



Name of the approach/ tool/project

Cisco Networking Academy, <http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>

Description (methodology, techniques and strategies used)

Cisco Networking Academy is a global education program that teaches students how to design, build, troubleshoot, and secure computer networks for increased access to career and economic opportunities in communities around the world. As Cisco's largest and longest running corporate social responsibility program, Networking Academy demonstrates Cisco's commitment to education as a catalyst to improve economic conditions.

Networking Academy teaches ICT skills to students from virtually every socioeconomic background and region of the world. The program today reaches more than 1 million students who study at more than 10,000 Networking Academies in 165 countries. Over 4.5 million students have developed ICT skills through Networking Academy since its inception.

Networking Academy is the World's Largest Classroom.

Implementation methodologies

Cisco Networking Academy partners with the public sector to create opportunities for the next generation of learners and to transform the learning experience. Through its blended learning model, Cisco Networking Academy combines highly effective in-classroom learning with innovative online e-learning curricula and interactive tools that help students develop the 21st century knowledge and skills required for an effective workforce.

What is innovative about this approach/tool/project

Cisco Networking Academy is the World's Largest Classroom because:

1. It harnesses Cisco expertise to develop a number of innovations in teaching and learning.
 - **The Network** allows us to deliver over 1 million assessments a month. **Formative and summative assessments** are integrated into the Networking Academy curricula to provide an enriching and comprehensive 21st century learning experience. These assessments are supported by an advanced online delivery system and produce immediate, targeted feedback to help instructors and students evaluate acquired knowledge and skills.
 - A **simulation and virtualization** learning environment called Cisco Packet Tracer lets students create, configure, and troubleshoot complex simulated networks.
 - **Social media** is used as an educational tool.
 - **Interactive, formative assessments** provide immediate feedback to the instructor so that individualized assistance can be provided to students as needed.
 - The program applies gaming principles to education through Cisco Aspire, a unique game based on an entrepreneurial learning adventure
 - Global sites such as NetSpace and Academy Connection enable collaborative teaching and learning and encourage students, alumni, and instructors to showcase their skills and talents, share best practices, and build relationships with peers and mentors.



2. It partners with governments, national organizations and private coalitions to impact the course of education for students globally. We **cultivate strong partnerships** that include not only educational institutions, but also diverse government entities, NGOs, and private companies. **Note:** Partners include United Nations organizations (e.g., UNDP, UNIFEM, ITU, UNWRA, UNV) and over 150 central and local government organizations, as well as multilaterals.
3. Networking Academy addresses not only what students need to learn, but also how they want to learn. The program takes advantage of **innovative pedagogical techniques** and uses **multiple teaching modalities** to appeal to the greatest number of students.

Evidence of results and impact;

- 1 million students engaged in learning this year
- 4 million students touched by the program to date
- 10,000 academies operating in 165 countries
- 1 million online assessments delivered monthly
- 100 million online assessments delivered to date
- 125,000 Facebook fans, and growing daily

ICT education has a direct impact on social and economic well-being. The World Economic Forum's Global Information Technology Report (GITR) 2008-2009 states that "good education fundamentals and high levels of technological readiness and innovation are essential engines of growth. . . . Even in emerging markets in Africa, Latin America, and Asia, access to ICT has boosted information availability, transformed social interactions, and contributed to poverty reduction and improving the life of everyday citizens."

Networking Academy enrolment correlates with countries' network readiness (NRI). In a macro-level, quantitative study of economic impact on countries, Stockford & Wright (2009) found a significant relationship between 117 countries' level of participation in Networking Academy and their capacity to leverage information and communication technologies for economic and social development.

Networking Academy students are finding job and educational opportunities. A survey of 23,500 students worldwide who had completed all four of the academy's CCNA (first-level professional) courses in 2010 showed that 70% attained a job opportunity and 93% a job or an education opportunity.

Costs associated with the development and implementation of the activity

Cisco has invested \$400 million on Cisco Networking Academy since its inception in 1997. This investment covers the platform over which courses are delivered, the development, maintenance and translation into all UN languages of a wide range of courses; the salaries of staff Globally who support program quality and growth; training, marketing and operational costs.

Other Cisco projects in Education that will be profiled at the ECOSCO Innovation Fair



Jordan Education Initiative (JEI): Enabling Education Reform Through Technology

The leaders of the Kingdom of Jordan are determined to advance education as a catalyst for social and economic development. Cisco shares that vision – and in partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and other stateholders, we help launch the Jordan Education Initiative (JEI) in 2003. JEI was established as a public-private partnership. Its main goals were to enhance the quality of education through the effective use of information and communications technology (ICT), build the capacity of the local technology industry, and create a sustainable model of education reform for replication in other countries. JEI is now fully administered by the government of Jordan and is creating education and employment opportunities for young men and women.

Based on the achievements of JEI, the Global Education Initiative (GEI) was established. GEI programs in Egypt (EEI) and Rajasthan (REI) are underway to improve education systems in these regions through the effective use of ICT and e-learning technologies.

Cisco is committed to applying lessons learned from these initiatives to help facilitate education reform, train teachers, prepare all students to join the digital workforce, and develop the capacity of local information technology industries – wherever the need exists.

Teachers Without Borders

Connecting, Creating, and Collaborating on a Global Scale

At 59 million, teachers are the largest single group of trained professionals in the world, yet there is an estimated need for more than 30 million new teachers to achieve the goals of the United Nations “Education for All” initiative by 2015.

Cisco recognizes the challenges – and realizing one teacher has the power to help improve the lives of an entire community, Cisco has invested \$1.5 million to support the work of Teachers Without Borders (TWB). TWB’s unique approach has earned the respect of ministers of education, heads of state, and most of all, classroom teachers.

TWB, an international non-profit organization with members in 119 countries, is dedicated to improving the quality and dignity of the teaching profession. Cisco has helped TWB increase access to the Certificate of Teaching Mastery, an online program that reflects the contributions and expertise of teachers from 28 countries; convene conferences in subject-matter mastery and teaching methods, and establish Community Teaching and Learning Centers.

In addition, Cisco supported the development of an innovative TWB Toolkit, which gives teachers access to a robust, global network that provides the ability to form groups, collaborate on projects, share best practices, create courses, translate materials, and share content across borders. TWB’s next release will include additional tools such as multilingual subtitling for teacher and student films.

Contact information.

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- Cisco Networking Academy: www.cisco.com/go/netacad
- Regional Success Stories: www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/success_stories/index.html



- Courses and Certifications: www.cisco.com/go/netacadcourses
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