



xRiders – Bringing the Tools of Technology to Programs

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What is an xRider?

Is it a...

- Summer blockbuster movie with Hugh Jackman?
- Addendum to an xContract?
- Generic term for eRider, iRider, SuperRider, Circuit Rider?

What is the Need?

You've gone to the field...

You've installed the computers...

You've networked them...

You've got basic access to the Internet, provided email, built your intranets, web portals...

You've trained your staff...

You've spent a lot of money...

Now what?

What is the Need?

- Ongoing training for technology in support of Operations
 - Financial, HR Systems
 - Communications, correspondence
 - Information storage, retrieval
- Leveraging the tools of technology in support of Programs
 - Find out-of-the-box solutions to traditional needs
 - Pass the technology tools onto the clients
- Ongoing issue of costs

Circuit Riders

"A Circuit Rider is someone who provides technology assistance to the nonprofit sector. The help a Rider gives varies from helping to set up a local area network (LAN) to coaching an Executive Director to advocate for technology funding to the board. Part technology cheerleader, evangelist and skilled technologist, Riders come in many forms. In some cases foundations fund several Riders to service their grantees. Riders sometimes are housed within existing technology support provider organizations. Many Riders operate as independent consultants and in some cases a community of nonprofits might pool resources and hire a Rider. The circuit riding community grew out of the U.S. progressive social change and environmental movements, as well as other technology assistance efforts."

- Marc Osten – Summit Collaborative

Porting the Best of CR to the Developing World

- Costs are more realistic
- Support is local, ongoing
- Support/Training more appropriate for NGOs
- More than just setting up computers, networks, email, etc.
 - Mentoring in the effective use of the tools
 - Finding resources, filtering, quick retrieval
 - Building communities, online and offline
 - Office management, SOPs

Examples

- PDAs
 - Low resource tool for clients as well as staff
 - Delivers traditional information in a non-traditional way
 - Can collect data as well
- XML and Search Engines
 - Finding resources across media
 - What you need, when you need it
- Microsoft Office 2003
 - Collaboration Tools
 - Outlook

Who's Doing This?

- Open Society Institute – ICT for a Civil Society
- NPower
- NinthBridge
- NTEN – Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network
- USAID – Bolivia, India

Resources

- NonProfit Technology Enterprise Network: www.nten.org
- Circuit Riders List: <http://npogroups.org/lists/info/riders>
- iRider List: <http://npogroups.org/lists/info/interider>
- TechSoup: www.techsoup.org

PowerPoint Options

