

1,919,954,215

the number of online free education minutes

LEARN
Lanka Education and Research Network

SANOG 37 Colombo, Sri Lanka - 12 July - 16 July, 2021

Lessons Learned from Covid-19

Emerging

NRENs' Perspective

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National Research and Education Network of Sri Lanka

It all started with ...



2020/03/19

Universities Close
due to Covid19



2020/03/23

IP whitelisting and
begining of data
collection



2020/03/26

Data Vizualization



*Arguably, the first ever online
"free education" effort*

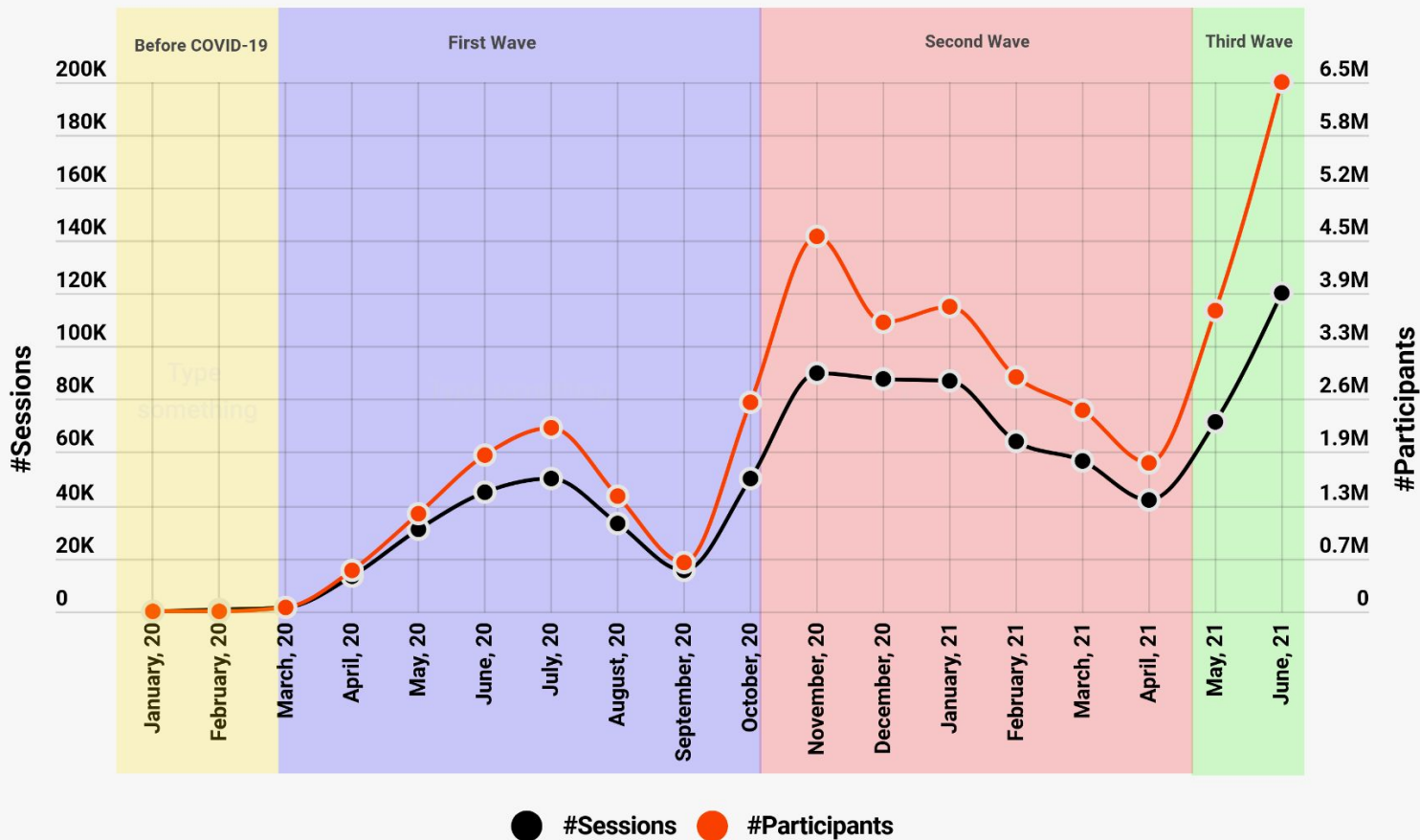
- Oshada Senanayake, GM, TRCSL

Covid-19 and LEARN Going Online

- ▶ NREN members had the required minimum infrastructure for delivering courses online when Covid-19 hits us.
- ▶ LEARN Vcon solution:
 - ▶ On-premise Zoom setup was completed by LEARN in **two weeks** into the lockdown providing free data access for online synchronous lectures and meetings.
 - ▶ **Weekly participants** pre-COVID19 were about **200** and the numbers increased to **20,000 (100x)** in the first week into the lockdown and reached a peak by recording of **1.64 million (8200x)** weekly participants.
 - ▶ Peak time usage is around 250 thousand daily users (with about **100 thousand simultaneous users**) with more than 4000 daily meetings.

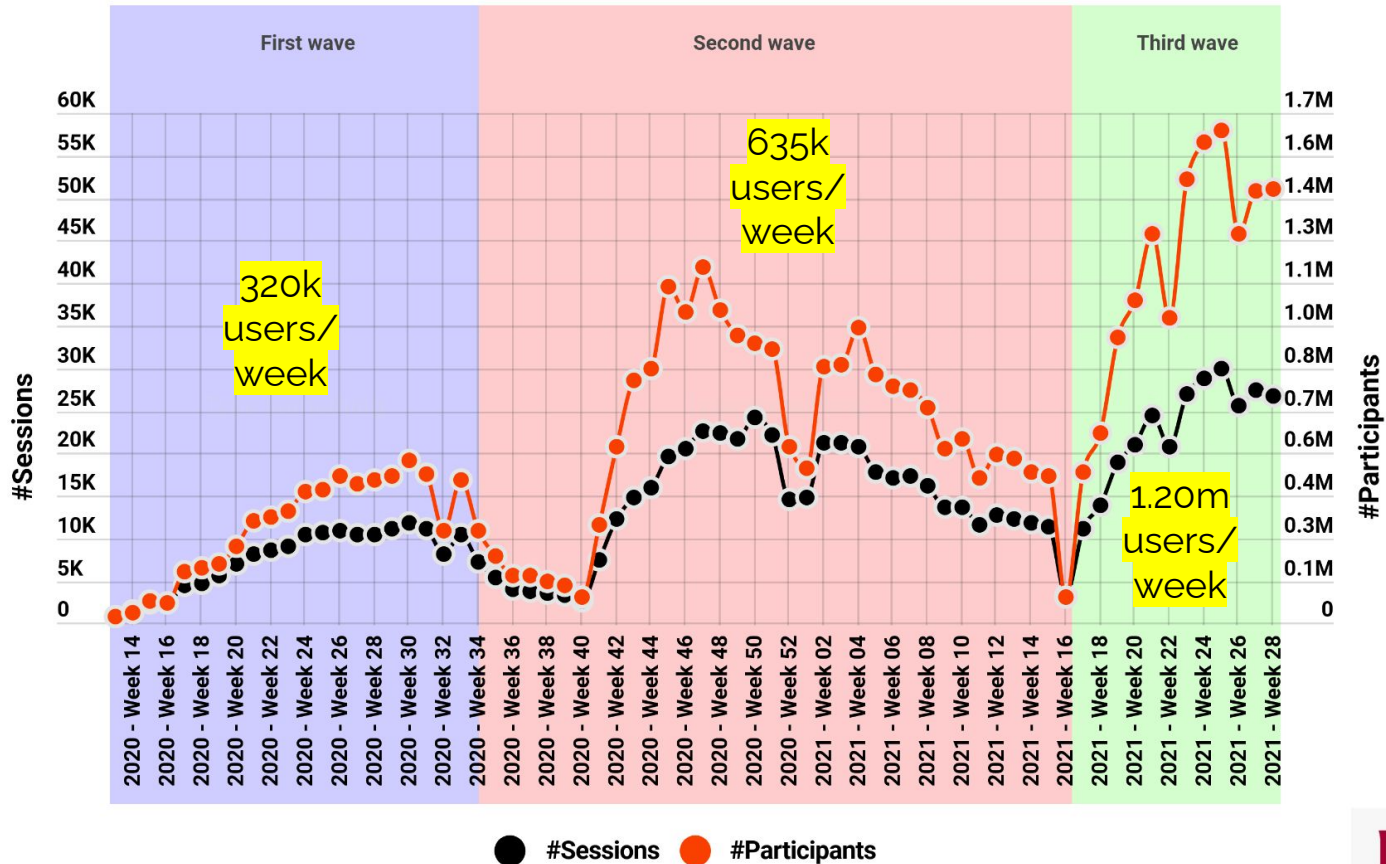
Monthly Video Conferencing (LEARN.Zoom) Activities

January, 2020 - June, 2021



Comparison of Weekly Synchronous (LEARN.zoom) Activities between First, Second and Third Waves

From 23rd March, 2020 to 11th July, 2021



Since March 2020...

857,856

Meetings

40,000,000+

Participants

1,919,954,215

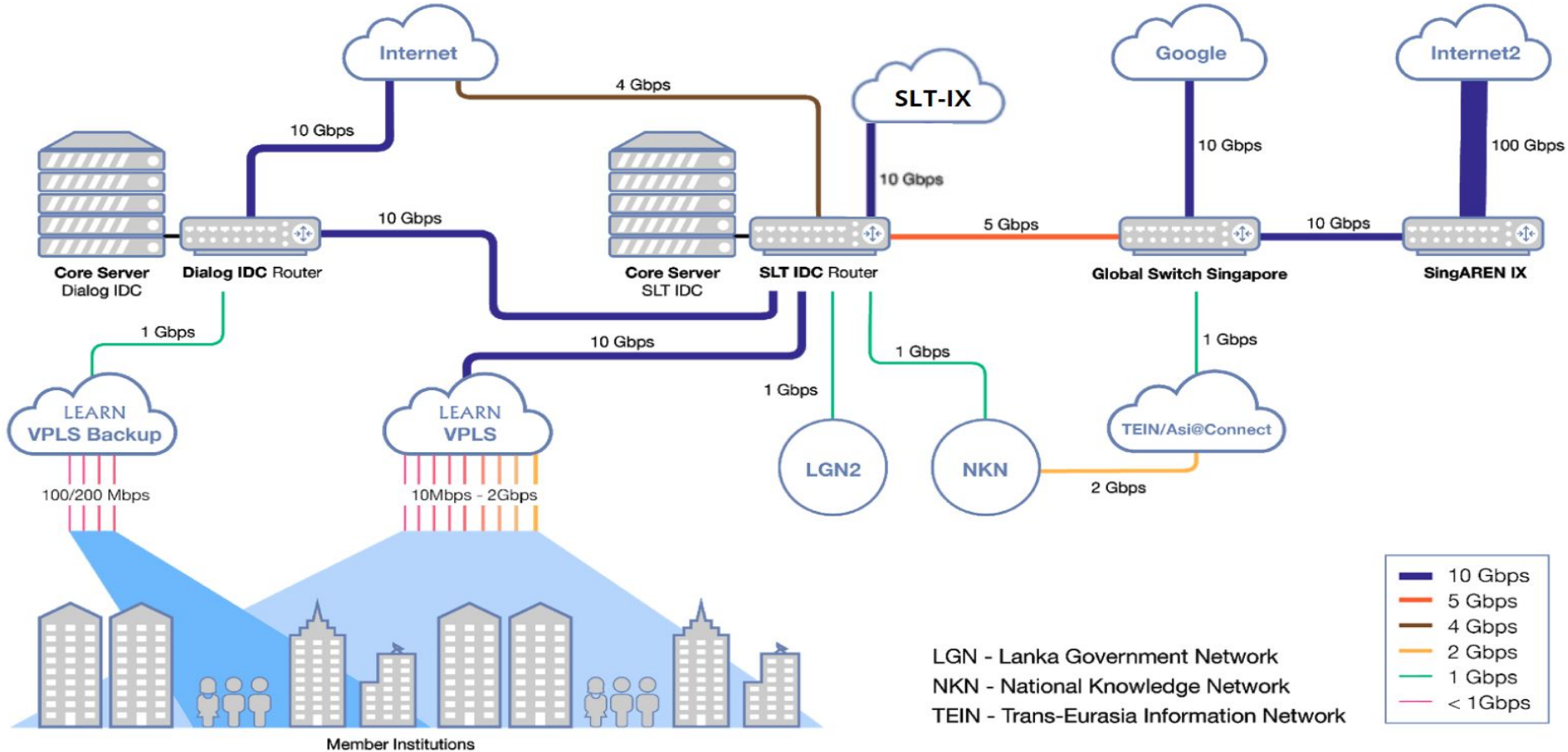
Minutes



Flipped NREN

Challenges

FLIPPING the NREN Network!



Flipped NREN

Study from Campus

- ▶ Focus is on the campus infrastructure
- ▶ Network is mainly used to access material from outside the NREN Network
- ▶ IX is less important

Study from Anywhere

- ▶ Focus is on national infrastructure
- ▶ NREN network becomes the major content provider to its users
- ▶ IX plays an important role

Challenges

- ▶ National infrastructure are already limited by the increased data usage by the citizens
 - ▶ For example, about 50% increased data consumption in Sri Lanka
- ▶ Education is divided by the digital divide of the country and the economic disparity of its citizens
- ▶ NRENs are exhausted with their resources
- ▶ Requirement for more services in education and research (vcon, lms, simulation platforms, teaching/learning/assessment tools, etc.)



Flipped NREN

Solutions

LEARN's Solutions



+ Adding a server pool for On-premise VCon

“Free Academic Network and Internet Access”

for eduRoam account holders

from more than 100 hotspots around the country

- Main railway stations
- Bus stands
- Hospitals and etc.

Visit eduroam.ac.lk for more details

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 **eduroam**



LEARN's Solutions

Need academic email?

eduROAM, eduGAIN...??

Then.. Sign Up for eduID



eduID.LK

and get Microsoft Teams,

ms.ac.lk email, eduROAM, eduGAIN...

all for one username/password and **FREE**

(LEARN members only)

Sri Lanka's Plans

Inauguration of the First Tower of the
“ගමට සන්නිවේදනය” Initiative in Kachchigala



Government/TRC

Setting aside a Rs 15 billion budget (\$200m) for 2021/22 for the “Connect Sri Lanka (aka Communication to the village” Project

Sri Lanka's Plans



University Grants Commission (UGC)

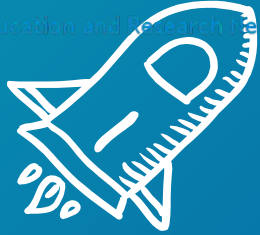
- ▶ Invested Rs 200 million (\$ 1 million) short term on IT Infrastructure
- ▶ People's Bank and University Grants Commission (UGC) tie up to provide laptop loans to undergraduates (~Rs. 3 billion = \$ 15 million)

Sri Lanka's Plans

- ▶ Presidential Task Force on Education
- ▶ University Grants Commission's Standing Group on IT Infrastructure and Online Education

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Vision

1. Equity or justice for all
2. Provide more for less
3. Reimagine NREN's role

connect. communicate. collaborate

Covered under

Dr Asitha Bandaranayake's
Keynote at LKNOG5 titled

Reimagining The National Research &
Education Network: Opportunities &
Challenges

Lessons LEARNed!

- ▶ Covid-19 is a silver lining for emerging NRENs
 - ▶ Established the need of NRENs
 - ▶ Brought different parties together
- ▶ Put the NRENs perspective upside down => Flipped NREN
 - ▶ Reforming the perspective of education
 - ▶ Identified the need for national level development
 - ▶ Identified the need for collaboration between NOGs, NRENs, Policy Makers, Government, etc.

Thank you!

ANY QUESTIONS?

You can find me at: consultant@learn.ac.lk