ENABLING EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP
2020 has compelled many sectors to take a leap forward in their digital transformation, as the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown catalysed change, particularly in workplace management strategies. The Education Sector has been no exception, with online meeting platforms such as Zoom quickly taking the place of classrooms and lecture halls.

Workplace Skills Development has also had to adapt, as the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), Learnership Training Providers and Private companies have remained committed to providing these types of educational opportunities despite the pandemic.

“Our IT Outsourcing (ITO) team has worked with the SETAs for the past 20 years,” says Sakhile Ngobese, CIO at SoluGrowth, “so we have been privileged to understand this arena, and the way it is seeking to rise to the digital challenge, to its fullest. We are now seeing an increased enthusiasm for rapid digital transformation, particularly with regards to accessibility for learners.”

Quality E-Learning platforms are key

As organisations and Training Providers have been unable to offer learnerships on their premises, or run workshops at training centres, access to good quality E-Learning platforms is the first step in providing educational opportunities.

Leveraging its extensive experience in working with the SETAs, and its in-house capabilities in Business Process Reengineering, as well as Process Automation and Robotics, SoluGrowth has been developing just such an E-Learning platform.

“E-Learning through the likes of Udemy and even YouTube has been an incredible enabler for young people who do not have access to the traditional way of education,” says Elmarie Kleingeld, Senior Manager: Business Development, SoluGrowth. “For employers, this willingness to adopt digital learning platforms presents an opportunity to engage with the next generation of learners in a medium that they find comfortable.”
“Interactivity and providing enough opportunity to engage, is key to successful E-Learning initiatives,” she continues, “so we have incorporated these functionalities to ensure learners and employers gain optimum value. And do not underestimate the more mature workforce’s willingness to use this kind of platform as well – they have also seen the value of these learning platforms.”

The solution is cloud-hosted, ensuring access for learners from anywhere.

**Easing the administrative burden**

The solution provides a holistic ITO solution that makes E-Learning accessible to learners while easing the administrative burden on companies.

“There are many everyday administrative challenges that affect learners and employers alike, such as proving attendance and issuing completion certificates. Our solutions take these things into account by incorporating biometric attendance confirmations and document verification as well as issuing certificates electronically.”

Learner stipends, too, can be extremely cumbersome to manage through a Payroll system. As such, SoluGrowth’s education solution includes a Learner Stipend Payment Solution to help organisations process payment accurately and smoothly.

SoluGrowth understands the pressures of achieving Skills Development goals and targets, as well as the administrative burden of accurate reporting,” Ngobese concludes. “So, we have developed an integrated solution, modularised it so that clients can use what they need without incurring costs on unnecessary services. At the same time, we have made quality education more accessible.”

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~ Sakhiwo Ngobese, CIO at SoluGrowth