

# What's New

## Hardware

Anthro Corporation introduced a new cart called the *Trolley Lite*.

It has a metal frame that can reportedly hold as much as 100 pounds. It has two shelves, a push handle, a cable trough, and locking casters. The top shelf is adjustable. The company claims the small size makes the device highly maneuverable. It is 28.5" deep and 36" tall. Many optional accessories can be added on, such as a strap and buckle set, an additional top shelf, or LCD mount. The cost is \$469.



*Anthro Corporation*  
1.800.325.3841  
<http://www.anthro.com>

Promethean introduced the *ACTIVslate XR* to go with its ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom

system. The ACTIVboard system is an interactive whiteboard with a variety of functions, including presentations, assessment, and student involvement. The ACTIVslate is an updated wireless tablet that remotely controls the board via radio signals rather than the infrared technology previously used. According to the company, with radio technology, the slate can receive and send information from anywhere in the classroom. A maximum of 36 slates can be used with the board at



one time, and the teacher can control which one is active. The board comes with a pen including mouse functionality. For pricing, contact the company.

*Promethean*  
1.888.652.2848  
<http://www.activboard.com>

Toshiba unveiled its new mobile projector, *TLP-S70U*. It has 2,000 lumens and a native SVGA resolution. According to the company, it is bright enough to display colors and images in any ambient light setting. It can project images 20 feet high and 25 feet diagonal. It weighs 4.9 lbs, and its features include automatic digital keystone correction, 10X digital zoom, and a remote control. The projector is priced at \$1,399.



*Toshiba*  
1.800.316.0920  
<http://www.toshiba.com>

## Software

FileMaker announced the introduction of *FileMaker Pro 7*. The company says that the new version for Windows and Mac OS X allows users to import, store, and export any type of file or document including Microsoft Office documents, digital images, video, music, and PDFs. Also, the new version has been redesigned using rela-



tional architecture, which, according to the developer, simplifies information management. An educational discount on single boxes is available for \$149. Also, volume licensing is available. Contact FileMaker for more information.

*FileMaker, Inc.*  
1.800.725.2747  
<http://www.filemaker.com>

Tom Snyder Productions introduced *Thinking Reader* for grades 6–8. Developed in partnership with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), the program is geared toward struggling and special needs students. The program uses common middle school novels such as *Tuck Everlasting*; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; and *The Giver*. In addition to the student books, the program includes teacher support materials such as lesson plans, assessment rubrics, and title-specific discussion guide. A 10-student license is \$500 per title. Site, district, and multiple site licensing is available. Call for information.



*Tom Snyder Productions*  
1.800.342.0236  
<http://www.tomsnyder.com>

*BellCommander*, from AcroVista, is a Windows application that can replace traditional school bell systems. The interface includes an audio scheduler that supports traditional and block scheduling, assembly schedules, and holidays. The system supports in-

cluded tones and chimes plus any WAV or MP3 file. The system works on an existing TCP/IP network infrastructure and can be programmed to use different zones like a traditional intercom system. The system is available in three different versions ranging from \$49.95 to \$299.95.



*AcroVista*  
1.800.REGSOFT  
<http://www.acrovista.com/bellcommander>

Shoptalk Systems introduced *Liberty BASIC v4.0*. According to the developer, the Windows program helps students create applications, utilities, games, and educational software. The text editor has pull down menus and color-coded syntax highlighting. Also, there is a “run” button so you can execute your program immediately. The program includes an integrated debugger and expression evaluator. The program is priced at \$29.95. School licenses are available.

*Shoptalk Systems*  
1.508.740.5939  
<http://www.libertybasic.com>

Apple has released *PowerSchool*, a new version of its student information system software. PowerSchool, by Apple, is a Web-based, single server system for K–12 schools and school districts running either Windows or Macintosh. Ac-



ording to the company, new features of version 3.7 include an automated schedule scenario setup, capability to schedule far in advance, and improved data-capture of scheduling results. Contact Apple for pricing.

*Apple*  
1.877.873.1550  
<http://www.powerschool.com>

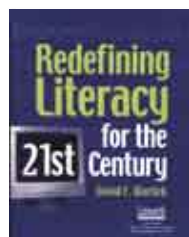
## Books

*Connectivity, the Answer to Ending Ignorance and Separation: Can You Hear Me Yet?* is a new book from Judy Breck exploring the connection between network science and human learning. In her book, Breck says that natural knowledge context formation arises spontaneously within the Internet and that networks may replace schools altogether. Connectivity, she argues provides a common virtual ground that can help diminish terrorism, transform business enterprises, and become a new artistic medium. The book is \$29.95.



*Scarecrow Education*  
1.800.462.6420  
<http://www.scarecroweducation.com>

*Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century*, by David F. Warlick, focuses on a new definition of literacy that incorporates technology and emphasizes success in modern education by “making it simple.” The book



is designed as a resource for educators with suggestions on where to find help, ideas, and resources. Also, most of the chapters end with “Action Items,” which are specific steps educators can take right away. A Web site is also accessible to readers with charts, handouts, and resources. The book is \$44.95.

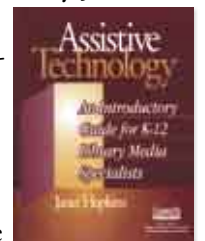
*Linworth Publishing, Inc.*  
1.614.436.9490  
<http://www.linworth.com>

*Ethics & Technology: Ethical Issues in an Age of Information and Communication Technology* discusses issues and controversies in the field of cyberethics. Author Herman T. Tavani analyzes practical, moral, and legal implications associated with each issue. The book uses actual case studies and hypothetical scenarios to illustrate ethical controversies. Also, there are review/study and discussion/essay questions at the end of each chapter. The cost is \$53.95.



*Wiley*  
1.877.762.2974  
<http://www.wiley.com>

*Assistive Technology: An Introductory Guide for K–12 Library Media Specialists* is a new book by Janet Hopkins that helps library media specialists make the library accessible to all learners. The book explains the importance of an accessible

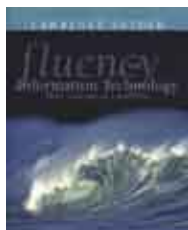


learning environment as well as a range of options to achieve it. There is information about funding, initiatives, assistive technology features, and legal considerations. The cost of the book is \$39.95.

*Linworth Publishing, Inc.*  
1.614.436.9490  
<http://www.linworth.com>

***Fluency with Information Technology: Skills, Concepts, and Capabilities***

is a new textbook by Lawrence Snyder. According to the publisher, the book gives students the experience, knowledge, and capabilities to apply information technology throughout their lives. This book also includes problem solving, reasoning, and complexity management topics. The book is divided into three sections: Skills, Concepts, and Capabilities. The cost is \$63.



*Pearson/Addison Wesley*  
<http://www.aw.com/computing>

**Resources**

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) provides a section of its Web site titled



***Teaching with Documents.***

The Web site includes lesson plans with reproducible copies of primary documents from the National Archives. The lesson plans are

divided into eras including Revolution and the New Nation, The Emer-

gence of Modern America, and Contemporary United States. The lesson plans correlate to National History Standards and National Standards for Civics and Government.

*U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)*  
[http://www.archives.gov/digital\\_classroom/teaching\\_with\\_documents.html](http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/teaching_with_documents.html)

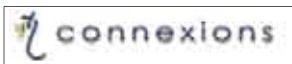
*RiverWithin* is a new online center for online educators. The Web site includes a discussion board, job board, and chat room featuring



guest speakers. The Web site provides information, resources, community, materials, and classes to help online educators with their work. The classes and other professional development opportunities range in price, starting at \$115. Other resources on the site are free.

*RiverWithin*  
<http://www.riverwithin.com>

*Connexions* is a new portal, launched by Rice University. On the Connexions Web site, any instructor, K-12 or university, can create,



share, and modify course materials at no charge. Instructors can use free Web-based tools to post and modify knowledge. Instructors can use the Course Composer interface to search for modules, group them into chapters, and add annotations. There are more than 1,600 modules available online, ranging from topics in music, electrical engineering, and psychology.

*Connexions Project*  
<http://cnx.rice.edu>

*CongressLink* is a resource from The Dirksen Congressional Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and educational organization. The Web site provides information about the U.S. Congress, its members, leaders, and policies. Also, it has a special section for classroom resources that includes lesson plans, historical materials, classroom aids, WebQuests, and links to Web sites. The site was designed as a service for teachers of American government, history, and civics.



*CongressLink*  
<http://www.congresslink.org>

*The Global Gateway* is a new resource for educational professionals and others to create partnerships across the globe. In addition to a section for teachers,



there are also special sections for young people, parents, school leaders, governors, and local authorities. In the Teacher Zone, teachers can research ways to get involved, find out why internationalism is a good thing, and find a partner school.

*The Global Gateway*  
<http://www.globalgateway.org.uk>

*Compiled by Jennifer Ames, editorial assistant*

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