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ICT4D

Information and Communication Technology for Development

General Editor TIM UNWIN



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Preface and acknowledgements

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To make the text easier to read, the dates when web pages were originally read have been removed, except when these are of historical interest or they are no longer live. Otherwise, all web pages were checked for accuracy in February 2008.

Tim Unwin
Virginia Water
March 2008

Acronyms and glossary

ACDI/CIDA	Agence canadienne de développement international/ Canadian International Development Agency: the Canadian Government Department responsible for international de- velopment (http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca).
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
APDIP	See UNDP-APDIP
Blog	An abbreviated form of 'weblog' (<i>q.v.</i>)
BPL	Broadband over Power Lines
BPR	Business Process Re-engineering
CD	Compact Disc: CDs were originally introduced in 1982 to store digital audio. A 12 cm CD contains about 80 minutes of audio.
CDMA	Code-Division Multiple Access
CD-ROM	Compact Disc Read-Only Memory: a compact disc that con- tains digital data of any kind and is accessible by a computer (12 cm in diameter).
CEPAL	Naciones Unidas Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (see also ECLAC) (http://www.eclac.cl)
CGAP	Consultative Group to Assist the Poor: a consortium of 33 public and private funding organisations working together to expand poor people's access to financial services (http://www.cgap.org).
CORBA	Common Object Request Broker Architecture
COTS	Commercial-Off-The-Shelf
COWs	Computers on Wheels
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD (<i>q.v.</i>)
DCE	Distributed Computing Environment
DFID	Department for International Development: the UK Govern- ment Department responsible for international development (http://www.dfid.gov.uk).
DSC	Development Support Communication: a model, initially developed by Coldevin for the FAO (<i>q.v.</i>).
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line

DVD	Digital Video Disc (also known as Digital Versatile Disc): an optical disc storage format with a diameter of 12 cm used for high-quality video and sound. The DVD specification was finalised in 1996.
ECDL	European Computer Driving Licence (http://www.ecdl.com)
ECLAC	The UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (see also CEPAL) (http://www.eclac.cl)
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council (http://www.un.org/ecosoc)
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes: ECPAT International is a network of organisations working to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children, and has Special Consultative status with ECOSOC (<i>q.v.</i>) (http://www.ecpat.net).
EFA	Education for All: six goals agreed by representatives from 160 countries at the World Education Forum held in Dakar in 2000.
EHR	Electronic Health Record
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (http://www.fao.org)
FidoNet	FidoNet (http://www.fidonet.org) consists of some 10,000 computer systems worldwide, forming a network that exchanges mail and files via modems using a proprietary protocol.
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software
GAID	Global Alliance for ICT and Development
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GDP	Gross Domestic Product: the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given year.
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems (http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss.shtml)
GIS	Geographical Information System: a computer-based system to capture, store, retrieve, map and analyse spatially resolved data. It enables layers of information about a particular place to be displayed and related to one another.
GNI	Gross National Income: the total value of goods and services produced within a country, plus income received from other countries, minus payments made to other countries.
GSM	Global System for Mobile communication: the dominant 2G digital mobile phone standard for most of the world.
IANA	The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority: provides centralised coordinating functions for the global internet (http://www.iana.org).
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers: responsible for the global coordination of the internet's system of unique identifiers (http://www.icann.org).

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ICDL	International Computer Driving Licence
IDRC	International Development Research Centre (http://www.idrc.ca)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development (http://www.iicd.org)
ILO	International Labour Organization: the tripartite UN agency bringing together governments, employers and workers (http://www.ilo.org).
Internet	The global network of interconnected computer networks that is used to transmit data. It enables services such as the World Wide Web (see WWW), e-mail, VoIP (<i>q.v.</i>) and online chat to take place.
IP address	Internet Protocol address: the unique number that enables a device to be identified and to communicate with other devices in a computer network using the Internet Protocol standard.
iPods	Portable media players designed by Apple Computers. First produced in 2001, and initially intended as a device to play music, new versions were rapidly developed to play video. They can also serve as external data storage devices.
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ITSM	Information Technology Service Management
ITU	International Telecommunications Union: the international organisation within the UN system in which governments and the private sector coordinate global telecommunications networks and services (http://www.itu.int).
K-12	'K through 12': an abbreviation for 'kindergarten through 12th grade', which is the usual US expression for primary and secondary education; 12th grade is generally studied by 17- and 18-year-olds.
LAN	Local Area Network: a group of computers and ancillary devices that share a common communication line or wireless link, usually within an office or home environment. In contrast to Wide Area Networks (WANs) they serve a smaller geographical range, they have higher data rates, and they do not require the provision of telecommunication lines by an external supplier.
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals (http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)
MPTC	Multi-Purpose Tele-Centre
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Partnership – distinguished from PPP (<i>q.v.</i>) because MSPs include a diversity of partners other than just

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	the private sector and the public sector, and thus also place emphasis on civil society and international organisations.
MSPE	Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Education
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development (http://www.nepad.org)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (http://www.oecd.org): an international organisation helping governments tackle the economic, social and governance aspects of a globalised economy.
PC	Personal Computer: a computer designed for personal use, in contrast to a server (<i>q.v.</i>).
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant: a handheld digital device, usually with a touch-screen. Initially mainly intended as a personal organiser, PDAs are now being used for a wide range of functions including accessing the internet, sending and receiving e-mails, word processing, playing games and reading digital books.
PLC	Power Line Communication
PPI	Private Participation in Infrastructure. The World Bank Private Participation in Infrastructure Project database contains data on more than 3,800 projects in 150 low- and middle-income countries (http://ppi.worldbank.org).
PPP	Public–Private Partnership (see also MSP)
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RAM	Random Access Memory
RFID	Radio-frequency identification
RNFE	Rural Non-Farm Economy
RSS	Really Simple Syndication: Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content.
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (http://www.sdc.admin.ch)
Server	A computer that provides services to other computers.
SME	Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise
SMS	Short Message Service: permits text message on GSM (<i>q.v.</i>) networks.
SOA	Service-Oriented Architecture
TFP	Total Factor Productivity: measures growth of output given constant levels of labour and capital input.
UN	United Nations (http://www.un.org)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (http://www.unctad.org)
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (http://www.un.org/esa/desa)

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UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (http://www.undp.org)
UNDP-APDIP	The United Nations Development Programme-Asia Pacific Development Information Programme (http://www.apdip.net)
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (http://www.unece.org)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (http://www.unesco.org)
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund (http://www.unfpa.org)
UNGIS	United Nations Group on the Information Society (http://www.ungis.org)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund (formerly, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) (http://www.unicef.org)
UPE	Universal Primary Education
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier: a string of characters and/or numbers used to identify a resource, most often on the World Wide Web; often popularly referred to as a URL (<i>q.v.</i>).
URL	Uniform Resource Locator: popularly used as a synonym for a URI (<i>q.v.</i>), although more correctly it is a subset of URIs referring specifically to locators.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development (http://www.usaid.gov)
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol: the routing of voice conversations using an IP network, usually the internet.
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal: a two-way satellite ground station with a dish antenna that is smaller than 3 metres.
Web	An abbreviated form for the World Wide Web or WWW (<i>q.v.</i>)
Weblog	A website, usually in the form of a diary or commentary, in which entries are given in reverse chronological order. Usually abbreviated to 'blog'.
WGIG	Working Group on Internet Governance (http://www.wgig.org)
WHO	World Health Organization (http://www.who.int)
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity
Wiki	An interactive website that enables users to add and edit material. It is particularly useful for collaborative authoring.
WiMAX	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (see http://www.wimaxforum.org)
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization: a specialised agency of the UN dedicated to developing a balanced and

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	accessible international intellectual property system (http://www.wipo.int).
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society (http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html)
WWW	World Wide Web (also abbreviated to the Web): a global information space containing text, images and multimedia, made accessible through uniform resource identifiers (URIs) (<i>q.v.</i>). It is made available through the internet (<i>q.v.</i>).



Mobile computing: computer on motorbike, Uganda, 2008 (source: Tim Unwin).

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