

# WHAT'S new

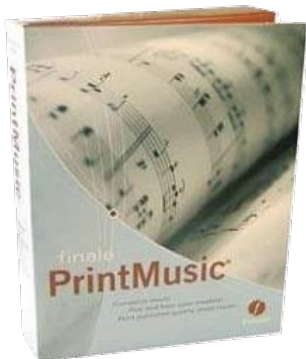
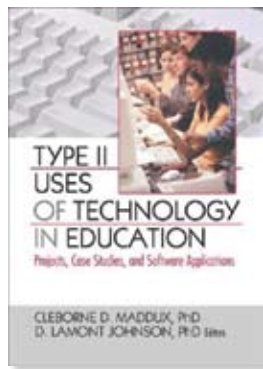


BenQ America Corporation has introduced an ultra portable SVGA projector, the **MP510**. Weighing less than 6 lbs. and with a footprint of 10.9" x 8.2", the MP510 is designed to be easily carried between classrooms. A DLP unit with 1,500 ANSI lumens, quiet mode, and wall color correction features, the device can connect to standard video, VGA, S-video and will work with formats as high as 1080i. Check the Web site for current pricing.

**MORE INFO:** BenQ, <http://www.benq.us>

The Haworth Press has published **Type II Uses of Technology in Education** edited by Cleborne D. Maddux and D. Lamont Johnson. The 207-page book covers projects, case studies, and software applications for harnessing technology to teach in ways not possible without technology. The title is available directly from the publisher for \$17.95 in soft cover and \$34.95 hardbound.

**MORE INFO:** The Haworth Press Inc., <http://www.haworthpress.com>, 1.800.429.6784



MakeMusic Inc. is now shipping **Finale PrintMusic 2007** for both Windows and Macintosh (PowerPC and Intel CPU) systems. The music notation software enables users to enter musical notes through the mouse, keyboard, MIDI device, or through brass and woodwind instruments played into a connected microphone. The application also can scan musical notation and can import and export MIDI and MusicXML files. Orchestrations can be created for as many as 24 staves, which can transpose into any key and for any instrument. The program includes percussion notation, automatic

guitar chords, guitar tablature, and unlimited lyric verses. In addition, the program offers automatic harmonizing, which can turn a melody into two- or three-part harmony, an integrated software synthesizer, and the ability to share MP3 files created in the program on CD-ROM or the Internet. Finale PrintMusic 2007 is available for \$99.95.

**MORE INFO:** MakeMusic, <http://www.makemusic.com>, 1.800.843.2066

WikiSpaces is offering 100,000 of its **Plus wikispaces** to K-12 educators at no charge. At press time, the company has had slightly more than 17,000 sign-ups



for the \$50 annual service. The wikispaces include printable pages, IE 7 support, concurrent editing detection, invitation management, and embedded media and HTML.

**MORE INFO:** Wikispaces, <http://www.wikispaces.com/t/x/teachers100k>

NEC Corporation of America has released five digital projectors under \$1,000 in its VT series. According to NEC, the **VT49**, **VT490**, **VT590**, **VT595**, and **VT695** all share the company's quick-on technology, plug and play autosensing connections, and long-life bulbs. The SVGA resolution projectors, the VT49 and the VT490, sell for \$699 and \$739, respectively. The higher resolution XGA VT590 is priced at \$859. Both the VT595 and VT695 are XGA-level projectors that incorporate 5-watt speakers as well as variable output audio for external speakers that can be controlled from a remote. These projectors also include dual computer inputs, including one DVI-I and automatic keystone correction. The VT595 and VT695 sell for \$899 and \$999 respectively.



**MORE INFO:** NEC Corporation of America, <http://www.necvisualsystems.com>, 1.800.NEC.INFO



Academic Distributing Inc. (ADI) now offers **eJamming Studio 1.5 subscriptions** to schools. eJamming Studio is an online music collaboration service that, according to the manufacturer, enables musicians to find, network, and play music together online in real time. The subscription service, regularly priced at \$180 annually, is available to academic users for \$120. The eJamming Studio enables users to connect MIDI-enabled instruments such as guitars, keyboards, and drum kits to their computer, then connect to as many as seven other musicians. The system also allows real-time chat and webcam support during sessions. A free trial for either XP or Mac OSX users is available.

**MORE INFO:** eJamming, <http://www.eJamming.com>



Adobe Systems Incorporated has released **Acrobat 8 Professional**, available for both Windows XP and Mac OSX (either PowerPC or Intel CPU). The Standard version runs under Windows. All versions are available in English, French, German, or Japanese. Acrobat 8 Professional retails for \$449. Upgrades

from previous Professional versions cost \$159. The Standard version sells for \$299 with upgrade pricing at \$99. A related service from Adobe, Acrobat Connect, an online hosted collaboration network, is currently available as a free trial. The commercial release is scheduled for January 2007, with pricing beginning at \$39/month.

**MORE INFO:** Adobe Systems Incorporated, <http://www.adobe.com>, 1.800.833.6687

Sunburst Technology has released **Write Brain**, a Web-based writing curriculum for students in grades 2–8. According to the company, Write Brain's text production is research-based and includes word processing, writing strategies, self-evaluations, peer and teacher assessments, and collaborative writing. The service includes more than 150 educational writing prompts covering 11 writing genres that the company says directly align to standards in all 50 U.S. states. The Web-based software is compatible with both Windows and Macintosh systems with Internet connections and a popular browser. Subscriptions are sold annually on a building-level basis with prices starting at \$2,000 for a school with as many as 500 users. Teachers do not count toward the user counts.

**MORE INFO:** Sunburst Technologies, <http://sunburst.com/writebrain>, 1.800.321.7511



## Center for American Progress



### Teacher and Principal Compensation: An International Review

is a new, free PDF report from the Center for American Progress. The 106-page report, authored by Susan Sclafani of the Chartwell Education Group and Marc Tucker of the National Center on Education and the Economy, discusses the problems industrialized nations are facing when retaining and recruiting educators. The report can be downloaded from [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2006/10/teacher\\_compensation.html/pdf/education\\_report.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2006/10/teacher_compensation.html/pdf/education_report.pdf)

**MORE INFO:** Center for American Progress, <http://www.americanprogress.org>

Famundo LLC has made its free calendar management service, **Famundo for Organizations**, available for schools. A Web-based service hosted on Famundo's site, it is designed to enable calendar scheduling and event communications. Schedules can be created for an entire school or a single classroom with access for students, families, faculty, and staff.

**MORE INFO:** Famundo LLC, <http://www.famundo.com>



TechSmith Corporation has released **Camtasia Studio 4**, a screen capture and recording product. The software enables users to record activity on a Windows-based system, add narration or video, and output the file in a variety of playback formats including streaming video, iPod, or CD-ROM.

**MORE INFO:** TechSmith Corp., <http://www.techsmith.com>



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