

## *EffectivIT for the School*

*EffectivIT* would like to see every student computer literate. IT Literacy implies the capability to use computer technology to conduct one's work in the most effective way, and to use computers competently. This need is separate from the need to train some students to become computer programmers. Our objective is to help schools to achieve IT Literacy in the most effective way.

### **What are the problems?**

There are several problems that stand in the way of schools providing IT Literacy. Some of these are:

**Robustness:** Computers can become unavailable for several reasons. Some common examples are power cuts, virus attack, hardware problems or a crash of the operating system.

**Network Management:** Rarely are schools adequately staffed for this complex function. Even if they are, problems often arise when the Network Manager is absent.

**Piracy:** Can we really teach our children the positive attributes of honesty, respect for the property of others and fair play, when our laboratories are crammed with pirated software?

**Cost:** In the absence of pirated software, the costs of individual computers, and their associated peripherals represent not only a substantial capital investment but also a substantial expenditure on associated costs like energy.

**Curriculum:** The conventional computer syllabus is rarely geared to IT Literacy.

### **What does *EffectivIT* provide?**

Firstly, we provide answers to the problems cited above.

In addition, *EffectivIT* will provide an integrated service so that the needs for IT Literacy development can be met. This will be done through the provision of hardware, software, network administration through remote server management and educational consultancy in the field of IT Literacy Education. Specifically, the school will be provided with documentation for multi-disciplinary school projects to be done independently by small groups of children.

#### **Hardware**

This comprises typically a network of 15 workstations. with appropriate furniture designed for the purpose and with the capability to remain operational for several hours during power cuts. Cable modems or dial-up lines, CD writers, printers and scanners can be shared so that they can be availed of from any workstation. Automatic backup of important directories can be made using the CD writer automatically at specific intervals.

#### **Software**

*EffectivIT* will provide a suite of software to fulfill the requirements of the multidisciplinary projects that will be provided. This software will include facilities for document processing, for imaging applications, office applications, and for learning typing among others. Each student will have his own account and password which will allow him to access his account from any of the workstations. Adequate hard disk capacity will be provided as will other features

such as the capacity for a demonstrator to make his screen accessible to each workstation so that what he/she is doing is immediately visible to each workstation.

#### **Network Administration**

Opening of new user accounts, upgrading of software, software maintenance, customization, and routine checks on the health of the system, will be done directly from our offices over a phone line to the server.

#### **School Administration**

*EffectivIT* will work with school administrators to provide facilities for administration in terms of accounting, timetabling, communications etc.

#### **Educational Consultancy in IT literacy**

*EffectivIT* expects to work with your school in providing the appropriate mechanisms for IT literacy. This will include introduction to the laboratory's hardware and software. It would also include mechanisms for conducting projects, assessing them and for creating portfolio's of a student's work.

### **Summary**

In summary, our system provides cost effectiveness, freedom from piracy, network administration, consultancy, and robustness. It also provides a protocol for acquiring IT Literacy. Customization for the school will be through a needs analysis conducted by *EffectivIT*.