

How To Use Your New XO Laptop

(Additional information can be found in the Simplified User Guide: tinyurl.com/2ptktg)

Nortel is proud to support the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program. While the fundamental concept of the program is to empower children in their own learning, the XO laptop is the vehicle through which to achieve this.

A fundamental concept of the OLPC program is to allow children to explore the infinite ways in which this tool can give them the power to learn. Nortel LearniT shares this philosophy by emphasizing the integration, NOT specialization, of technology skills throughout the learning process.

These pathways to learning will be best explored when technology such as the XO is used in the pursuit of projects that engage children in discovering how to use new skills and by collaborating and communicating with others to share their experiences.

Be sure to check out the *Nortel LearniT lesson plans* (NortelLearniT.org/lessons) and the *Nortel LearniT Activity Guide Sheets* (NortelLearniT.org/resources/Guidesheets) that contain such activities across a wide span of subjects.

With this goal in mind we provide these simple instructions and ideas to introduce you (and your children) to the XO.

NOTE: Before you jump in, please take five minutes to view this good *Overview Video* about the features and screens of the XO laptop youtube.com/watch?v=DwzCsOFxT-U

Getting Started:

1. Open and powering your XO – Use the green 'rabbit ears' to unlock the case and lift open the screen (It is the thicker half of the unit). If AC power is available, be sure to plug your unit into the side socket. The main power button is on the lower right side of the screen. The power-up sequence takes about 2-minutes (NOTE: Do not attempt to respond to any of the text messages during power-up)
2. NEW Computer (First Time Use): You will be prompted to *CREATE A USERNAME* and *TO SELECT A COLOR* to represent you on the Mesh Network.

3. Familiarize yourself with the different 'views' the operating system (known as 'sugar') has. Do this by using the 4 'view' buttons on the top center-left of your keyboard.
4. Connect to a Network or OLPC Mesh. Click on the left-most 'view' button. You will see available network access points or any OLPC Mesh points. Click on the access point you wish to use. (NOTE: It is recommended to use a non-password protected access point with the OLPC).
5. Open and explore the various programs that come pre-loaded on the XO Laptop. In the Neighborhood view, click on one of the bottom icons to launch a program. When done, return to the Neighborhood view (by clicking on the 2nd from right 'view' button). You can open another program or close the one you currently have open by placing your cursor over the open application icon and clicking close on the pop-up window.

Programs on the XO:

- A web browser built on the Firefox engine;
- A simple document viewer based upon evince (including the ability to view PDF);
- A News Reader, an RSS ("really simple syndication") reader (PenguinTV);
- OpenDocument Viewer to read documents in OpenDocument format
- eToys – a fun program based on the popular program Squeak, that allows interactive program creation.
- TamTam, a music synthesis and composition tool;
- A word processor based upon the Abiword project;
- Record video, audio, and still-image capture and playback, and;
- Draw, a pixel-paint programming

For more information about Free and Open Source (FOSS) educational programs that can be used on the XO see NortelLearnIT.org/onelaptopperchild

A First Project:

All About Me. A great way to let new XO users explore and use several of the programs on the laptop is to have them create an autobiography, or an "All About Me" project.

Let users know that the first thing that they need to do with their new XOs is to be ready to tell about themselves. You can let them know that this will be a great way to have fun using the laptop, and help them be ready to work with others on the Mesh Network. You can use this *Mesh Network Demo* at laptop.org/laptop/hardware/meshdemo.shtml to help explain Mesh Networks.

To start the project, explain that they will need to write a little bit about themselves. This should include their name (NOTE: Online privacy for children is a #1 priority. Make sure that they only use their first name, and no street addresses. Town, State/Province or Country is OK. You can help explain Cyber Safety to them by using the Nortel LearniT video tutorial about *Online Identity* at (NortelLearniT.org/LearnIT/technology/Online_Safety/identity_flash)

When they're ready have them open the writing program on the XO and write about themselves. Be sure to have them address such things as what they like to do in school, at home, and tell about their family. They will need to learn how to save their work using the filing system of the XO (the book icon with the arrow pointing into it). They will need to provide a name to their work when they save it.

Next ask them to take a picture of themselves. They can do this by launching the camera application and using the XO to take their picture. Once they take their picture, they will be able to add it to their document. They can do this by switching between the camera and the writing application and 'inserting' their picture in their document.

Then have them create an original drawing that tells something about themselves. Maybe it is a visualization of something that they wrote about, or an extension of that detail. They will be able to open the drawing application from the neighborhood view. After they have created (and saved) their drawing, have them insert the drawing into their document.

Finally they will need to share their All About Me document. If there are other XO laptops being used near you (you can look to check in the community view to see if other XO icons appear there) you can use the chat and application sharing features of the XO to share their documents. When there are no other XOs near you, have them email, using a free web based email program like Gmail, Yahoo Mail or Hotmail to create an account (NOTE: Again let them know about Cyber Safe ways to work online. Consider using other video lessons from *the Nortel*

LearnIT Online Safety (NortelLearnIT.org/technology/Online_Safety) series to do this).

For more information or ideas on All About Me, please see the *Nortel LearnIT Lesson Plan* (tinyurl.com/2rw85f) of the same name.

For more suggestions for first projects visit the *Learning Activities* section on the OLPC Wiki at (wiki.laptop.org/go/Category:Learning_Activities)

A Group Project:

Thinking about the weather is a great way to learn all kinds of subjects (Think geography, science, math and even language arts!) This Nortel LearnIT lesson plan "How Does the Weather Change?" is designed for elementary school age children, but it can be customized for anyone! Get started using this as a group activity with their XO laptops. NortelLearnIT.org/lessons/Science/Weather

Sharing Your Experience(s):

Please help others learn from your use of the OLPC Laptop and Nortel LearnIT. Please leave a question, comment or suggestion at the *Nortel LearnIT OLPC Blog* at (content.NortelLearnIT.org/blogs).

For More Information:

Be sure to check out the Nortel LearnIT web site www.NortelLearnIT.org for more ideas on projects and activities (and videos that will help develop the skills you/children can use in completing them) that you can do with the XO.

The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project is online at: www.laptop.org and a library of free online educational programs can be found on the OLPC Wiki at: http://wiki.laptop.org/go/Educational_Software

Nortel LearnIT is the signature initiative of Nortel Community Relations. The goal of Nortel LearnIT is to inspire learning and enable opportunity in the 21st century.

For more information about Nortel Community Relations visit:
http://go/community_relations

or www.Nortel.com/olpc
