



Inveneo creates ICT solutions that meet the needs of organizations (NGOs, local governments, private companies) and the rural communities they serve

A new way to serve remote and rural organizations and people with ICT

How Inveneo is changing the way ICT solutions are designed and supported for rural areas

More than 2.5 Billion people live in rural and remote areas of developing countries where access to communications is severely limited due to availability or affordability. For these rural communities, access to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) can transform people's lives in simple yet, profound ways.

Non-government organizations (NGOs), local governments and private entities that provide communities vital development, education and services are also in need of ICT tools such as low power computing, telephony and Internet access.

Until now, there were few alternatives for these organizations to acquire and deploy ICTs for their projects and programs. They could develop their own solution, they could engage expensive consultants, or they could take what little was available. In many cases the ICT was not sustainable due to cost, complexity, lack of ruggedness, lack of in-region technical support and countless other issues.

Inveneo, a US-based non-profit social enterprise, offers a new alternative through its open, decentralized, sustainable approach to ICT systems. Inveneo focuses on designing, integrating and supporting affordable technology systems that match the needs of people and organizations in underserved areas worldwide.

Introducing the Inveneo Communications System

The Inveneo Communications System(tm) is designed to provide computing, VoIP telephony and Internet access for rural, remote and often challenging environments. It can be used for a wide range of applications including economic and community development, microfinance, telehealth, education, humanitarian aid and emergency relief.

NGOs and other organizations operating in rural environments need ICT solutions that fit their unique situation. Inveneo's innovative solution integrates proven hardware, open-source software and 12-volt DC power options to create a rugged and resilient yet, simple to operate system. Inveneo partners with Inveneo certified local IT professionals to provide cost effective local support.

Below: The Communications Station

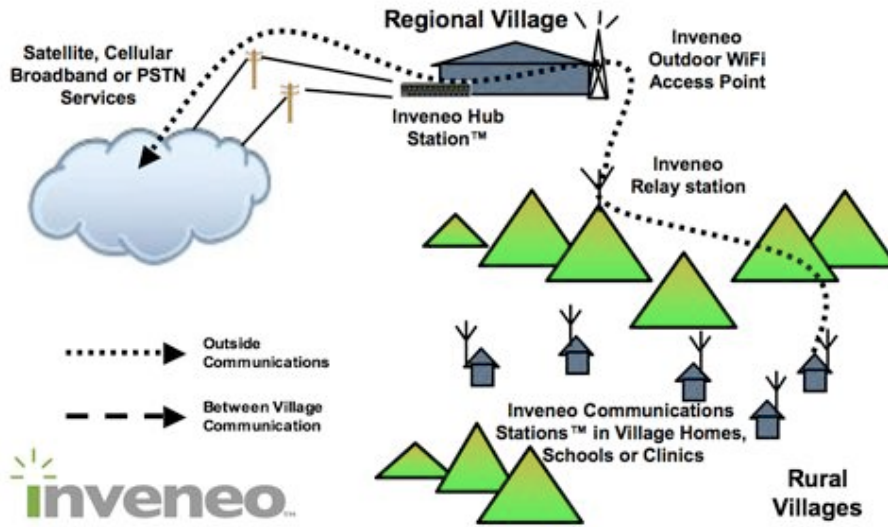


Below: Jane Nabwire of ActionAid shows Ugandan villager how to use email



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Inveneo Communications System™



Product Overview

The Inveneo Communications System consists of two components - the Communications Station- and the Hub Station - that combine to provide a complete ready to use ICT solution:

- The Communications Station is designed for use by end-users in a village school or office, home or clinic setting. It provides computing, telephony and Internet access.
- The Hub Station is designed for use by a network administrator and is placed in a regional location. It manages the network and provides connectivity to data and voice services.

Communications Station Detail

The Communications Station is designed for end-users. It includes:

- Ultra-low power Wyse S50 computer and 14 inch LCD Monitor
- Standard telephone handset and Linksys Analog Telephone Adaptor (ATA)
- Custom-built open-source desktop with web browsing, messaging and office software
- Outdoor wireless access point designed for long distance networking to the Hub Station

The Communication Station draws only 20-22 watts of power when in full use. It is available in different configurations to meet end-user needs. For example, a school may need several computer set-ups but only one phone and access point.

Hub Station Detail

The Hub Station is designed for easy system administration. It includes:

- Network central server
- 40 - 100 GB data storage
- Content sharing applications
- Standard telephone handset
- Call management with voicemail via Asterisk, an open-source IP-PBX
- Outdoor wireless access point designed to connect to Communications Stations

The Hub Station connects on the back end to satellite, cellular or analog lines for data and PSTN services.

Operating Environment

Inveneo's System is designed to operate in environments where computing has traditionally not been found:

- Limited or no access to electricity
- Limited or no access to Internet connectivity and/or telephony
- Dusty environments, high humidity and long periods of hot weather
- Limited access to on-site or local technical service and support

Feature overview

1. A Fully Integrated System

A fully engineered and integrated system which addresses computing, telephony, connectivity to the Internet and telephone network, local area networking and software applications, all ready to use after installation.

2. Low Power Consumption

Power is a costly resource. The system's components have been chosen for low power consumption so that it can run on virtually any power source (solar, wind, micro-hydro, bicycle generator) making it less costly to operate.

3. Flexible Power Management

In remote areas, grid power is undependable. The system is designed to run during a typical outage using a battery power system.

4. Customized Software

The open-source software has been carefully chosen and adapted for use in rural and remote environments. User level software is simple, yet robust with all current features: office software, chat, e-mail, forums and audio/video. The system has a one-button recovery feature. The administrative software provides simple network management and error recovery, but also has advanced features available. Altogether, the system is designed to be tolerant of network outages.

5. Made for Challenging Environments

Each component of the system is encased in appropriate enclosures. The computer has no moving parts and is mounted on the monitor to resist dust and pests.

Open Source

Often, systems for networks are proprietary and inflexible. Inveneo uses no-cost, proven open-source software in all aspects of the system. Our hardware designs and software are available to the public so that so that any organization, community or individual can build, change and/or improve upon the system.