

## **mscapeFest09 Open Space Session**

### **Hardware - how to plan the hardware to use for your mediascapes**

This session covered a number of topics related to devices used for mediascapes both now and in the future.

#### **Cost & Practicality of Calvium-capable devices**

Concerns were raised at the high cost of iPhone devices, particularly in the Netherlands where they can cost upwards of €800. The group discussed the far cheaper iPod touch (£150) and the GPS add-ons that are currently available. A secondary advantage of the non-phone devices is that SIM cards and contracts are not required. Calvium are intending to try out some of these devices to check that it works before recommending that users buy these devices. Devices based on Android are also far cheaper (around the £300) which are another possibility.

#### **Do people own their devices, or rent? What devices do people own and how many?**

Most participants owned their devices, and having around 10 devices was common. Phone rather than PDA seemed preferable, though one group have worked with up to 120 PDA-style devices.

#### **How do people ensure that devices are not dropped or otherwise damaged?**

One group member working with students attaches a neck strap to the mobile phone. It was noted that the iPhone does not have anywhere to attach such a strap! Rain was generally not considered a problem, as the class wouldn't go outside in bad weather.

#### **How long before mscape becomes obsolete in schools?**

Generally it was felt that the discontinuation of mscape development was not an immediate impediment to the continuing use of mscape in schools. A few members suggested that a shelf life of two years from now was practical.

#### **How do people involved feel about the fact that Calvium's tools may not target Windows Mobile?**

This was not considered a particular problem by this particular group, due to the two-year shelf life discussed above, by which time existing Windows Mobile inventory would be up for replacement anyway.

#### **The online 'in-the-cloud' nature of Calvium Tools and the effect on schools**

It was brought to attention that some schools do not have unlimited access to the internet, and some in fact have a 'whitelist' approach. That is, access to calvium.com (and other services it may use) would be disabled by default. An idea was floated whereby a server inside a school could be configured to run calvium tools locally. Two further issues also

discussed where privacy and security of personal information and content created by the students, and the availability of open WiFi in schools.