

What's New

SOFTWARE

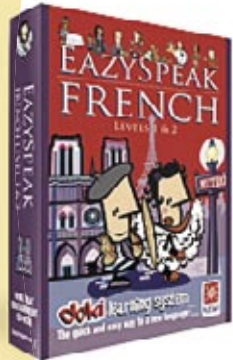


DISTRICT DATA ANALYZER

Excelsior Software released *Pinnacle DDA*, a portable, on-demand assessment tool that allows teachers to remotely access their Pinnacle Plus electronic gradebooks. Versions are available for Palm or Pocket PC operating systems.

As an application for the Pinnacle system, Excelsior released District Data Analyzer, an alternative to traditional data warehousing that allows schools and districts to connect to multiple data sources in different locations. The software provides customized data reporting options and can run online or offline. The price for DDA starts at \$15,000 per district, with volume discount incentives for larger districts. For more information, visit the company's Web site.

Excelsior Software Inc.
1.800.473.4572
<http://www.excelsiorsoftware.com>



Kutoka Interactive has announced the North American launch of two fully animated language learning courses. *EazySpeak Spanish* and *EazySpeak French* are the two products offered initially. Both versions are intended to be immersive (i.e., learning is accomplished in a game-like setting). Cartoon characters lead users through common conversational scenarios. Designed for students age 12 and beyond, the applications are available on Mac/Win hybrid CDs as well as on the company's Web site. Price: \$24.95.

Kutoka Interactive
1.877.8KUTOKA
<http://www.kutoka.com>



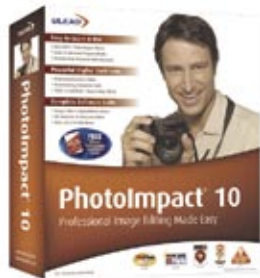
Inspiration Software announced a limited-time combination upgrade offer for *Inspiration 7.5* and *Kidspiration 2*, the company's adult and child-oriented graphic organizing software. According to the company, educators who purchase a combination upgrade license before December 31, 2004, will save 25% or more over the standard upgrade fees.

Inspiration Software Inc.
1.800.877.4292
<http://www.inspiration.com/specialoffer>



SMART Technologies released *SynchronEyes 5.1* computer lab instruction software for Windows. According to the company, the software allows networked student workstations to be monitored and controlled from a single teacher's computer by displaying thumbnail views of each student's screen on the central desktop. Version 5.1's Quiz Wizard includes the option of randomizing questions for individual students and exporting quiz results to an Excel spreadsheet. The suggested list price for SynchronEyes 5.1 is \$1,199 per lab license. A free 30-day trial version is available from the company's Web site.

SMART Technologies Inc.
1.888.42SMART
<http://www.SynchronEyes.com>



Ulead released *PhotoImpact 10*, the latest version of the company's photo manipulation software. The new version includes several new features, including an extract object tool, artistic filters, and high-dynamic-range tone and light filtering as well as Photo Explorer 8.5, Ulead's digital image management tool. According to the company, special upgrade pricing is available for owners of previous versions of PhotoImpact.

Ulead Systems Inc.
1.800.85ULEAD
<http://www.ulead.com>

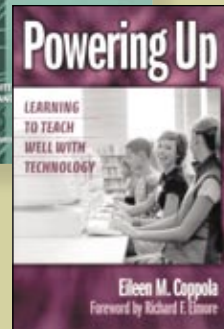
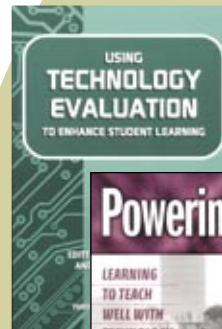
Online Solutions for Educators released *Pupil Pages*, a Web-based student portfolio application.

According to the company, Pupil Pages portfolios require no HTML or Web publishing experience, and can include all types of digital media, including documents, presentations, video, sound, and images. The password-protected program contains journal, blogging, and other features that can be enabled or disabled to suit the student's grade level. Students can customize their portfolios to suit individual programs. Find more information on the Pupil Pages Web site, where visitors can try the product free for a trial period.

Online Solutions for Educators
1.888.203.4704
<http://www.pupilpages.com>



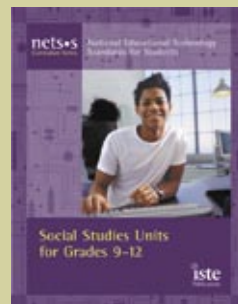
BOOKS



Teachers College Press released *Powering Up: Learning to Teach Well with Technology* by Eileen M. Coppola and *Using Technology Evaluation to Enhance Student Learning* edited by Barbara Means and Geneva D. Haertel. According to the publisher, *Powering Up* analyzes the relationships among teachers' knowledge, their ongoing learning, school organizational culture, and policy to understand how the school developed high-quality use of computers. *Using Technology Evaluation* is a condensed, practitioner-oriented interpretation of research published in Teachers College Press' *Evaluating Educational Technology:*

Effective Research Designs for Improving Learning. *Powering Up* sells for \$24.99. *Using Technology Evaluation* costs \$29.99.

Teachers College Press
1.800.575.6566
<http://www.tcpres.com>



This latest book in the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) Curriculum Series brings together innovative ideas and strategies for infusing technology into social studies curricula. *NETS•S Curriculum Series: Social Studies Units for Grades 9-12* includes 13 thematic units on a variety of social studies topics, including the global economy, current events in the Middle East, and the

U.S. Constitution. Each unit contains lesson plans, Web-based resources, assessment rubrics, and information about how to use key educational technologies effectively. Introductory essays on technology integration, project-based learning, and assessment round out this valuable resource for Grade 9-12 teachers, curriculum developers, and library media specialists. The price is \$34.65 for ISTE members, \$38.50 for nonmembers.

ISTE
1.800.336.5191
<http://www.iste.org/store>

HARDWARE



Unique Logic and Technology Inc. is promoting its

Play Attention Learning System as a tool for combating attention and behavioral problems in children and adults. According to the company, the \$1,795 system includes all hardware, software, and training materials. The system is based on training technology originally developed and used by NASA astronauts and U.S. Air Force pilots to enhance focus and increase concentration skills.

In addition to a sensor-lined helmet that connects directly to a computer, the system includes video game-like software that is controlled by the user's brain activity. The company also provides a support Web site, access to a mentor program, and direct personal support services.

Unique Logic and Technology Inc.
1.800.788.6786
<http://www.playattention.com>



AlphaSmart and Don Johnston Inc. have collaborated to produce a talking word processor based on the Dana computer platform and Write:OutLoud software. The bundle, called *Write:OutLoud To Go*, includes AlphaSmart's VoiceCard text-to-speech converter hardware. Users will be able to buy the product from either company. A single bundle costs \$210. Volume pricing is available for 5, 20, or 50 users.

AlphaSmart Inc.
1.888.274.0680
<http://www.alphasmart.com>
<http://www.donjohnston.com>

The information here is compiled by L&L staff 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.



Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America introduced its SE2U projector with a suggested retail price of \$995. According to the company, the SE2U features 1,500 lumens, a 2000:1 contrast ratio, and a 2500-hour lamp. It can display computer input or video signals from VCRs or DVD players. The projector weighs about six pounds and comes with a carrying case.



Mitsubishi Digital Electronics America
1.888.307.0312
<http://www.mitsubishi-presentations.com>

Premier Assistive Technology has released its *Talking Pointer* for use with its Universal Reader and Universal Reader Plus products. The company says that the pointer aids in ease-of-use by enabling users to point to almost any onscreen text to activate the voice reading routines. Pricing for the Universal Reader and Universal Reader Plus packages, including the Talking

Pointer is \$39.95 and \$79.95, respectively.

Premier Assistive Technology
1.815.722.5961
<http://www.readingmadeeasy.com>

Fellowes, Inc., and Microban Products Company have released a computer accessory line featuring keyboards, mice, and mouse pads with Microban antimicrobial protection. The product line includes:

- Basic 104 Keyboard (\$19.99)
- Cordless Keyboard (\$59.99)
- Cordless Keyboard/Mouse Combo (\$89.99)
- Split Design Keyboard (\$49.99)
- 5-Button Optical Mouse (\$29.99)
- Cordless 5-Button Optical Mouse (\$59.99)
- Mouse Pad (\$4.99)

According to the companies, Microban can be found in more than 700 products of leading consumer, industrial, and medical brands around the world. For more information, visit the Fellowes Web site.

Fellowes Inc.
1.800.945.4545
<http://www.fellowes.com>

RESOURCES



The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) has released a framework for assessing technology integration. *Profiling Educational Technology Integration (PETI): Resources for Assessing Readiness and Use* includes a general guide for your assessment; an NCLB Matrix, which links questions, indicators, and questions to NCLB goals; district, administrator, teacher, and classroom observation tools; methodologies; and protocols. The PETI tools, which SETDA developed in conjunction with the Metiri Group with support from the U.S. Department of Education, are available free of charge to all stakeholders in educational technology, as long as SETDA is acknowledged as the copyright holder. According to SETDA, the tools were developed to assist states in making sound, data-driven decisions about educational technology.

SETDA

<http://setda-peti.org/>



Discreet, a division of Autodesk Inc., announced the *Discreet Design Academy (DDA)*, a secondary-level program that, according to the manufacturer, will bring visual learning experiences into math, science, and language arts. DDA includes a multidisciplinary curriculum that incorporates the digital animation software 3ds max, which is used in film, gaming, and design. The curriculum includes syllabi, lesson plans, handouts, rubrics, and online tutorials. Discreet says they worked with educators and technical experts to map the curriculum to academic standards. DDA is available in multiple configurations: an annual license for 10 student users and one teacher, a perpetual license for 11 users, and single-license add-ons.

Discreet Design Academy

<http://www.discreet.com/dda/>



Academy 123 Inc. offers on-demand homework help for beginning algebra students. The homework help is tied to six common algebra textbooks. According to the company, algebra teachers lead students through a problem and its solution using an online whiteboard and audio descriptions. The company plans to add mini-lectures on other math and science topics in the future. Parents can purchase subscriptions for their children for \$39.95 each. Teachers with five or more students accessing the service receive a free unlimited account. Various school and district subscription plans are available.

Academy 123 Inc.

<http://www.academy123.com>



The U.S. government has added 11 new math and social studies resources to its *Federal Resources for Education Excellence (FREE)* Web site. Among the additions are “Balanced Assessment,” which includes assessment activities for K–12 math on such topics as batting orders, bicycle rides, oil consumption, and genetic codes; “United We Stand,” a collection of primary source documents to help students understand the rise of labor unions; and “Federal Court Concepts,” which introduces students to the U.S. court system.

Federal Resources for
Education Excellence

<http://www.ed.gov/freel>

Teachers' Domain released three online Professional Development courses for K–8 science teachers: Teaching Elementary Life Science, Teaching Elementary Physical Science, and Teaching Middle School Life Science. According to the company, the three courses integrate inquiry learning with streaming video and multimedia from award-winning public television science programs and Web sites, including NOVA, ZOOM, and A Science Odyssey. Additional courses, including those for high school teachers, are expected to launch in 2005. All course content corresponds to the National Science Education Standards and the MCREL Compendium of K–12 Standards. More information is available on the Teachers' Domain Web site.



Teachers' Domain

<http://www.teachersdomain.org/courses>