eduroam service is available in public spaces of Porto Alegre

This is the first city in Latin America to offer this benefit in urban living spaces.

The educational and research community has recently been benefited from an easier mobility of Internet access while transiting through the streets of Porto Alegre. The capital of Rio Grande do Sul is the first city in Latin America to provide eduroam service in public places such as parks, avenues and squares, after an agreement entered into by the National Education and Research Network (RNP), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the Data Processing Company of Porto Alegre (Procempa), on September, 26, 2014

The benefit became possible after a successful pilot test was performed during the World Cup 2014, when wireless hotspots were installed in the exclusive route for pedestrians from Historic Downtown to Beira-Rio, the official stadium where the world games took place. For the CEO of Procempa, Luis Mario Teza, "access to a service that you have in your home country qualifies the city. If you combine this with videos, photos and links made by foreigners, telling what lived here, we have an intangible value. Eduroam promotes the city abroad and that returns, even if it's just as a positive mention, " he said.

As a result of the partnership created with RNP and UFRGS, Procempa provided hotspots in 15 public places. "It is a pleasure to promote the service. We are offering digital citizenship and one of the roles of the university is to encourage this process," celebrated the dean of UFRGS, Carlos Alexandre Netto.

The Deputy Service Management Officer of RNP, Antônio Carlos F. Nunes, highlighted the role of Porto Alegre as an exponent in the use of this service." Our goal is to support this initiative, expanding the coverage of eduroam", he explained.

Brazil has more than thousand access points to eduroam

World map with eduroam hotspots

In 2014, eduroam has reached the milestone of one thousand hotspots in Brazil. Thus, Latin America has become the second region with the largest service coverage, just behind Europe.

This growth was largely increased by the leadership of Brazil in ELCIRA (Europe Latin America Collaborative e-Infrastructure for Research Activities), coordinated by Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (RedCLARA) and financed by the European Community to deploy identity federations and expand eduroam in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The progress achieved by the project enabled the creation of a Latin American Confederation of eduroam to discuss particular issues related to the region, as well as to address them to the Global Governance Committee of eduroam (GeGC), entity which Brazil is a party since 2012, when eduroam was released in the country.

With a secure wireless network, the service allows users to connect to the internet at any location,

Meeting between the coordinators of ELCIRA Project

UnB adhesion benefits more than 50 thousand users

UNB and RNP teams involved in approval actions

provided there is a hotspot. It is just necessary to have eduroam configured on your computer, mobile phone or tablet to detect the wireless network automatically, ensuring convenience in access for the user. To become a service provider institution, the only requirement is to be approved at the Federated Academic Community (CAFe).

São Paulo is the state with the largest service coverage

Provided in five continents with over 11,000 hotspots worldwide, eduroam has over 40 client institutions in the country. Currently, the state of São Paulo presents the better service coverage, with more than 650 hotspots, which creates a favorable environment for teachers and researchers, who move between the various institutions of education and research in the region.

This is the case of São Paulo State University Júlio de Mesquita Filho (UNESP), whose main feature is decentralization, since its 34 institutes are spread across 24 cities in São Paulo's countryside. From April 2013 to August 2014, the university has already enabled 526 hotspots that provide wireless network to more than 50,000 students and 10,000 teachers and staff.

The University of Brasilia (UNB) is the latest institution to join the CAFe and to become part of eduroam, ensuring mobility and security access of wireless network to more than 50,000 students, researchers and staff.

For the Officer of the Computer Center at UNB, Jorge Fernandes, who is responsible for the management of ICT at the university, when UNB started to use eduroam, it not only set, but also strengthened its relationship with other national and international institutions. "Our expectation is as a service provider of basic connectivity to understand the level of internationalization of UNB. We want to know how our teachers, students and other users are doing on the national and international academic space," he says.

Application finds the closest hotspots to eduroam

Interface do eduroam Companion.

To locate the nearest service access source, the Companion eduroam app offers the location of institutions that have been qualified for its use worldwide. Developed by the UK academic network, Janet, the application is also available for iOS and Android operating systems and allows users to search a specific location using a map or a list with the closest institutions. For more information, visit: https://www.ja.net/products-services/janet-connect/eduroam/eduroam-companion

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