

WHAT'S new

Animoto has announced the release of **Animoto for Education**, a new video-production tool just for teachers. It's designed to allow K–12 teachers unlimited access to Animoto's standard and premium services, including online tools to quickly and easily create exciting, dynamic videos for the classroom. The program is designed to “think” like an actual director and editor. It is designed to analyze and combine images and music with the same post-production techniques used in TV and film. Teachers can upload their images, pick a song, and Animoto produces the video in minutes. For pricing, contact manufacturer.



MORE INFO: Animoto: www.animoto.com

CompassLearning announced the release of **Odyssey High School** to support mainstream, credit-recovery, and intervention students. The program uses Flash-based activities designed to increase student engagement. Each course includes a master teacher's video lessons, followed by activities. Each activity includes an assessment designed to move students with mastery forward, and to re-teach students needing further instruction. Throughout the process, teachers and administrators can generate reports detailing the progress of each student. For pricing, contact manufacturer.

MORE INFO: CompassLearning, 1.800.232.9556
www.compasslearning.com

The goal of **Book Savvy** is to serve as a focal point among publishers, students, universities, digital rights management companies, and software developers to make available rapidly those titles in demand in education, while cutting in half the costs to students. For example, instead of paying \$100 for a college textbook, through Book Savvy a student can purchase the same book in electronic format for approximately \$50 (with a yearly, \$10 membership fee).

MORE INFO: Book Savvy, 1.312.810.9991
www.mybooksavvy.com

Corsair has released the new ultra-compact **Flash Voyager Mini**, a 4GB, rubberized USB flash drive. The Voyager Mini is enclosed in an all-rubber housing to protect valuable data against severe temperature, moisture, and physical abuse, and yet is one-third the size of regular USB drives, with a weight of only 4.5



grams—as light as a piece of gum. It features a capless, retractable connector plug as well as an ergonomic shape that makes it easy to connect and disconnect from any computer. Price is \$29.99.

MORE INFO: Corsair: www.corsair.com

This information is compiled by L&L's editorial team from press releases that come into the ISTE editorial office. The products and resources are not reviewed by the L&L staff and are offered here without recommendation. Send press releases and suggestions for entries to products@iste.org.

Faronics's new **Insight** program allows teachers to monitor behavior, reduce distractions, communicate directly with students, and encourage participation from a remote vantage point. It works by enabling a teacher to control all student computers within a computer-based classroom. Targeted at K–12, the program maintains 16,000 teacher channels, allowing an organization to control the same number of different classrooms concurrently. Insight works with any combination of computers running Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows XP, or Windows Vista, and is optimized for 800x600, 1024x768, and 1280x1024 screen resolutions. The hardware requirements are the same as the recommended requirements for the host operating system. For more information or to download a free evaluation copy, please visit the manufacturer's Web site.



MORE INFO: www.faronics.com

Intel has launched **Inspire**, a new online education community intended to highlight educational experiences that inspire people and encourage engagement in education quality. Enabled by social media tools, Inspire is designed to invite people to four courses of action: to learn more, to share, to speak up, and to volunteer. Intel's education initiative has a 40-year history and a \$100 million annual investment. Intel hopes that Inspire grows organically and becomes a catalyst for action and a voice for change in education.

MORE INFO: www.inspiredbyeducation.com



A new Web camera by Plustek allows users to plug the cable into the computer USB socket and instantly add live video and audio to IM sessions. The Plustek **OptiCam M1** also allows the user to move and control its lens. It covers about a 150-degree, horizontal view and a 110-degree, vertical view. Moreover, a remote user may control the Web camera upon request. Micro-shooting capability is another feature of the camera. After adjusting the focus, it can take pictures of images as close as 15mm. The camera is capable of offering high-quality images, up to 30 frames per second on recommended systems. It is equipped with a USB connection and built-in microphone. For price, contact the manufacturer.

MORE INFO: Plustek: www.plustek.com

HP announced the release of **HP Mobile Calculating Lab Solutions**, designed to help students better connect mathematical formulas to everyday, physical phenomena by easily collecting and analyzing real-world data in real time. The high-performance, plug-and-play MCL solutions are comprised of a four-port data streamer (the HP StreamSmart 400), a connected, HP 39/40gs graphing calculator, and a variety of scientific probes. The systems are ideal for middle and high school math and science classes. The sensors capture physical data, and, when connected with the calculators, students can use them to analyze collected data using familiar HP graphing calculator functions. The HP MCL prices vary by solution. The HP StreamSmart 400 is \$99.

MORE INFO: HP, 1.800.474.6836
www.hp.com/go/mobility2008



LEGO WeDo is a new product that facilitates a hands-on, minds-on learning experience, redefining robotics for elementary school students ages 7 to 11.

It's designed to involve students in the learning process by promoting creative thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, and to create a clear link between the virtual world (computers and programming) and the physical world (represented by LEGO models). To create it, LEGO collaborated closely with MIT Media Lab and Professor Mitch Resnick. It will be available in the United States and Brazil beginning in January 2009. For prices, contact the manufacturer.

MORE INFO: <http://www.LEGOeducation.com>

Qwizdom Inc. has announced the release of the **Q7 Presenter**, a wireless tablet that combines advanced, radio-frequency technology, presenter controls, and response system interactivity designed to help teachers and students connect and collaborate in new ways. It has the basic functions of an interactive whiteboard in a wireless tablet format, with additional student response systems. Teachers can use it to draw, annotate, and control computer applications without being tethered to a workstation. For pricing, contact the manufacturer.



MORE INFO: Qwizdom, Inc., 1.253.845.7738
www.qwizdom.com

Serif, a developer of desktop publishing, design, and graphics software, has announced the release of the **Serif Design Suite**, a site-licensed package of its four leading applications as well as free teacher resources to accompany the programs. Serif's PagePlus X3, WebPlus X2, PhotoPlus X2, and DrawPlus X2 are design tools offered now to educational institutions under three site-licensing options. The Elementary site license is \$2,200; Secondary Level 1 is \$3,400 for up to 50 users; and the Secondary Level 2 license for up to 500 users is \$4,900.

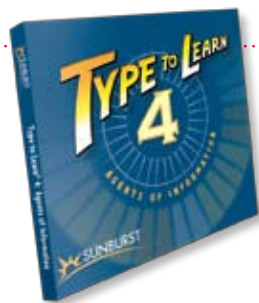
MORE INFO: Serif, 1.401.351.9509
www.serif.com

SMART Technologies announced the release of **Senteo Version 2.0** interactive response system. Extensive improvements have been made to the tracking, reporting, and analysis functions, and teachers will have access to a comprehensive new grade book. It integrates with the Notebook collaborative learning software and enables teachers to add questions to lesson activities. Existing Senteo customers can upgrade to version 2.0 at no charge. For pricing, contact the manufacturer.



MORE INFO: SMART Technologies, 1.403.802.2595
www.smarttech.com

Students in grades K–12 may be able to increase practice time with access via the Internet by using the new **Type to Learn 4** keyboarding software released by Sunburst Technology.



The program individualizes instruction with 3D animation, modern accessibility, and custom features. Students can download the program over the Internet for access at their convenience for homework or to practice. The program provides each student with individualized remediation and goals for success, based on performance and specific errors. Type to Learn 4 is sold in single, lab pack, unlimited license, network, and Web versions. The unlimited site license is \$699.95.

MORE INFO: Type to Learn 4, 1.888.725.2747
www.sunburst.com

The University of Oregon's David Moursund has released another title in his line of free online books. **Becoming More Responsible for Your Education** is an 84-page book, available online, that covers the education, training, and experience to prepare people to properly meet the future. "A very important part of your future depends on learning to make use of the collected knowledge of the human race," said Moursund. "Nowadays, many problems are being solved by the combination of human and artificial intelligence. You need an education that prepares you to effectively use both human and computer capabilities," he added. The book aims to help people learn to take more responsibility for informal and formal educational needs.

MORE INFO: David Moursund
http://iae-pedia.org/Educaton_for_Increasing_Expertise

Coming Next Issue in I&L

Digital Citizenship and NETS•S

Are we using technology appropriately? Do we share a common language that we can use to talk to students and parents about appropriate tech use? Mike Ribble, author of *Digital Citizenship in Schools* (ISTE, 2007) and the soon-to-be-released *Raising a Digital Child* (coming in January 2009 from ISTE), offers us a language and a four-stage cycle of technology integration to help us help students become good digital citizens.

Building Better Curriculum

How systematic and healthy is your curriculum review process? David Carpenter, an instructional technologist, and Margaret Carpenter, a library media specialist, describe a collaborative, learning-community approach they used to develop a new curriculum review process for the Hong Kong International School. The new process integrates the NETS and ALA standards so teachers can apply technology and information skills instruction across the curriculum.

A New Podcast Paradigm

Lectures may be necessary to convey certain types of content, but experiential learning is more effective for constructing and solidifying knowledge. Teachers Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams are using podcasts and vodcasts to deliver lecture material outside of class and using valuable class time to conduct lab activities, provide demonstrations, and offer 1:1 assistance to their chemistry students.