



Contribution ID: 160

Type: **Talk**

Bandwidth and its influence on tertiary education

Tuesday, 4 December 2018 11:30 (25 minutes)

In South Africa, increased access to educational resources is altering the collective face of education. Many in the education field see new technologies as powerful tools to help universities meet the needs of ever-more-diverse student populations. Digital devices, software applications, interactive digital textbooks, e-books, online assessments and various learning platforms offer unimaginable options for tailoring education to each individual student's academic strengths and weaknesses, personal preferences and financial position. Without a doubt, one key enabler for these educational technologies is fast, robust and reliable broadband. Reliable broadband not only assists on-site students and lecturers at university campuses, but also enables off-site faculty and students to participate in online learning experiences. Our increased dependence on these online learning technologies will continue to increase the demand for more and more bandwidth.

This talk looks at the staggering numbers surrounding the use of fast, robust and reliable broadband at tertiary educational institutions. We consider the growth in Internet traffic at educational institutions, bandwidth costs and the advancement of educational technological tools and media

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Session Classification: SA NREN

Track Classification: SA NREN