

WHAT'S **new**

Canvastic! desktop publishing software presents a compromise to K–8 students who are confused by professional software but distracted by the juvenile interface of kid's software. Free from toys and animated help options, Canvastic! combines the functionality of more advanced software with a clean interface that teachers can customize to the level of the students.



Tools can be added or removed depending on how advanced the skill set needs to be. Features include unlimited undo, preview palette, browser palette, painting and background layers, Quick-Time movie slide shows, and export to common formats.

The software runs on both Windows and Mac. Pricing starts at \$69 for a single education license with volume discounts available.

MORE INFO: Canvastic!, 1.303.359.9836, <http://www.canvastic.com>

The **Roamer**, from Valiant Technology, is a small programmable robot for use in the classroom. Students learn how to program the robot, work as a team, and develop problem-solving skills. According to the company, Roamer's on-board programming keypad allows for independence from a computer, extending the robot's use in teaching



other curriculum topics, such as geography and language arts. The programming is flexible enough to allow students to write a small section of the program, test it, and then incorporate it into the final program. Additional accessories can be purchased separately, as can software for computer-based program-

ming that records and compares activities. Roamer costs \$279.95, which includes an activity book, user guide, face shapes, and a programming sheet.

MORE INFO: Valiant USA, 1.888.366.6628, <http://www.valiant-technology.com/us/>

National Transcript Center (NTC) is a centralized server for interstate and intrastate exchange of official student



records and transcripts for K–12 students. The NTC helps registrars in both secondary and postsecondary institutions exchange sensitive student records in a secure, cost effective, and efficient environment. The NTC can track a transcript

request from one point to another, providing notice of its secure arrival.

MORE INFO: EAP Solutions Group, 1.888.828.6480, <http://www.transcriptcenter.org>

Using Technology in Teaching

provides teachers with guidance for technology in real-world situations. Authors William C. Clyde and Andres W. Delohery compiled anecdotes that are organized around specific instructional goals and commonly encountered tasks to demonstrate when and how technology can help teachers meet everyday challenges. The \$25 book and accompanying CD-ROM address communication, materials distribution, col-



laborative learning, developing student skills, assessments, and feedback.

MORE INFO: Yale University Press, <http://www.yalebooks.com>

Bridge Multimedia and the National Center for Technology Innovation have launched www.ed-technonline.com, a no-cost online directory of government grants for increasing technology capacity in public schools. The directory offers updated information on U.S. Department of Education grants, including grant program summaries, strategic objectives, appropriations, contact names, telephone numbers, and direct links to the government agencies offering specific grants.

MORE INFO: Bridge Multimedia and National Center for Technology Innovation, <http://www.ed-technonline.com>

Harmony Island: A Tropical Adventure in Conflict Resolution introduces conflict resolution and social problem-solving skills to middle and high schoolers. Throughout the virtual island, students play increasingly difficult arcade



games and quiz shows, make drawings on a cave wall, analyze social problems, build museum exhibits, and solve conflicts. The Harmony Island package comes with a Windows and Macintosh compatible CD-ROM that includes activities and media, a DVD for classroom use, an extensive Teachers' Guide, and an accompanying Web site for

interclass collaboration. Single licenses are available starting at \$89.95, and multi-user licensing is available for schools.

MORE INFO: The Academic Edge Inc., 1.859.221.3217, <http://www.academicedge.com>

The Personnel System module of the **ADM2000 Financial and Student Information System** from ACE Software automatically projects staff salaries for future school years. The system makes projections for each category of staff—teachers, administrators, and support staff—by using current or proposed contracts and salary notices. The district



can calculate future increases by percentage or salary grid. The software contains more than 100 categories of information about individual employees, such as position, certifications, civil service, contract information, and employment history in the district, along with 80 open fields for customization. The system includes 25 standard reports as

well as options for designing custom reports, graphs, and charts, and can be used as a stand-alone module or as part of the ADM2000's Payroll and Accounting System.

MORE INFO: ACE Software LLC, 1.800.837.2692, <http://www.acesoft.com>

This information is compiled by Rachel Bannister, editorial assistant, 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.

The **My Little Genius** keyboard and optical mouse are scaled down in size to better fit children's hands. The keyboard features a full complement of keys, including a numeric keypad, and according to the company, is a full-featured tool, not a child's toy. The optical mouse is designed to work on a smooth surface or to cruise across a cookie-crumb covered surface, repelling obstacles that would impede a roller mouse. Both



items can be connected as the active second keyboard and mouse for the family computer without disconnecting existing equipment. The package for both items costs \$39.95 plus shipping and handling.

MORE INFO: MyLittleGenius.Net, <http://www.mylittlegenius.net/>

Access more than 30,000 classroom tools and resources for K–12 teachers at **MyTeacherAssistant.com**, an online portal for everyday lesson planning and communication tasks. The site is password protected with 24-hour access, and the interface is designed to require no training. The collection includes a quiz library with custom quiz creation tools, ready-to-use lesson plans, presentation tools, dictionaries and encyclopedias, a puzzle library with custom puzzle creation tools, Web hunts, a Web site creator, Internet activities, and online parent resources. Educators can currently sign up for a 60-day free trial subscription. An annual subscription costs \$99 for an individual teacher.

MORE INFO: Sunburst Technology, 1.800.624.2926, <http://www.myteacherassistant.com>

Survive the Internet Age is a guide to staying safe while cybersurfing. In each chapter, author Barrie K. Balemian helps readers progressively build a foundation of understanding for the problems and concerns with online communications, from files to firewalls and virus scanners. He describes the work and damage of hackers, "script kiddies," pop ups, spyware, and phishing, guiding the reader to recognize the tricks and threats they pose. Balemian establishes 26 rules all users should follow to prevent intrusion into their computers, or worse. The book costs \$24.



MORE INFO: AuthorHouse, 1.888.519.5121, <http://www.authorhouse.com>