

InBloom

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inBloom Inc. (<http://www.inbloom.org>) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization running a data service for managing student data for allowing school districts to manage student information. inBloom's mission is to inform student and teacher with data and tools designed to personalize learning. inBloom's technology platform (PaaS) is also an open source project available under the Apache 2.0 license. ^[1]

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History

The Gates Foundation, Carnegie Foundation, Carnegie Corporation and others donated \$100 million for bringing data to schools.^[2] The Council of Chief State School Officers started the Shared Learning Collaborative. In February 5, 2013 the Shared Learning Collaborative (EdSurge) was renamed inBloom Inc. It is supported by the Gates Foundation, The Washington Post and the New Schools Venture Fund.^[3]

Criticism

InBloom has come under considerable criticism from parents and states. The criticism comes in the form of the organization gathering private information for a problem that never existed. The main concern being that with all the private information being stored the organization could then start selling the information and/or targeting parents and students. As a result out of nine states that had signed up, six stopped using the technology provided by InBloom.^[4]

However, inBloom is also recognized for solving a long-standing problem in schools, who face costly data integration between products that use non-standard formats and API's.^[5]

Uses

The alliance's purpose has been to "accelerate personalized learning in public schools, through common core standards and shared technology infrastructure."^[6] The SLC developed the Shared Learning Infrastructure. The edSurge site reports that the SLI "provides a data warehouse in the cloud for all kinds of student data, and links that data, through Common Core standards, to digital educational content." The site also reports, "And, importantly, the SLI has open APIs that allow edtech products interact with the student data and content info, critical for layering on data analytics, personalization engines or other learning apps that interact with what SLI stores."^[7]

Clients

inBloom began with districts in seven client states, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Massachusetts. Louisiana and New York joined as states that would use inBloom state-wide. By March 3, 2013 the database held information on millions of children.^[8]

Notes

- ¹. [^] <https://github.com/inbloom>
- ². [^] Ki Mae Heussner, "Gates Foundation-backed InBloom frees up data to personalize k-12 education" Gigaom February 5, 2013 <http://gigaom.com/2013/02/05/gates-foundation-backed-inbloom-frees-up-data-to-personalize-k-12-education/>
- ³. [^] "Shared Learning Collaborative" edSurge <https://www.edsurge.com/shared-learning-collaborative#/default>
- ⁴. [^] http://www.salon.com/2013/08/01/big_data_puts_teachers_out_of_work_partner/
- ⁵. [^] <http://gigaom.com/2013/02/05/gates-foundation-backed-inbloom-frees-up-data-to-personalize-k-12-education/>
- ⁶. [^] "Shared Learning Collaborative" edSurge <https://www.edsurge.com/shared-learning-collaborative#/default>
- ⁷. [^] "Shared Learning Collaborative" edSurge <https://www.edsurge.com/shared-learning-collaborative#/default>
- ⁸. [^] Stephanie Simon, "K-12 student database jazzes tech startups, spooks parents," *Reuters*, March 3, 2013 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/03/us-education-database-idUSBRE92204W20130303>

External links

- inBloom website (<https://www.inbloom.org/>)

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Categories: Application programming interfaces | Educational technology

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