

**16-871 / 08-790**  
**Technology for Developing Communities**  
**Fall 2007**

***Homework 4: Analyzing Case Studies***

*Assigned: October 30, 2007*

*Due: November 15, 2007 before class*

*Please contact M. Bernardine Dias ([mbdias@ri.cmu.edu](mailto:mbdias@ri.cmu.edu))  
if you have any questions about this assignment.*

*Submit homework via the course bboard drop-box:  
login at <http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/>*

Now that you have mastered many skills relevant to technology for developing communities, you should have the necessary knowledge to critically analyze and reason about different case studies relevant to ICTD. The goals of this assignment are 1) to help you practice critical reading and analysis of relevant case studies; and 2) to help you to effectively articulate your analysis.

Assignment: Evaluate the following case study according to the guidelines provided below. Please note that we are not necessarily recommending this case study as an exemplary case study. It is up to you to decide if it is a good case study or not.

**Simputer:**

<http://www.scidev.net/content/features/eng/simputer-computers-for-the-poor-or-an-idealistic-dream.cfm>

**Guidelines:**

You are expected to turn in a 3-5 page document (10-point font, 1" margins, appropriately spaced) that includes the following components:

1. ***A brief summary capturing the most important aspects of the case study (0.5 pages – 10/100 points).*** Succinctly articulate a summary of the case study. Your summary should not be the same as their summary of the project. Rather, your task is to summarize the entire *case study*. Keep to the half page limit, and the reader should have a good overview of the complete case study.
2. ***An evaluation of the technology described in the case study (1-2 pages – 40/100 points).*** In this section your goal is to assess the technology described in the case study and evaluate the analysis of this technology in the case study. You should search for other sources of information about this technology, and learn more about its viability before completing this section. Some questions you may consider answering are:
  - Is this technology a feasible solution for the identified problem?
  - Does the case study adequately describe and evaluate the technology solution?
  - Are there better solutions to this problem, and if so, have they been identified in the case study?

- What are the strengths and limitations of the description and analysis of the technology examined in this case study?
  - How would you suggest improving the description and analysis of the technology examined in this case study?
3. ***An evaluation of the needs assessment, deployment strategy, and sustainability of the case study (1-2 pages – 30/100 points).*** In this section your goal is to assess the factors surrounding the technology solution examined in the case study and evaluate the treatment of these factors in the case study. You may want to search for additional sources of information about the described project, and learn more about its deployment before completing this section. Some questions you may consider answering are:
- Was there an adequate needs assessment conducted and is the needs assessment described in sufficient detail in the case study?
  - Is there a clear description of the problem being solved?
  - Does the case study adequately describe the deployment and consider the sustainability of the proposed solution?
  - What are your suggestions for improving the needs assessment, deployment strategy, and sustainability for the project examined in this case study?
  - What are the relevant strengths and limitations of this case study?
4. ***A brief summary of your evaluation of the case study (0.5 pages – 20/100 points).*** For this section of assignment you should imagine you have been contacted by a reporter who wants you to send a brief, half-page statement in reaction to this case study. How would you summarize your evaluation of the case study?

***Important:*** Remember to adequately cite ***ALL*** sources of information/assistance you use to complete this assignment.