**Snow Lion Foundation Workshop – Porong monastery – 11 August 2013**

**Computer classroom setup**

One of the most cost-effective setups in terms of both initial cost and ongoing costs such as ups battery replacement is the thin client network.

TCV Day School uses X550 kits from Ncomputing. ([http://ncomputing.com](http://ncomputing.com/)) The NComputing Indian distributor informed me that about 70% of their sales in the education market are for this model, about 20% for the L300 series and an additional 10% for other models.

A single PC with an i3 cpu and 4GB ram is able to support a total of 6 users using a 5 user X550 kit.

The cost of an X550 kit in India is approximately INR16500-17500.

The cost per user of an L300 thin client is about INR7500.

These can be purchased from an authorized Ncomputing partner in Delhi at Nehru Place.

Mr Vinay Nahata Phone: +91 9971786699

Coretech

202 Deepali Building

92 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019

[http://www.ratetorate.in](http://www.ratetorate.in/)

Purchasing from India is much cheaper than dealing with the local Ncomputing distributor.

It is also highly recommended that a quality brand UPS be purchased such as APC. The purpose of a UPS is not only to provide power continuously but also to protect equipment from sudden changes in the power supply. Equipment may not suffer obvious damage when there is a power supply disruption but the long term effects include unstable operation and eventual equipment failure.

The use of thin clients instead of stand-alone pcs should see a 50% reduction in UPS requirements and more importantly a greatly reduced ongoing battery replacement requirement.

**Suggested Software**  - for elementary school

Deep Freeze – excellent software for protecting computers from viruses and other undesirable changes

Moodle – this software is described as course management or learning management software([http://moodle.org](http://moodle.org/)). It enables teachers to create customized quizzes for any subject. The quizzes are marked by the software.

KA-Lite – offline version of khan academy.org website. Requires python software to also be installed

Firefox – include addons such as – adblock plus, scrapbook, epubreader, flash video downloader

Epaath – produced by http://olenepal.org

Microsoft Security Essentials – free software available from microsoft – suitable for scanning pen drives, etc.

Gcompris

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Tux Math

Tux Type

Tux Paint

Win Brainz – this may not work across a thin client network

Rosetta Stone – this may not work across a thin client network

Encarta encyclopedia for kids

Oxford Advanced Learners dictionary

Wikipedia

Monlam TCRC keyboard software

MathType – excellent software for generating math exam papers

Slate Science math software ([http://slatescience.com](http://slatescience.com/) ) - currently only available for ipad (free apps from itunes) will eventually also be available for android systems. Very popular with students.

VLC – multimedia player

Mavis Beacon touch typing software

PDF reader software – eg foxit

PowerISO – required for installing some of the other software in this list

**Video Material**

YouTube is an excellent source of classroom material.

Useful youtube sites include:

'learning english with mr duncan'

Torrent sites such as [http://thepiratebay.sx](http://thepiratebay.sx/) can also be very helpful.

Sonam Dawa ( <http://youtube.com/user/phoeniz123/videos> ) has produced many excellent computer and math related videos in Tibetan.

Many Khan Academy arithmetic videos have already been translated into both Nepali and Tibetan.

It is quite easy to convert any of the above video material to play on mobile phones and other portable devices.

**Reading Material**

Sambhota schools have produced a number of kids story books in Tibetan available for free download from:

[http://sambhota.org](http://sambhota.org/)

At the TCV Day School, teachers have found a very effective method for improving English reading skills is to ask students to read an ebook at the same time as they listen to an audio book of the same title.