*The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching,  
Technology and Research*

*Cornerstone 1 Reports: Expansion and  
Enhancements of the Thinkfinity Platform*

Pace University Year 2010

Interim Report: Use of Mobile Phone Computing   
for Development of Student 21st Century Skills

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**Mid-Project Reports - Please submit the following:**

* Please outline your original goals.
* What progress have you made towards your original goals on your project to date?
* Has your project impacted students? If so, how many?
* Has your project impacted other faculty members? If so, how many?
* What are your next steps?

Goals

* To tailor smartphone mobile computing devices for various kinds of   
  real-time data acquisition
* To enable collection and collaborative sharing of data in the field
* To identify participants for collaborative experiences
* To perform initial data collection and collaboration in a field experience

Progress to Date

[Notified of grant award January 20, 2010  
Grant committee requested clarification of original 10/2009 budget proposal  
Revised Budget was approved and confirmed on February 1, 2010  
Eris Droid Phones – received the end of March - 3/29/2010

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Mobile Computing Devices

Three Eris Droid ‘smartphones’ were obtained from Verizon through Pace University; Service that permits Internet and web services access were set up.

Applications

Numerous applications have been and continue to be tested and evaluated on the Droid smartphones for appropriate implementation and use in acquiring various kinds of field data.

Support Sites

Various free web accounts have been created that support real-time data sharing among group members; These include various accounts that require registration for short and media messaging services [SSM, MMS]; Data storage and retrieval to facilitate collaborative group work; Web sites that enable immediate upload and posting of data/media from the field for real-time collaborative group work.

Implementation

Collaborative discussions were held with educators from several schools to gauge participation in collaborative field experiences with their schools; Positive enthusiastic responses were received from several educators and events are expected to take place in June as well as during the fall semester.

Collaborative field experiences – A trial field experience has been performed for pre-event evaluation of devices and applications; of particular interest were the functionality of the smartphones as well as application performance for acquisition of specialized field data.

Field guides have been and will continue to be developed to assist users in the field with application-specific content; it is anticipated that these guides may be helpful to students and instructors during events.

Additional collaborative field experiences for the fall semester are in planning stages for high school students as well as elementary grade students.

Assessment

Online surveys for students and faculty have been and continue to be prepared to assess

* prior knowledge/skills of mobile phone usage
* prior knowledge/skills of mobile phone computing
* anticipatory thoughts toward specific field events
* kinds of data collected and shared during specific field events
* evaluation of skills used/acquired during specific field events
* post-event thoughts about specific field events

Impact

Field events have been set up for the second week of June that will impact   
an as yet to be determined number of students and faculty. Participants will include high school young women from diverse backgrounds and elementary grade students from diverse backgrounds.

It is anticipated that the events will have significant impact on these groups. Many participants have limited access and exposure to mobile phone computing with smartphones. Assessment tools, noted above, have been and will continue to be developed to assist in evaluating impact.

Next Steps

Anticipated Development of

* Topical Field Events
* Greening Assessments
* Microfinance Opportunities