

eSCHOOL NEWS

Technology News for Today's K-20 Educator



eSCHOOL MEDIA
June 2009

www.eschoolnews.com

Volume 12, No. 6 \$10.00

Product Spotlight

New version of Camtasia Relay makes recording lectures easier

TechSmith Corp. has unveiled a new version of its lecture-capturing software, Camtasia Relay. The latest version makes large deployments simpler while giving presenters more control over their recordings, TechSmith says.

Camtasia Relay is designed so instructors can easily record live lectures, learning objects, or presentations and publish them automatically, so the videos are available in multiple formats. Users can edit their captured lectures and presentations with Camtasia Studio software.



The latest release of Camtasia Relay, version 1.1, allows IT staff to add profiles to new accounts automatically, simplifying the process of getting new users up and running. With new LDAP integration, IT staff can set up and assign recording profiles for their organizations quickly and easily, based on the needs of the presenters and their audience, TechSmith says. In addition, presenters now can save and output their recordings in the resolution that best fits their needs automatically, and with support for the Real Media format.

Camtasia Relay Recorder runs on Windows XP, Vista, or Mac OS X. Camtasia Relay Server runs on Windows Server 2003 and 2008. The suggested academic price is \$4,995 for a single-server license. Camtasia Relay 1.1 is a free update for existing customers.

<http://www.techsmith.com>

Hotmath announces online remediation through Catchup Math

Hotmath, a provider of online math tutoring services, has introduced a product to help at-risk middle and high school students improve their math performance. Called Catchup Math, the new diagnostic-prescriptive remediation service delivers a cycle of quizzes, followed by personalized review and practice, to help students catch up to their peers in math.

Catchup Math offers intervention programs for pre-algebra, Algebra 1, geometry, and Algebra 2. Each subject area can be covered as a full course, or teachers can choose specific topics for more targeted intervention. In addition, Catchup Math has programs to prepare at-risk students for success on state exit exams or for entry into college algebra courses, and it offers live, optional online math tutoring, so students can ask questions 24-7. Communication takes place online through an interactive whiteboard environment.

"Catchup Math combines all the elements needed for successful math remediation, including assessment, review, practice, and optional online tutoring," said Chuck Grant, co-founder of Hotmath. "Whether part of an after-school or summer school program, or offered in a remedial math class for struggling students, Catchup Math is an easy-to-use, affordable solution for at-risk students who are behind in math and need to catch up."



Catchup Math can be purchased for individual students at retail prices, or purchased in volume by schools and tutoring centers at discount prices. Individual student subscriptions start at \$99, and school pricing for the 2009-10 school year starts at \$3 per student.

<http://www.catchupmath.com>

ClassLink's Inquiry helps school leaders manage technology costs



ClassLink has released a new software-based decision support tool for administrators, called Inquiry, that aims to reduce instructional technology costs. Inquiry's customizable web-based reports show administrators real-time usage of all their instructional software, online resources, and computer hardware, allowing them to make better decisions and eliminate wasteful spending on underused equipment.

"We have already saved over \$45,000 in technology costs by using Inquiry to track software and computer usage," said early adopter Greg Partch, school IT director in Hudson Falls, N.Y. "We have been able to redeploy underutilized computers instead of buying new [ones] and have also streamlined our use of subscription-based software to those titles that have real value. We wouldn't have had the resources to track this information on our own."

ClassLink Inquiry accumulates, organizes, and analyzes data in an instructional context, and ClassLink says it's the only software that allows administrators to combine technology usage data with student grades and attendance—thereby correlating technology usage with instructional results.

<http://www.classlink.com>