

WHAT'S **new**

CDW-G has released the **School Safety Index Self-Assessment Tool**, a free tool that allows parents, teachers, and students to compare the safety and emergency response systems of their school or district to the national average. The tool works in conjunction with the **CDW-G School Safety Index**, a national research project to benchmark the current status of public school districts' safety and emergency response systems. Based on 14 elements of cyber and physical security, the tool focuses on indicators of strong safety programs, as well as barriers and breaches, and highlights security areas that need improvement. School leaders may access the tool at <http://www.schoolsafetyindex.com>. The full safety index study is available for download at <http://www.cdwg.com/schoolsafetyindex>.

MORE INFO: CDW-G, <http://www.schoolsafetyindex.com> or <http://www.cdwg.com/schoolsafetyindex>.



Portage Interactive has launched **TeamTrek.com**, a site offering a free learning game for kids in grades 4–7, teacher toolkits, and classroom integration guides. The site is designed to educate and motivate children using familiar outdoor themes. The site offers TeamTrek: Glacier Bay for all self-registering individuals. In TeamTrek: Glacier Bay, gamers are dropped off near Glacier Bay, Alaska, with three TeamTrek characters, two kayaks, supplies, and a map with GPS. They must lead the team back to the cabin before someone calls for a rescue, while keeping the team's hunger, mood, fatigue, and health in mind as they make decisions. Teachers may access the Team Leader Toolkit to organize groups of kids, customize their game content, track players' performance over time, and report on math and reading scores against state standards. Teachers may create a free account that manages five logins for one full year.

MORE INFO: Portage Interactive, <http://www.teamtreks.com>

STORServer, Inc. has released **STORServer Appliance for VMware Consolidated Backup**, a backup appliance to protect vulnerable VMware environments. It houses

hardware and software needed for VMware administrators in one box, providing centralized backup, disaster recovery, and archiving capabilities. According to the company, the appliance allows companies to retrieve backup and archived information within minutes. Backup copies of data are stored on tape within the appliance, and archived data can be stored on local shelves, near-line storage, or also in the appliance. Disaster recovery capabilities in a backup appliance keep an off-site copy of both the backups and archives, allowing the backups and archives to remain on site.

MORE INFO: STORServer, Inc. <http://www.storserver.com>



HearMe, a provider of Web-based, desktop video conferencing and online collaboration solutions, has announced the release of **HearMe Version 2.5**. According to the company, the new version makes

conducting video conferences on your PC more intuitive by simplifying the user interface while enhancing the overall performance speed of the platform. Improvements to the latest version include file sharing capabilities, a presentation mode allowing interaction with embedded Office documents such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, an increased update rate, resizable video windows, and a display of room usage statistics. A five-person meeting room sells for \$29 per month, but first-time users can register for a free 14-day trial on the company's site. Other prices can be found at <http://www.hearme.com/pricing>.

MORE INFO: HearMe, 1.888.564.9992
<http://www.hearme.com>



This information is compiled by L&L's editorial intern, Lindsey Durrell, 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 Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE), an educational non-profit organization, has launched **HippoCampus**, a free interactive homework help Web site that provides comprehensive high school, Advanced Placement, and college general education course content. The site is suitable for advanced learners, credit recovery, home schooling, and general student use. Users can access multimedia courses in algebra, physics, biology, calculus, U.S. history, civics, environmental science, and other general education subjects. The site gives instructors tools for customization, similar to MyYahoo or iGoogle. They can point their students to a HippoCampus link that features only the course materials selected by the instructor, and can post messages and bookmark pages of particular interest to their students.

MORE INFO: <http://www.hippocampus.org>



Admish has launched its free online community for everything college admissions, **Admish.com**. Backed by partnerships with Princeton Review

and Educational Testing Service, the site provides direct access to tools, advice, and information about college admissions, including The Admishionary, an A–Z guide that walks applicants through every step of the process; resources and forms for financial aid and scholarships; online chats with admissions officers; and school blogs. The company describes the site as “social networking with a purpose,” connecting everyone involved in the college admissions process—students, parents, guidance counselors, and college admission officers. According to the company, this allows for interaction that actually puts a face on the process, and undoubtedly, puts jubilant smiles on students with piles of acceptance letters. The site offers two-way searching, enabling college admissions officers to find the types of students they seek as easily as the students can look for schools. It also provides free access to all 3,500 accredited U.S. universities, plus graduate and international schools, as well as privacy and authentication for all online activity.

MORE INFO: <http://www.admish.com>

Design Science has released **MathType 6** for Windows, an upgraded version compatible with Microsoft Office 2007 and Windows Vista. It takes advantage of Office 2007’s Ribbon user interface by adding a new MathType tab in Word and PowerPoint to do equation operations in documents and presentations, and introduces new equation numbering and browse features that work with all Word 2007 equation types. The new version includes TeX input, enabling the user to copy equations from existing TeX documents, and scientists who already know the TeX typesetting language can now type expressions directly into MathType. Users also have the ability to do research on Wikipedia and copy relevant equations for use in their own work. MathType equations can also be copied into Wikipedia’s page editor to create new pages, or edit existing ones. The software is \$57 for academic users and \$97 for non-academic users. Those with a previous version may upgrade to MathType 6 for a \$37 academic price or a \$47 non-academic price.



MORE INFO: Design Science, <http://www.dessci.com>

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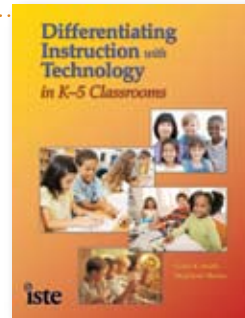


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ISTE has published the new book **Web 2.0: New Tools, New Schools**, a source that reveals how Web 2.0 can transform teaching and learning. Once upon a time, sites were all content and no functionality. Today, the next generation of sites gives power to visitors. The ability to upload, categorize, share, update, publish, or broadcast Web content is no longer limited to those with a knack for technology. Anyone can transform a stodgy site into an interactive, customizable hub. Authors Lynne Schrum and Gwen Solomon provide a comprehensive overview of the emerging Web 2.0 technologies and their use in the classroom and in professional development. Topics include blogging as a natural tool for writing instruction, wikis and their role in project collaboration, podcasting as a useful means of presenting information and ideas, and how to use Web 2.0 tools for professional development. The book is available online for \$24.45 for ISTE members and \$34.95 for nonmembers.

MORE INFO: ISTE, 1.800.336.5191
<http://www.iste.org/bookstore/newtoo>



ISTE has published **Differentiating Instruction with Technology in K-5 Classrooms**, a new book that helps educators understand how to use technology as a tool to differentiate instruction. Differentiated instruction plus technology equals a better learning environment for diverse students. This title explains how to use technology to differentiate by student interest, readiness, ability, learning profile, content, process, and product. A chapter dedicated to applying technology to specific subjects—art, music, physical education, and foreign language—rounds out the instruction-specific content. The final two chapters focus on using technology to assess student learning and manage the differentiated classroom. The book includes ready-to-use lessons mapped to curriculum content standards, activities, and templates for teachers to kick-start their use of technology in differentiated instruction. It may be purchased online for \$26.55 for ISTE members or \$37.95 for nonmembers.

MORE INFO: ISTE, 1.800.336.5191
<http://www.iste.org/bookstore/diffk5>

ClassLink, Inc. has unveiled a free version of **ClassSync**, a software tool that synchronizes a school's Active Directory (AD) user list to its Student Information System (SIS). The software compares, matches, and updates the AD and SIS databases, eliminating the need to maintain two separate lists. According to the company, ClassSync is unlike dastardly mass import tools, because it does not just create new accounts every year; it synchronizes the full Active Directory schema to the Student Information System data. The software can also identify bad log-in accounts, correct missing information in the Active Directory, and fix the Organizational Unit paths. There are no limitations on how many times the software can be used. It is compatible with Windows 2000 Active Directory and above and can be downloaded from the company's Web site.

MORE INFO: ClassLink, <http://www.classlink.com>



Coming Next Issue in **I&L**

The Landscape of Learning

California's Saugus Union School District sought a way to make all the latest social networking technologies available to their teachers and students in a cohesive platform. Jim Klein, SUSD director of information systems and technology, explains how the district went about providing the tools and resources their educators and students needed to better communicate, collaborate, learn, share, and grow, not only among themselves, but with the community at large.

One Size Doesn't Fit All

Despite teachers' positive opinions about the importance and efficacy of educational technology use, most have not had sufficient time or opportunity to engage in the professional learning necessary to use ed tech effectively. In the first of a four-part series, researcher Judi Harris describes a system for designing effective differentiated educational technology professional development.

Speaking Math

Electronic communication is a powerful tool teachers can leverage to improve learning. Educators Janet Graham and Ted Hodgson explain how they used chat and discussion forums to improve their mathematics classes, and how others can adapt their strategies across the curriculum.

Celebrating **35** Volumes