that have improved the way in which knowledge is transmitted in the classroom. The general feedback is, "Wikipedia, YouTube, and virtual textbooks are part of our daily routine! C3 is improving the quality of education in our classrooms and we are excited to leverage the education level in our country and prepare the students for the future!"

Besides the teachers feedback, students also gave their opinion, by saying that classes "have become more fun using videos, podcasts and educational games". They are starting to feel that there are hope of a better future and they are no longer "left behind" on the wrong side of the Digital Divide.

Critical Links is helping to ensure that students have access to quality education, regardless of their location or other limitations. With this project it becomes possible to improve education and better prepare students for economic and personal empowerment, having a huge impact on Paraguay's economy.

But this is only the beginning... The project is still being implemented in some schools of the country and we can't wait to see how teachers' and students' lives will change for the better in the near future!