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Title: “The Impact of High-Speed Broadband in Irish Schools”
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Abstract:

The Irish government is investing in a high-speed broadband network for Irish schools, delivering 100Mb/s connections to every post-primary school over a 5-year period (2010-2014). This service is intended to underpin the development of digital education, promote ICT in the classroom and ultimately produce school graduates with the skills and aptitude to succeed in the digital economy.

This paper looks at the background to the project and examines the impact the provision of high-speed broadband is having in the schools that have already received the service, by way of a survey of relevant personnel in the schools (ICT coordinators and principals).

The findings suggest that, whilst schools are using the service in most subjects, and are sufficiently confident in it's reliability to integrate the internet into classes, other factors including internal ICT infrastructure deficits, and lack of training and support may reduce the potential impact of the project.

Keywords:

Information Systems, ICT, Schools, Broadband, Digital education, Cloud computing, Video-conferencing