



Culture Club

Team Members:

Kasia Hopkins

Ana Peso

Firouzeh Taheripour

Kimberly Ulrich



Site Description

- The Culture Club is an organization for kids ages 4-15. The program includes children from varied backgrounds, from those who have a lot of after school options to those who have none. The children in the program come from diverse racial, economic, and social groups.
- Dawn Blackman founded the Culture Club and ran it on her own for 7 years out of her sewing shop in downtown Champaign. Two years ago, the program moved to the Church of the Brethren (at Neil and Bradley in Champaign) when the church adopted the program as part of their ministry.



Culture Club's Vision, Mission, and Goals

- The aim of the Culture Club is to work in concert with parents and teachers to teach children important life skills, including manners and learning how to empathize and be concerned about others. Some examples of the programs offered at the Culture Club include:
 - Take It Apart Tuesday, when children get to take apart electronic devices
 - Making soup for the homeless shelter (the children get to eat some of the soup)
 - Learning to sew and replicate native crafts as well as creating original designs
 - Visiting senior citizens at the senior home nearby
 - Watching one movie a week
 - Gardening
 - Visiting the book mobile
 - Walking or taking the bus to local museums or the library



physical description

- Set up 8 computers with various software applications provided by GSLIS, games provided by Dawn, and internet access.
- Prepare the Education Station with appropriate reference and homework software.
- Connect speakers (provided by Culture Club) to as many computers as possible.















Step by Step Implementation

1. Computers need to be wiped and have Windows 98 and updates installed.
2. Software, including Open Office, various web browsers, anti virus, and anti spam must be installed.
3. Games must be installed on the computers and decide which games go on which computer.
4. Each computer must have a working network card with appropriate drivers.
5. Each computer must be tested to ensure that it can access the internet.
6. Each computer must be networked.
7. Soundcards must be working and have appropriate drivers.



Culture Club Must Provide

- A DSL line and router must be installed at the site.
- Power outlets of the "2 gang" variety were recommended to be installed throughout the area as well.
- The room needs to be cleaned up and the tables need to be set up in the proper arrangement.



Unique Concerns

- Game Install
- Importance of Sound and Visual



Problems Encountered

1. When preparing computers for nuking and Win 98 install, make sure to check that everything is properly plugged in. In a few cases, we were confused as to why the computers weren't working, and we opened them up and found that the hard drive had not been properly plugged in.
2. Make sure the boot order is correct in the system setup. Sometimes the computer would try to boot off of a network, which would cause problems.
3. If nothing seems to be working and the computer seemed to be working well before we tried nuking it or installing Win 98, we tried different CDs and floppies. This resolved the problem in a few cases.
4. Another place to check when trying to nuke or install Win 98 is to make sure that master/slave configurations are properly configured, both on the motherboard and in the system setup. We encountered this problem with a computer that was not recognizing its hard drive, and the problem was that the hard drive had not been jumped properly. The drive had a Master Cable attached to it, so we moved the jumper to CS instead of Master and that solved it.



Problems Encountered Cont.

5. In some cases, a computer simply will not recognize a hard drive, and we had to fiddle with one of our computers quite a bit before it would recognize the hard drive.
6. When installing Windows 98, try different drive letters, restart often, and do everything you can think of to get the computer to copy the proper files. I am not sure how it happened, but in some cases, we would get error messages, but after trying out different combinations, the files copied properly and we were able to proceed with the Win 98 install.
7. Zip drives were not necessary but installed on many computers. On some, the zip drive prevented the floppy drive from working. By unplugging the zip drive and plugging the floppy in its place, the problem was solved.
8. We were able to install Windows 98 on one of our computers. Then, when trying to install updates, the computer crashed and said there were damaged files. We eventually decided that the hard drive was the problem, and after replacing the hard drive several times, we were able to install Windows 98 successfully, along with proper updates and software.



Problems Encountered Cont.

9. One of our computers made a lot of noise when it was picked up to be placed on the shelf. Upon opening the computer, we saw that the heat sync had disattached itself from the CPU. We removed the CPU and heat sync, and some work with a screwdriver (using it to press down the tabs that attach the CPU and heat sync) repaired the problem, and soothed our fears that the computer was ruined.
10. The last computer that was giving us problems kept giving us a boot failure message. We tried nearly every floppy imaginable, and finally, one of them seemed to work. So we decided to replace the floppy drive. A Windows 98 boot disk worked this time, and we were able to use the diagnostic tools to format the hard drive. However, when the bootable Windows 98 CD was inserted, we got error messages and could not proceed with the Windows 98 install. At this point, it was decided that the CD-ROM drive was the problem. After this was replaced, we were able to install Windows 98 successfully, along with updates and software.



Problems Encountered Cont.

11. One of our computers did not have a sound driver or USB support. We had the driver on a USB key, but when we tried to install the driver for the USB key, the floppy disk was corrupted. So, we connected to the Internet and were able to download the sound driver directly to the computer.
12. When we arrived to install our lab, we faced several changes in the plan. For one, the electricity had not been installed how we had planned, and we had to use only two outlets for all of our computer.
13. Also, the DSL line had not been run into the room and was not going to be brought in until the next week.
14. The biggest change was that the electrician had dictated where he wanted the computers placed, which was very different than our planned layout. Instead of having 7 computers in one room and one in the other, we had four in each. This affected the length of our network cables, rendering most of them the wrong size. Thankfully we had brought the cable making supplies, because we had to make several at the last minute.



Lessons Learned

1. Be flexible and open to changes in plans.



Pros and Cons of Being a Champaign Site

- One of our greatest non technical issues was trying to arrange times outside of class for us to work on the computers. Everyone had very busy schedules.
- We decided to work in groups of 2 to get things done, and this worked out well.
- To keep track of what was accomplished on the computers each time, we made sure to write on masking tape and attach it to the computers. This way, group members who were not present knew what had been done and what needed to be accomplished.



Questions and comments?
