

# Building a portal for the future

## *edu365.com*

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# Roles of regional governments

- To continually foster and support innovation in education:
  - they are close to the needs of citizens
  - they can allocate resources effectively
- To articulate concerted actions on the many “digital divides” of education:
  - students vs students; teachers vs students;
  - students vs parents; affluent schools vs less affluent schools

# Hints on ICT in Catalan education

- Investment in infrastructure since 1983
  - 2 Mbit/s ADSL in all schools by April 2003
  - 1 PC / 8 students in 2004 (1/11 in 2002)
- Sustained action in:
  - in-service teacher training
  - curriculum & content development
  - information and support services
- ***xtec.es*** Internet service for teachers & schools since 1995
- ***edu365.com*** portal for students (2001)

# Basis of the *edu365.com* portal

- *eEurope* initiative of the Catalan Gov.:
  - Secretary for Telecoms. and Inform. Society
  - Department of Education
- Aims:
  - empower learners and foster their ICT skills
  - support the school curriculum
- Public funding and management
- Private provision of specific contents, applications and services

# The *edu365.com* portal is ...

- for every student of every school
- for the whole school education
- for families and citizens as well
- free of charge
- developed specifically to cater for young e-learners and schooling needs

# Need of a specific development

“The voice of education is not always heard. Education users do not articulate their needs: tools and services developed for consumers, business or universities need considerable modification before they are suitable for young learners”

*Equipped, trained ... and now what?*

European Schoolnet, EUN Office, 3 Sep 2002

# Features of *edu365.com* /1

- Curriculum content:
  - interactive didactic units
  - drill & practice, simulation, self-tests
- Personal digital desktop:
  - word-processor embedded in the browser
  - personal workspace and file manager
  - symbolical & graphical calculator
  - communication tools
  - information resources & agenda

# Personal desktop

## Escriptori digital

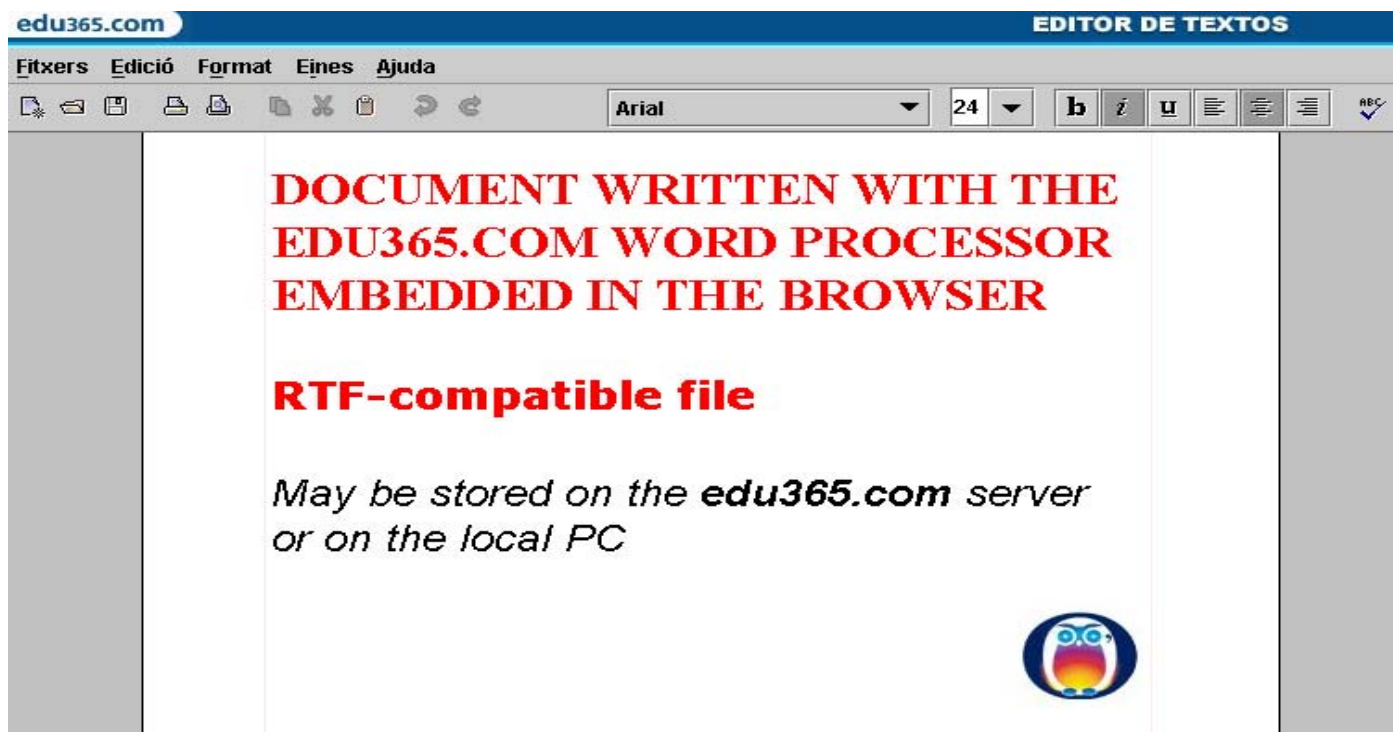


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# Browser-based word processor



edu365.com EDITOR DE TEXTOS


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**DOCUMENT WRITTEN WITH THE  
EDU365.COM WORD PROCESSOR  
EMBEDDED IN THE BROWSER**

**RTF-compatible file**

*May be stored on the [edu365.com](http://edu365.com) server  
or on the local PC*



# Features of *edu365.com* /2

- “Ask a teacher” (365 days, 24 hours):
  - individualized help and support on curriculum, learning and guidance matters
  - team of consultant teachers & specialists
- Information for students & parents
- Tools for teachers:
  - personal repository of teaching instruments
  - flexible student grouping
  - activity assignments and learning agendas

# A portal for quality of education

- ***edu365.com*** aims to increase the quality of education by:
  - being available to every student and family
  - paying attention to the specific characteristics of the young e-learner
  - meeting the needs of the teachers
  - generating confidence: ease of use, privacy, academic freedom, reliability

# Young learners (vs adult learners)

- Have limited capabilities of independent study and of setting long-term goals
- Learn interacting with classmates, teachers and other people
- Don't need to follow automated courses nor track them in online catalogs
- Are not in the business of just-in-time learning for retraining and re-skilling

# The young e-learner...

is any student which uses ICT and the Internet at some extent:

- to work with any type of productivity tool or specialized environment
- to access, retrieve and use any type of digital content with learning purposes
- to communicate or to interact with teachers, other learners or experts

with the guidance, the support, and the assessment of the teacher

# Teachers' needs for e-learning

- Facilities to create and manage a private repository of teaching instruments
- Flexible activity assignment and agile grouping of students
- Easy management of students' inputs
- Combine online, offline, synchronous, and asynchronous activities
- Not be imposed frequency or style of use

# Challenges

- Ensure teacher involvement
- School directors, inspectors and administrators should play an active and informed role
- Intensify communication with families
- Get ample feed-back, espec. of students
- Long-term committment of all partners: suppliers, users, and decision-makers

*[www.edu365.com](http://www.edu365.com)*

*[www.edu365.com/guidedtour](http://www.edu365.com/guidedtour)*

Thank you