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One to One Thousand

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In a given week, one thousand people work one hour on a project with agreed upon standards and create something that helps people way beyond what one person could do in twenty five hour work weeks. One to one thousand is a teaching and assistive technology principle that holds the possibility of helping students, their families, and their teachers in an exponential way. This SETT framework focused, synergy infused concept starts with looking at the individuals being served, or most of the time being under-served. Focused on a real need, an excellent project is created to help that need. Then the project is designed in such a way that it is scalable and easily accomplished by people. If created correctly, people with minimal skill or training can work on parts of the task for a relatively short amount of time, like one hour, and make a meaningful contribution to the whole project. Division of labor is important to the successful completion of goals in a One to One Thousand Project and becomes vital to the sharing and maintenance of the resources of the project. Additionally, it is vital that projects of this type, at first, be as streamlined as possible by providing only the most important and usable resources to the beneficiaries of the project. This is important because the product has to be predictable and powerful, otherwise it may not be used and then the excitement for the project may wane resulting in less ability to scale the project and its helping goals. That being said, it is most important to choose a very focused and meaningful goal for a One to One Thousand Project.

As teachers of various forms, we help students, families, and other teachers with learning, personal care, and helping others learn. For me, the reason why I participate in this helping process is because I care deeply for these three groups of people. Out of that care for the individual follows a desire to help in some meaningful way. The practice of teaching and assistive technology has provided me with that meaningful way to help these people I care about.

One to One Thousand does not just mean scalable hours into a huge world wide benefit. It also means one to one thousand seconds, or fractions of seconds. In another interpretation of the concept it also is about neurology, and active engagement in learning. The most important part of assistive technology is helping people. The second most important part of assistive technology is helping in such a way that learning is maximized. It may be qualitative, yet it may also be quantitative. The concept of a template was truly taught to me by Bobbie Berberian, one of the first Intellitools trainers. Originally, I said to her, "But I can create virtually anything that I imagine in Intellitools." She proceeded to help me see that it is very powerful if you can create meaningful custom solutions. Yet, she showed very clearly that there is so much

more power in using the concept of repetition with variety in teaching and learning. By creating templates that save time, you can create even more student centered and individualized learning materials. One to One Thousand represents creating a template based on something that works and then sharing that with the world, both the creation process and the benefit that it brings. It is very purposeful that it is being played up as an entity or thing because in that way people can get behind it, easily understand it, and then feel good about participating in it.

The first One to One Thousand project is tentatively called Books Please and it seeks to create digitally accessible age and interest appropriate books for people at the emergent and early conventional stages of literacy. Using the power of the Internet, in a given time frame, one thousand people spend roughly one hour creating PowerPoint books with images from Flickr. Then a set of people edit, mostly meaning review, and post these books on a easily accessible wiki styled World Wide Website. An important factor in this project is proper citing of Creative Commons images from Flickr, as well as using Karen Erickson's and Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite's excellent work on the Emergent Literacy Framework to guide the creation of the template and books. Success is defined in this project in two parts: by people having access to books they are interested in who would never have had access without the project and in providing a free digital library of books to help early readers of all ages. This will be measured by taking inventory of who is using the books and how they are using them.

Essentially, the question becomes for all One to One Thousand Projects, "Would you be willing to work one hour to receive the benefit of one thousand hours of work?" Yet, for all of those thousands the project may serve, it is still about that boy with cerebral palsy singing with you, or that one girl writing to her father, or about helping that one tired teacher, or giving that mom and dad a clear way to help their child. As Joy Zabala clearly taught in the SETT Framework, it is about the people we are with. Let us combine our care together and all together we can truly make that cliched difference. In this age and process of Moore's Law, IDEA, and the Internet, let us not underestimate the power of something that works coupled with a way to share that something that works. In this process let us find good teaching and be able to share it in many meaningful ways.