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Caribbean CTO Brief

Issue 9



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1. Guyana's Digital School + a 3-step partner playbook (and who's already done this elsewhere)

Signal Guyana's Digital School is now live at scale as an online, AI-enabled high-school platform with 30,000+ students across the Caribbean, built on Moodle and backed by oil revenues, with regional leaders publicly signalling interest in adopting or partnering with the model.



Guyana launches first digital school

GEOGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – Guyana Friday launched its first-ever digital school with President Irfaan Ali saying that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation

At the same time, other governments have already proven national "digital school" models:

- **Uruguay's Plan Ceibal** – a state ed-tech agency delivering devices, connectivity and a national digital library + remote teaching across all public schools.
- **Mexico's Prepa en Línea-SEP** – a fully online, free public high school with a nationally recognised certificate, run by the Education Ministry.
- **Colombia's Escuela Digital / The Digital School** – a UAE-backed programme with MinTIC and the Education Ministry targeting 250k students and 25k teachers over four years.

Impact Rating High – Guyana has jumped straight to “national + regional platform” status; the global comparators show this can evolve into a permanent digital agency, not a one-off project.

2. Four-state free-movement bloc: what happens at the border + LatAm comparators

Signal From 1 October 2025, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St Vincent & the Grenadines allow each other’s nationals to live, work and remain indefinitely with access to primary health, schooling and social security—rights recorded via passport stamps or digital entry records—under an “enhanced cooperation” regime that goes beyond traditional CSME rules.

Source: <https://caricom.org/barbados-belize-dominica-and-st-vincent-and-the-grenadines-move-towards-full-free-movement-on-1-october-2025/>

What actually happens operationally

- At **entry**, immigration takes the usual data (passport/ID, biographic data, entry port, date) and records an **indefinite stay** in the national border-management system; travellers may receive either a physical stamp or a digital entry only.
- To access services, migrants must **register with national systems** (health, education, social security) – the Barbados FAQ explicitly notes local registration for planning and service delivery.
- There is a **regional complaints procedure**; CARICOM nationals can file complaints via forms available at ports and online if they believe their rights are denied, which then go through CSME focal points.

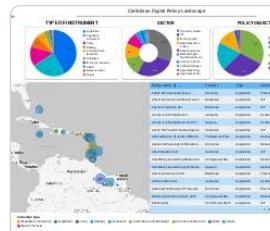
There is **no new shared Caribbean digital ID yet**; instead, each state relies on its own immigration and civil-registry systems, which means the “digital record” is national, not regional.

Who else in Latin America has done this (and with what rails)?

- **MERCOSUR Residence Agreement** – gives citizens of nine South American countries a fast track to temporary (2-year) then permanent residence, with equal access to labour and social rights, using national IDs and a relatively harmonised legal framework.
- **Central America CA-4 Free Mobility Agreement** – El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua allow their citizens to travel with just a national ID and to move within a shared 90-day space; border systems record days used, and the bloc has progressively harmonised visas for third-country nationals.
- **Andean Migration Statute** – Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru now have a statute granting Andean citizens rights to entry, temporary and permanent residence, and coordinated migration rules.

3. CTU Digital Policy Landscape: from slide deck to a quarterly Cabinet workflow

Signal The Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape repository, introduced at the Caribbean DPI Summit in April 2025, now aggregates 550+ ICT, data and AI-related laws, policies and institutions across the region—effectively giving each government a “single reference map” of its digital rulebook and its neighbours!



Caribbean Digital Policy Landscape

Looker Studio turns your data into informative dashboards and reports that are easy to read, easy to share, and fully customizable.

Looker Studio

Used passively, it's a nice website. Used well, it becomes a **quarterly policy radar** that shapes real drafting instructions and Cabinet decisions.

4. Caribbean AI roadmap gets real: teacher training and AI-in-schools pilots

Signal The UNESCO–CARICOM AI Policy Roadmap (2021) is now being operationalised through concrete teacher-training and policy efforts in at least one member state: in 2025, UNESCO's Caribbean office and the Jamaica Teaching Council ran AI-in-Education workshops to train teachers on using AI tools and to support emerging "AI in schools" policy guidelines, building on earlier ministry announcements to integrate AI and adaptive tech into the curriculum.



Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap

UNESCO Caribbean AI Policy Roadmap offers a framework for policy development and regional collaboration

unesco.org

At the regional level, the CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force and CARICOM/UNDP AI workshops are pushing governments toward a "digital-first" mindset for AI in education, with AI explicitly framed as part of digital-skills integration into school curricula.

Impact Rating Medium-High – this is still early-stage, but it's the clearest move yet from abstract AI principles to **specific teacher training, draft school policies and curriculum integration**.

What's actually new / actionable for 2026

- AI-in-Education is no longer theoretical: **teacher PD programmes** and draft **AI-in-schools policies** are in place in Jamaica and can be adapted by other states.
- UNESCO's **Knowledge Series on Frontier Technologies for Social Inclusion** and the Caribbean AI Initiative give you ready-made content to localise for your own teacher cohorts and youth programmes.

5. DPI Summit follow-through: workshops and how to get into a sandbox

Signal The inaugural Caribbean Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit (Kingston, Apr 2025) framed DPI—civil registration, digital ID, payments and data-sharing—as foundational public infrastructure for the region and seeded follow-on work, including a DPI Catalyst-led **series of workshops** to help countries articulate problems, align with DPI principles and design or acquire solutions with local players.



DPI in the Caribbean: Building Trust, Going Together - The...

The Caribbean DPI Summit, held in Kingston, Jamaica from April 8–10, 2025, brought together government leaders, civil society representatives,...

The Datasphere Initiative

What's concrete post-Kingston

- DPI Catalyst has announced a **workshop series** aimed at supporting countries to identify DPI use-cases, understand common building blocks, and work with local ecosystem players to implement them.
- The CTU digital-policy tool and summit outputs have already influenced regional thinking on harmonised digital laws and DPI as shared infrastructure rather than siloed projects.

Verified Future – Building a Caribbean Trust Grid in spite of the friction

Over the next 3–5 years, a realistic “verified future” for the region is a Caribbean Trust Grid that emerges from incremental wins rather than a big-bang treaty: digital schools like Guyana’s platform, and regional partners that follow the examples of Uruguay’s Plan Ceibal, Mexico’s Prepa en Línea and Colombia’s Escuela Digital, evolve from content portals into credential-issuing DPI components whose exam passes and micro-credentials are minted as verifiable credentials aligned to CSEC and national EMIS systems; free-movement schemes such as the four-state bloc shift from passport stamps to digitally signed “movement events” and residence-status records exchanged via APIs between immigration and social-service systems, learning from MERCOSUR, CA-4 and Andean regimes.

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