

EDUROAM® SUSTAINABLE TRAINING EVENT FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Karl Meyer, Product Marketing and Communications Officer

The UbuntuNet Alliance, in collaboration with GÉANT, recently hosted a one-day eduroam@training event in Kampala, Uganda, for associates of AfricaConnect; a high-capacity research and education (R&E) network currently being built in Sub-Saharan Africa.

17 engineers from UbuntuNet Alliance member NRENs (National Research and Education Networks) attended so they could learn how to deploy eduroam. Two member NRENs of the UbuntuNet Alliance, KENET (Kenya) and TENET (South Africa) are already in advanced stages of planning and extending eduroam services to universities in their countries. It is hoped that the training will assist other NRENs to offer the service to their user communities in the near future so that researchers and

students can have secure, remote access, irrespective of their location.

SUSTAINABLE TRAINING

The engineers spent an intensive day learning eduroam theory, concepts and configuration, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to be able to organise their own training workshops. It is through initiatives like this that the UbuntuNet Alliance aims to fulfil its vision for AfricaConnect.

Says Valter Nordh (SUNET), GÉANT Activity Co-Leader: "I am pleased that GÉANT is supporting the UbuntuNet Alliance by creating services that will add value to the network provided by the AfricaConnect project. Offering wireless access (through eduroam) to

participants is a major milestone for Africa's NRENs. It is hoped this training will lead to further eduroam deployments across Africa and increase uptake in other service areas, further enhancing the way users benefit from the network."

GLOBAL ACCESS

From humble beginnings connecting just five countries, eduroam has built momentum to become one of the largest Wi-Fi roaming services in the world, expanding in 10 years to over 60 countries and serviced by well over 5000 locations with more being added all the time in universities, schools and libraries across the globe.

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