Educational Technology Innovations

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Through discussions in my course work, I have read where many districts are now providing iPads for their students to use. Then I stumbled upon an article on edutopia.org where an instructor used iPads to help struggling learners. Many students in my school district are considered struggling students. This technology could help connect our students to the learning process. I believe this innovation would be simple to adopt. Many teachers are always looking for ways to improve the learning process and find ways to involve students in their own learning. However, being a teacher, I know firsthand the difficulty in implementing new technology. One barrier that would impede this technology is training. District administration would have to be willing to provide training and support to teachers for this to be successful. Teachers would need to know how to implement it properly and have support when they encounter problems. Another barrier would be time. Many teachers would not take the time to learn the new technology so they could implement it properly. District administration would need to provide time for teachers to explore the new innovation in order for it to reach its full potential.

The next innovation that interested me was Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). First, I had to look up what exactly that entailed. I also looked for articles on how the VDI compared to The Cloud. I believe this innovation would be difficult to adopt because of the funds needed to change over to this innovation. However, there would be many benefits for the district if they did decide to switch to a VDI or The Cloud. This technology would give students more flexibility to complete assignments. It would also provide a better way for teachers, students, and schools to collaborate. I listed one barrier which was cost to implement the innovation. Another barrier I believe would be social systems. The district administration would need to influence the members that this new innovation would be an asset to them.

The last innovation was Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS). I believe this one would be the most difficult to adopt. The cost of implementing it does not outweigh the benefits. Another it is difficult to create an effective ITS. This innovation would have many barriers. One barrier would be itself. Many researchers have moved from creating ITS to intelligent learning environments (Edutech wiki, n.d). Another barrier would be the social system. Questions would arise whether the ITS would meet the needs of the students who were using it.

The Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) and the Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS) are both great innovations. However I believe these two would not benefit my district like iPads would. Many of our students do not have internet access at home so the VDI would not give the district one of the benefits it offered. Since my school district is located in a rural community, it would not have the funds to implement a state of the art ITS. I believe that iPads would be the best innovation to adopt. There are several districts that have implemented the innovation with success.

Even though some technology incorporated has become more of a distraction to the learning process, educators and students are proving the iPads are not (Mulholland, 2011). There are many cases where students who refused to participate in the learning process have become more involved because of the implementation of the iPad in the educational process (Johnson, B., 2012). With lack of resources, many students did not have the opportunity to participate in an activity. The apps on an iPad gave a way for all students a chance to participate (Mulhooland, 2011). However, other pilots have shown that each student would need to have an iPad for this innovation to be a success. The district administration would need to keep this in mind when implementing this innovation.

References

Edutech wiki. (n.d.) *Intelligent tutoring system*. Retrieved from <http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/Intelligent_tutoring_system>

Johnson, B. (2012). *Using technology to reach unreachable students*. Retrieved from <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/ipad-strategies-struggling-learners-ben-johnson?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EdutopiaNewContent+%28Edutopia%29>

Johnson, L., Levine, A., & Smith, R. (2009). *The 2009 Horizon Report*. Austin, Texas: The New Media Consortium.

Mulholland, J. (2011). iPads strengthen education. *Government Technology*, *24*(*4*), 20-24.

Conference Links:

Early Education and Technology for Children: <http://www.eetcconference.org/>

2013 Educational Technology Conference: <http://schedule.etech.ohio.gov/event/529c3d782e171281bb072fffc105b64a>

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| Module 1: Rubric  Rationale and Defense for Technological Innovation for Multimedia Presentation | Points |
| 3 = Acceptable as written, the level of scholarship demonstrates critical thinking and a mastery of all crucial elements.  2 = Acceptable as written, all crucial elements are included and adequately described.  1 = Approved, although revisions are strongly suggested in one or more important component(s) that are of markedly lesser quality than the rest of the quality indicators in this section.  0 = Must be revised and resubmitted because one or more essential component(s) are not satisfactorily described, are missing, or previous requests for revision were ignored.  NA = Not Applicable. This quality indicator does not apply to the document. | |
| You included three innovations relevant to your industry and included a link for each on the conference website.  Comments: (click here→) |  |
| In one paragraph you described the following for innovation 1:   * the ease or difficulty with which the innovation could be adopted by your industry * the potential use and benefits to your industry * the barriers that exist to impede its diffusion in your industry   Comments: (click here→) |  |
| In one paragraph you described the following for innovation 2:   * the ease or difficulty with which the innovation could be adopted by your industry * the potential use and benefits to your industry * the barriers that exist to impede its diffusion in your industry   Comments: (click here→) |  |
| In one paragraph you described the following for innovation 3   * the ease or difficulty with which the innovation could be adopted by your industry * the potential use and benefits to your industry * the barriers that exist to impede its diffusion in your industry   Comments: (click here→) |  |
| From the three innovations selected, you chose one innovation as the topic of your course project, supporting your selection with findings from one diffusion or research study, including an APA citation.  Comments: (click here→) |  |
| In one paragraph you justified the selection of this innovation over the other two innovations you considered,   * stating why you selected the one you chose, and * why you did not select the other two   Comments: (click here→) |  |
| Your paper is written using proper grammar, spelling, and syntax. Citations, references, and headings follow APA formatting.  Comments: (click here→) |  |
| Total Possible Points: 21 |  |