

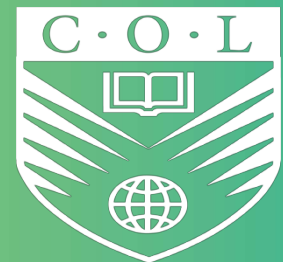
# REACHING THE UNREACHED: DELIVERING OER IN OFF-GRID, OFF-LINE SITUATIONS

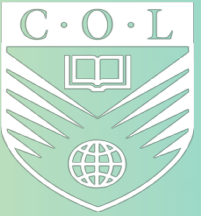
UNESCO Mobile Learning Week | February 2015

**V. Balaji, Ricky Cheng, Michelle Gruda**

**Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada**

COL 2015 CC BY SA Int 4.0





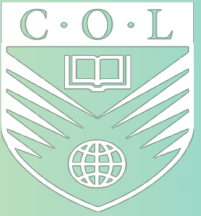
# Commonwealth of Learning

- Founded by the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth, 1987
- Advancing equitable access to learning at all levels
- Hosted by Canada, based in Vancouver BC

# Aptus



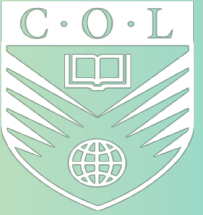
Image CC BY-SA EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



# These learners can now access

- At least 3000 videos from Khan Academy
- 100 000 articles from Wikipedia in English
- Wiktionary in English with over a million terms
- Add own content in any language, standard text/audio/video format
- Access content in Drupal

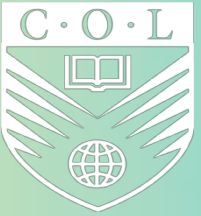
# Aptus



Server



Wireless Router &  
Powerbank



# What does Aptus do?

- If a learner
  - has access to a Tablet or Smartphone or laptop
  - Is located in about 20 m radius of Aptus
- Enables access to all such content available in Aptus
  - More can be added locally
- Costs just about USD 100

# What is Aptus?

- a device innovation from COL
- a wireless router and computer combination
- a solution for virtual learning in 'unconnected' environments
- able to host a high volume of content and applications



# Aptus in Action

- Aptus has been field tested in over 15 countries across varied learning environments
- Trials confirmed technical functionality





# Reports from the Field

“everyone was excited with the potential of the Aptus, especially the prospect of its use in distributing library resources to the outer islands”

- Dennis Pack, Kiribati

“The government in its new ICT initiative for schools is embarking on supplying tablets to schools and it is timely to have your new device to bring the government ICT project to the next level of elearning materials for students throughout the archipelago”

- George Maeltoka, Ministry of Education, Vanuatu

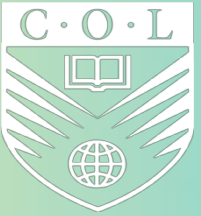
“APTUS is a device for TODAY. We need to take it all across the country. The connectivity in Districts [...] is still an issue, and that is where APTUS is the apt answer. APTUS can make a huge difference in our Extension system”

- Ved Sharma, MANAGE, India

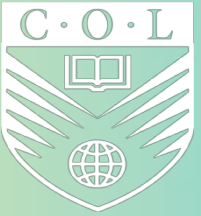


# Aptus in Action:

## Mann Deshi Foundation, India

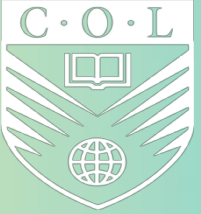


- Total number of women trained with Aptus: 203, Villages covered: 11
- “Before using APTUS, the Foundation could only use its branches, which are located in larger towns, to give multimedia-based presentations to potential clients. After the implementation of APTUS, Mann Deshi has been able to expand its reach by bringing multimedia presentations to community centers and women’s homes in rural villages. Sessions are typically conducted by setting up 5-6 laptops with small groups of about 25-30 women for each session, which gives ample opportunity for discussion and interaction”.
- Also APTUS has reduced the training programme logistics and costs substantially as the women do not have to visit the branches for the interactive sessions; they also engage in creating content for the programmes simultaneously”



# COL-Vanuatu Project on Aptus

- Commenced in Jan 2015
- Implemented by the Ministry of Education, Vanuatu
- COL provides Aptus with standard content
- Vanuatu Ministry adds own content
- Deploys in Vanuatu via Inst of Tech and in ICT in Schools projects



# Aptus in Action

User feedback was translated into improvements:

- New content and applications added
- Landing page re-designed
- New user documentation developed
- 3 options for users to upload content

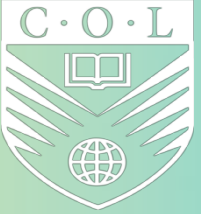


# What is Aptus Not?

Aptus is not

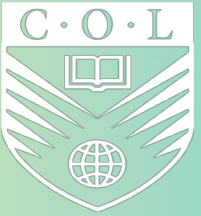
- a solution for connecting to the internet





# The Aptus Value Proposition

- A low cost and easy to deploy server cum WiFi router
- For distribution of Open Educational Resources
- Augments value of mass scale Tablet distribution projects



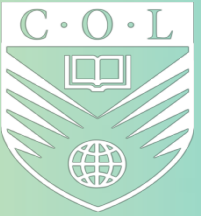
# The Aptus Value Proposition

Aptus delivers

- connected learning in unconnected environments
- a means of mainstreaming open content
- a platform for local knowledge
- an integrated mobile solution
- high impact at a low cost



# How can Aptus add value to your learning scenario?



- What do you see as the most immediate value of Aptus?
- What types of projects would benefit most from Aptus?
- Are there regions, countries or communities where you feel Aptus is most relevant?
- What content or applications would you put on Aptus?
- What training or support do you think would be required for successful deployment?

