



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

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Agenda Item: 11

## **Affordable PC with Puppy Linux and VIA PC-1**

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: Philippines



**APEC Symposium on Open Source  
and Open Course for E-Learning  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
4 - 6 December 2006**

## **Abstract**

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On November 27, 2006, VIA sponsored in Manila a first-ever event bringing together educators/development professionals and cutting-edge PC solutions providers VIA Technologies (for hardware) and Puppy Linux (for GPL/free software). This is the first time that solutions providers got their wares put to test by the elearning professionals. The event will pave the way for affordable computing to be disseminated Asean-wide using the experience from the workshop."

As I already described, my talk will be about cutting-edge developments in bringing about affordable (cheap) computing for elearning using VIA's low-cost PCs and Puppy Linux. The event described will be conducted on November 27, 2006 in Manila.

## Affordable PC with Puppy Linux and VIA PC-1

(Getting low-cost PC and free software to work in education and development.)  
by Raffy Mananghaya, Philippines

The "Alternative PC for Education and Development Workshop" is the high point of many developments, namely:

1. the global VIA PC-1 initiative to bring affordable computing to low-income users (see [www.viipc-1.com](http://www.viipc-1.com) );
2. the ADOC ( <http://www.apecdoc.org> ) and III ( <http://www.iii.org.tw> ) efforts to help find affordable computing solutions for various entities in APEC countries;
3. Ewayco's online offering of affordable, small-size PCs (see <http://www.ewayco.com> );
4. Puppy Linux, a complete desktop solution in 50-70 MB live CD ( [www.puppylinux.org](http://www.puppylinux.org) ), an integral part of UPLB's eMinima project for elearning and eGovernance.

Twenty-five (25) participants joined the workshop, and helped list these characteristics of their existing and proposed alternative PC/system:

1. Existing: Usually high-end/P4 machines costing from P15,000 (used PC) and up, with cost of software added for another P15,000 and up. Reliability of the current system is usually compromised by system stability and malware (e.g., trojans, viruses). The tasks performed are usually office applications, multimedia/software development, Web searching and publishing, and operation of Learning Management System.
2. Alternative: Hardware costing the same as, or less than, a used PC (P15,000 - see 1 above), and a functional, reliable and low-cost software adequate for the listed tasks.

The proposed solution is:

1. VIA's PC1000 board with C3 800 Mhz processor and CLE266 + VT 8235M chipset.
2. Minipup2 suite, a Puppy Linux barebones version 2.00 with Opera 9.02 (48 MB) plus OpenOffice 1.1.4 (42 MB) ( [www.bexa.org/pup](http://www.bexa.org/pup) ) .

The participants themselves assembled the board, case and power supply (no hard drive is used), and loaded Puppy Linux using a CD drive or USB stick (there were only 3 CD drives and one USB stick, so these were passed around among 7 groups). Two participants installed Minipup2 in their personal USB flash drives, happily noting that the process took less than 2 minutes.

After testing the new, alternative system, the participants were asked about suggested improvements, to which one participant answered, "What more could you ask for?"

A detailed coverage of the workshop can be found at the [viipc-1.com](http://www.viipc-1.com) website.