

one laptop per child:  
meet the XO

Greg DeKoenigsberg  
draft, March 2007

(Pic of the XO figure itself)

# XO Quickstart Guide:

Build Sugar on your laptop right now.

([http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar\\_with\\_sugar-jhbuild](http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar_with_sugar-jhbuild))

i. where we're coming from

We take more for granted  
than we can possibly understand.

Have you ever lived in a town without a library?

Have you ever lived without a telephone?

Have you ever lived without electricity?

## **CONSIDER THIS:**

Americans have such a wealth of informational resource—books, periodicals and hundreds of television stations—that they sometimes seek shelter from the punishing hail of media that falls here.

Africans enjoy no such luxury—which is precisely why the Internet is so important to Africa.

(Daniel Akst and Mike Jensen, The Carnegie Corporation, 2001)

The XO will be a textbook.

(pic: XO in ebook mode)

The XO will be a library.

The XO will be a library.

Wikipedia | Wikimedia | Project Gutenberg | MIT open courseware |  
Directory of Open Access Journals | Public Library of Science |  
The Avalon Project | the entire internet | Google

The XO will be a telephone.

(pic: chat windows?)

The XO will be a camera.

(pic: of camera mode)

The XO will be an orchestra.

(pic: of tamtam)

The XO will be networked.

(pic: of network topology)

The XO will be human-powered.

(Power consumption figures)

**The XO will be an opportunity.**

“It's an education project, not a laptop project.”

--Nicholas Negroponte

ii. fear and loathing

“These people don't need laptops. They need food!”

No substantial famine has ever occurred in a democratic and independent country, no matter how poor.

Dr. Amartya Sen  
1998 Nobel Laureate, economics  
Harvard professor  
famine survivor

**( the worst famines are information famines )**

“Computers in schools are an utter failure.”

# HEY, YOU GEEKS: A SHOW OF HANDS

How many of you learned the majority of  
your computer skills in a classroom?

**( ownership is everything )**

“The XO will fill landfills all over the world.”

“The XO will be used to exploit children.”

“The XO will actually cost way more than \$100.”

“The OLPC people have no plan to deal with (x).”

For more excellent analysis  
(and occasional fearmongering)

<http://www.olpcnews.com>

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

--Colin Powell

iii. inside the XO

The XO's critical advantage:

The software is targeted for  
exact hardware specifications.

(Thank God.)

## **Some basic hardware specifications:**

366 Mhz AMD Geode GX @ 1W  
(sorry, Intel)

128 MiB RAM  
512 MiB storage

Camera and mic built-in

No moving parts

Membrane-covered keyboard  
Trackpad / stylus pad

Sturdy enough for kids

**what is sugar?**

What sugar is NOT:

GNOME

KDE

A traditional desktop

Application-centric

traditional desktop concept : sugar concept

desktop : neighborhood

menubar : the frame

hierarchical filesystem : journal

applications : activities

nouns : verbs

neighborhood

(picsplzthx)

the frame

(picsplzthx)

journal

(picsplzthx)

activities

(picsplzthx)

iv. how you can help

( but first... why should you? )

The XO is beta hardware  
running pre-alpha software.

Get involved, step one:

Join the Sugar community.

(irc.freenode.net #sugar)

(<http://mailman.laptop.org/mailman/listinfo/sugar>)

Get involved, step two:

Build Sugar on your laptop.

([http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar\\_with\\_sugar-jhbuild](http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar_with_sugar-jhbuild))

Get involved, step three:

**Build a simple activity.**

([http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar\\_Activity\\_Tutorial](http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Sugar_Activity_Tutorial))

Get involved, step four:

Transform a fun application  
into an XO activity.

You can also give money...

(<http://laptopfoundation.org/participate/>)

...but your **time** is far more valuable.

You can directly impact the lives  
of millions of poor children.

Starting right now.

How many opportunities like that  
will you get in your life?

Questions / Comments  
gdk at redhat dot com