School 2.0 in action
Shanghai Liying Primary School

The Challenge
The Shanghai Liying Primary deployed Intel-powered classmate PCs to streamline teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom. The school was chosen as one of the 1:1 learning pilot schools for Shanghai MOE “eSchoolBag” project in partnership with Intel. Once everyone had a laptop, the teachers needed the capability to create courses, plan curriculum and manage on-line courses and schedules seamlessly. Teachers also required the tools to create an interactive classroom with constant bi-directional flow of ideas, feedback and peer interaction. They also needed a mechanism to communicate with the students on a 24/7 basis and also track and monitor student activities and progress. Leveraging the power of 1:1 learning was the biggest challenge overall.

The Solution
Shanghai Liying Primary chose Critical Links Education Appliance as the classroom server infrastructure solution - The EA gives teachers the tools to create courses, plan curriculum and track student progress. From allowing kids to collaborate on learning activities to giving teachers the integrated tools to create lessons and plan activities, the EA brings a comprehensive, integrated platform to the classroom to empower students and teachers. The Education Appliance also creates a central portal for all school activities (“myschool”), including bringing dynamic content to the classroom, such as hosting and management of multi-media, interactive learning resources. The EA also tracks and manages classmate PCs and downloads content and applications.

The Impact
This quote from Ms. Gong Hua (teacher) summarizes the impact of the Education Appliance in the classroom: “The EA can record (save) and show the whole learning process of students. Thus students and teachers have a 7/24 platform for communication and collaboration. Using the EA, teachers are able to understand what the students have learned and need enhanced assistance on, in a timely manner. Thus teachers can prepare for the courses very well. With the EA, teachers are able to engage in a real 1:1 learning experience to catch up to each student’s potential and master the learning status of each student.”
Collaboration in the Classroom
Critical Links education appliance hosts an integrated web based environment that improves communication between students and teachers and collaboration among students and groups. Forums and chats allow students and staff to discuss courses, homework assignments, as well as life at the school. Additionally, collaboration between schools allows for joint creation of educational contents and blogs, wikis etc.

Organizing Students and Resources
The SIS (Student Information System), which is fully integrated with other applications such as the LMS (Learning Management System) and LAMS (Learning Activity Management System), is the central data repository for the school. Apart from keeping track of attendance, grades, schedules and demographics, the SIS also allows schools to create custom fields such as health and vaccination records.

Content Management
Education Appliance’s content management system makes it easy to host, manage and publish all internal and external content, making it an ideal tool for online learning. User-friendly templates are provided to assist in creating Web pages so staff and students can share information and ideas. The EA is very effective in hosting and managing third-party content from leading content providers, even in partially connected or disconnected environments.

Learning and Curriculum Management
Education Appliance acts as an application platform (“myschool”) with fully integrated authentication and access control. The portal integrates a Learning Management System into the education appliance providing a whole range of features which help teachers plan and manage courses and help students collaborate and learn online. Features include course management with modules for Assignments, Chat, Choice, Forums, Quizzes, Resources, Surveys and Workshops.

Interactive Learning Environment
EA supports the hosting and creation of effective multimedia content that leads to interactive learning opportunities for students. The LAMS (Learning Activity Management System) allows teachers to take this content and design lessons for delivery and plan their curriculum. The online discussion tools encourage peer-to-peer networking and buddy learning which are essential for constructive learning. These environments have the potential to provide alternative collaborative learning opportunities in a “student-centric” model.

Unlimited Possibilities
Education Appliance provides a wealth of possibilities in educational environments at school and classroom levels, including applications to improve internal and external communications, better organize course work and collaborate in new and exciting ways.

Contact us (education@critical-links.com) to find out how the Education Appliance is transforming 1:1 learning for more than 500000 students around the world.