ESW Internship in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Engineering College Council

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Where is Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)?

- In the Balkans of Southern Europe
- Used to be a part of Yugoslavia before the war in the 1990's
- The capitol of BiH is Sarajevo





Ethnicity

- According to 1996 census, BiH is ethnically 46% Bosniak, 38% Serb, and 15% Croat
- Religiously, the country is mainly Muslim with Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics making up the rest (though this varies depending on what city you are in)



Friends of Bosnia

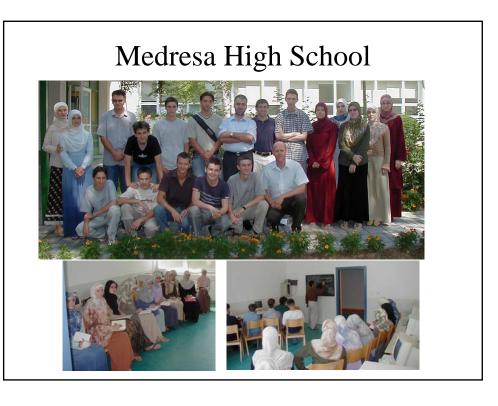
- EWF parnter NGO
- Based in Boston, MA USA and founded in 1995
- Support reconstruction efforts in the former Yugoslavia through innovative projects in local communities
- Director of Projects, Chris Bragdon, works in Bosnia running a World Bank project called "The New Initiative"

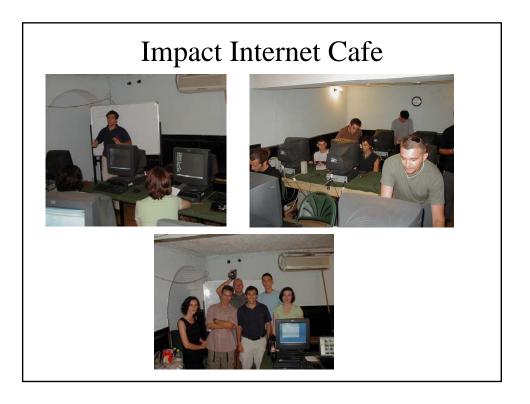
The New Initiative



Classes

- Taught introductory Java programming
 - Assumed only basic knowledge of how to use Windows
- Two separate classes
 - Medresa (conservative Muslim) high school
 - Continuing Education class at Impact Internet center for adults
- A total of approximately 30 students enrolled in the class
 - -20 in the Medresa High School class
 - 10 in the Continuing Education class at Impact





Why learn Java?

- A very marketable skill in their developing economy
- Java is useful for programming web applets and applications for handheld electronic devices
- Programming skills in general have become valuable, and learning the basics of Java will enable students to learn other languages quickly
- Critical thinking skills

Why teach Java?

- Multi-ethnic interaction
- Entrepreneurship
- Traveling IT class
 - "Payment" for the Java class

Information Technology

• It can not only bring people in developing countries in closer contact with the world, but also with each other.