Can a tech writer really change the world?
Running to Bamako
Times change...
Change with the times…

- Video learning
- AI systems
- Embedded assistance
- Bots
- Virtual reality
- Augmented reality
"Human skills" vs. Nonessential tasks

“HR leaders should focus on defining the difference between essential human skills, such as creative and ethical thinking, and nonessential tasks, which can be managed by machines.”

The future of work: The augmented workforce 2017 Global Human Capital Trends
Jeff Schwartz, Laurence Collins, Heather Stockton, Darryl Wagner, Brett Walsh
February 28, 2017
“The combination of **persistence** and **curiosity** is a very good predictor of employee success within a knowledge economy.”

Eric Schmidt, former CEO, Google.
“When you **trade information or skills with people whose experiences differ from your own**, you provide one another with unique, exceptionally valuable resources.”

“How to Build Your Network”
Brian Uzzi & Shannon Dunlap
Learn by doing.
Work together.
Make new connections.
Stay curious.
Change the world.
Our first pilot project:

Improving teacher training materials for iNERDE’s STEM summer camp program: Ntomo Innovation Academy.

http://www.inerde.org
2016: Ntomo Innovation Academy

• Approx 25 lesson plans
• Source files in MS Word
• SMEs on three continents

Objectives

• Improve comprehension, readability, layout and structure
• Adapt content to the local context
• Build a mobile-ready repository to share lesson plans with teachers prior to arriving at the summer camp
Key takeaways

We learned how to:

• Install, configure, and administer Moodle
• Manage an agile project using Trello
• Embed streaming video content
• Create web-based step-by-step tutorials
• Create whiteboard animations
• Fire marshmallows across the room…!

We also learned that:

• Working remotely can be tough
• Getting input from SMEs spread on 3 continents can be tough
• Internet access in Mali is bad.
2017: CodeNERDE

• For the summer 2016 iNERDE camp, Michael created “CodeNERDE” from scratch: The first robotics and programming course created specifically for kids in sub-saharan Africa.

• Approx. 50h of material in approx. 37 modules write-in approx. French

• Course covers basic computer systems, robotics, programming, cryptography and more.
Team Mali

Silver medalists in the "Engineering Design" category at First Global international robotics competition (Washington DC, July 2017).
2018: RobotsMali

- In January 2018, Michael was named head of a new “RobotsMali” robotics centre supported by the Malian ministry of education and UNESCO.
- New facility in Bamako built with support from UNESCO and funding from China.
- Due to open in a few weeks time.
- Working with local school administrations to offer robotics and programming education to groups of students from middle-school, high school and university levels.
Building a sustainable business model and ecosystem

- Non-profits
- Vendors
- Training providers
- Industry experts
- Recruiters
- Professional societies
- Academia
- Members/volunteers

- Sponsorship
- Free/discounted licenses
- Free/discounted training

- Project teams
- Core team
- Coursework
- Research projects
- Internships
- Spread the word
- Take on a community project

- Build awareness
- Qualify projects
- Spread the word
- Share best practices
- Job offers?
Get involved!

• Join our LinkedIn group
• Spread the word
• Volunteer for a project
• Propose a project

Visit: twwb.org

Or contact me at:

stuart.culshaw@techwriterswithoutborders.org
“If you let your learning lead to knowledge, you become a fool. If you let your learning lead to action, you become wealthy.”

Jim Rohn.