

What's New

The following information is compiled 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.

Compiled by Jennifer Ames, editorial assistant

Hardware



Gateway announced a line of value notebook PCs. The **Gateway M405** value notebook PC offers either an Intel Celeron M processor or an Intel Pentium M processor. It has an optional integrated wireless connection, and its standard battery life is reported to be three hours. The M405x comes with 1.2 GHz, 256 MB memory, and 40 GB hard drive. The line also features a CD-RW/DVD combo drive. Prices start at \$1,199.99. Special pricing may be available for educational institutions.

Gateway
1.800.211.4952
<http://www.gateway.com>

SMART Technologies introduced its new **Symposium ID250** interactive pen display. The display sits on top of a podium, desk, or table and has a pen tethered to it. The pen controls computer application and writes electronic notes that can be saved later. The pen-tool buttons can change ink color and erase. The system includes SMART Board and SMART Ideas software. The retail price is \$2,499. Educational institutions may qualify for a grant, reducing the price to \$1,999.



SMART Technologies
1.866.766.6927
<http://www.smarttech.com>



Hewlett Packard announced the launch of its **39g+** graphing calculator aimed at high school math and science students. The calculator lets students create their own applications and access built-in applets. It also has built-in electronic lessons. The calculator has 200 KB of user memory. Additionally, the calculator can be linked to other 39g+ calculators or a PC. Internet pricing is \$79.99.

Hewlett Packard
1.800.88.TEACH
<http://www.hp.com/calculators>

Lexmark recently introduced a line of color printers including the **C752Ln**. The C752Ln is a workgroup laser printer that includes color management features such as "proof then print" monochrome print lock. Also, it can print up to 20 pages per minute. The printer comes with a 600 MHz processor and is network-ready. The C752Ln is priced at \$1,669 online.



Lexmark
<http://www.lexmark.com>

Software



Merit Software has introduced two new reading software programs: **Reading Comprehension Booster** and **Read and Respond Punch**. Both programs are designed for students in Grades 3–5. Reading Comprehension booster has six levels of difficulty containing 120 reading passages and 1,320 questions. According to the press release, emphasis is placed on word relationships, recognizing proper inferences, main ideas, and logical sequences of sentences. Read and Respond Punch works on comprehension and writing skills. According to the developer, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, organizing, revising, and proofreading skills are part of each level. Home versions are available for \$35. School versions start at \$99.

Merit Software
1.800.753.6488
<http://www.meritsoftware.com>



Vantage Learning introduced a version of its essay-scoring software, called **IntelliMetric Enterprise Edition**. According to the manufacturer, this version is faster than previous versions. The program uses an artificial intelligence system

to score and assess examinee responses to open-ended essay questions. For more information and pricing, see the Web site.

Vantage Learning
1.215.579.8930
<http://www.vantagelearning.com>



SMART Technologies has released **SMART Ideas**, version 4.0. The software is a concept-mapping tool for the Windows operating system. According to the publisher, students can create concept maps and mind maps with symbols, arrows, and clip art. In the new version, students can view the map at different levels, append notes, and export the maps to HTML or Microsoft Word formats. An individual license is \$199 and educational discounts are available. Also, SMART Ideas is free with SMART Boards. Educators who already have a SMART Board may freely download the software.

SMART Technologies
1.866.766.6927
<http://www.smarttech.com>

SnapMail 4 is a messaging and file transfer software that runs native on Macintosh OS 8.6–X. Users can send and respond to pop-up alerts with preconfigured “SnapBacks,” send reminder messages to themselves, and send attachments with mail. The program is a peer-to-peer program that doesn’t require a mail server or an Internet connection. Cost depends on configuration, and educational discounts are available.

Glass Bead Software
1.978.263.9956
<http://www.glassbead.com>

Triscape has introduced **FxFoto**, a new photo package. The developer says it’s designed to be easy to use

for newer computer users. FxFoto imports photos from a digital camera and organizes them into chronological folders. Also, you can annotate, touch up, and arrange the photos into collages and slide shows. The software runs on Windows 98–XP. FxFoto Standard Edition is available as a free download. The Deluxe Edition is available for \$29.99.

Triscape Inc.
1.603.890.9200
<http://www.fxfoto.com>

Resources



The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration’s Web site has a new feature called Ocean Explorer. The Web site enables students to learn about NOAA’s explorations of the ocean. Some of the explorations come with daily, written, video, and photo logs. All of the explorations provide information about the environment studied, the studies conducted, and photos.

NOAA
<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>



Hotmath.com is a Web site providing step-by-step explanations of actual math homework problems from actual math textbooks. The Web site only provides the explanations for odd-numbered questions. According to the site, the company’s pedagogy is based on research showing that students learn best with worked-out solutions. For a demonstration, visit the Web site. Schools can sign up for either enrollment pricing or class pricing. Also, parents and students can subscribe for \$29 per semester.

Hotmath Inc.
<http://www.hotmath.com>



Thank You!

ISTE members are wonderful and generous. The L&L staff would like to especially thank the members who volunteered time from their busy NECC 2003 schedules to meet with us. Look for members like this month’s subject, Rhonda Lee, in the member profile section each issue on p. 62.

We’d also like to express our gratitude to **ISTE 100 member Intel** and its Innovation in Education program for providing Intel digital microscopes as gifts for the participants.



If you’d like to be the subject of a member profile next year, please contact us at letters@iste.org.



FRONTLINE®

PBS and FRONTLINE announced a new expanded educational site to accompany documentaries. The FRONTLINE Teacher Center features an improved search function, full-length documentaries available for viewing online, and teacher guides to use with the documentaries. The documentaries cover topics such as terrorism, global warming, campaign finance reform, and teen sexuality. The teacher guides include background information, “discussion-starter” questions, and classroom activities.

FRONTLINE

<http://www.pbs.org/frontline/teach>



The Job Shadow Coalition has launched a Virtual Job Shadow on its Web site. Students can watch videos with people in specific careers online. Supplementing the videos are links to information about career description, required education, earnings, internships, mentoring, and the future outlook of the field. The Virtual Job Shadow has jobs in a wide variety of industries, from automotive service to sales and marketing.

Job Shadow Coalition

<http://www.jobshadow.org>

Cable in the Classroom has introduced **Threshold: Exploring the Future of Education**. The quarterly magazine partners with a different leading national organization each issue. According to the publisher, it is designed for administrators, technology directors, national education policy makers, and association leaders. The cost for a year-long subscription is \$9.99. An online subscription is also available for \$4.99.

Cable in the Classroom

1.800.216.2225

<http://www.ciconline.org/about/cic/publications/threshold.htm>

Books



In *Distance Education: What Works Well*, editors Michael Corry and Chih-Hsiung Tu provide advice for instituting distance learning programs for students without access to campuses. The book explores the development of a digital high school, as well as the staff development regarding getting the most out of distance education in an online setting. The cost for the book is \$29.95 for a hardcover edition. A softcover edition is \$19.95.

Haworth Press

1.800.HAWORTH

<http://www.haworthpressinc.com>



Media Literacy: Activities for Understanding the Scripted World author Roberta Solomon Endich has created standards-based exercises for students in Grades 4–8. According to the publisher, the activities help children develop critical thinking skills, discriminate between fiction and nonfiction, detect persuasive intent, and understand the economic and political functions of the media. The book costs \$29.95.

Linworth Publishing

1.614.436.7107

<http://www.linworth.com>



One of ISTE's newest books, *We're Getting Wired, We're Going Mobile, What's Next?* is written by Bard Williams, PhD. In it,

Williams discusses advances and approaches inside the classroom. He

also provides forecasts by education professionals, IT managers, and business leaders. The book is targeted toward education instructors and technology planners. The cost for ISTE members is \$28.75. The cost for nonmembers is \$31.95.

ISTE Bookstore

1.800.336.5191

<http://www.iste.org/bookstore>



Tom Snyder Productions introduced *Handhelds for Teachers and Administrators*.

The book covers Palm OS and Pocket PC

and guides teachers and administrators through a handheld's built-in programs. Also, the book includes hardware and software reviews, a glossary of terms, and advice on funding and grants. The book comes with a CD-ROM of more than 70 software programs for handhelds. The cost of the book is \$35.

Tom Snyder Productions

1.800.342.0236

<http://www.tomsnyder.com>



Pocket PC Computers: A Complete Resource for Classroom Teachers

was developed by the University of Michigan's Center for Highly

Interactive Computing in Education. The book, targeted toward teachers, technology coordinators, and curriculum specialists, discusses setting up and managing a mobile classroom, choosing software and accessories, and building lesson plans. The book includes a CD-ROM of freeware. Pricing is \$35.95 for ISTE members and \$39.95 for nonmembers.

ISTE Bookstore

1.800.336.5191

<http://www.iste.org/bookstore>

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