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WHAT WE SAW @ NECC

On June 20-23, more than 16,000 administrators, technology decision-makers, and their colleagues gathered at New Orleans' Morial Convention Center for the 25th annual National Educational Computing Conference. There, they perused some of the latest hardware, software, and Internet products in the educational technology category. If you didn't attend, here's some of what you missed. For company contact information, see page 55.

SOFTWARE

ADMINISTRATIVE

Riverside Publishing's **Assess2Learn** provides online assessments that help educators gather immediate, real-time results to facilitate the learning process. Its web-based component, **Interactive Results Manager**, analyzes group performance data for The Iowa Tests, Forms A/B.

The **Brigance IED-II Management System**, from Curriculum Associates, assesses a child's development. It provides assessment data for instructional planning and IEP development. The web-based service correlates to Head Start Outcomes. Cost: \$149.95 per site for an annual subscription; volume and renewal discounts available.

Chancery SMS 5.0, from Chancery Software, delivers core student information system (SIS) functionality that includes grading, attendance, and reporting to help states, districts, and schools improve student achievement. Added customization capabilities make this upgrade more flexible. Pricing available upon request.

SunGard Pentamation's **eSchoolPLUS** is a web-based SIS for

managing and accessing student information. Its **FinancePLUS** is an enterprise-wide financial and human resources information system providing K-12 schools an efficient way to manage administrative activities. SunGard Pentamation provides financial and student information systems to several thousand U.S. schools.

An upgrade of **E-rate Manager** (www.eratemanager.com) is part of Funds For Learning's suite of free and low-cost web-based tools. This product helps schools with all aspects of the E-rate application process. Since 1997, Funds For Learning has supported the educational community with free information and tools for navigating the E-rate program's \$2 billion-plus annual funding opportunity.

ETS's **Focus On Standards** is an integrated instructional improvement application. It combines successful, standards-based, instructional practices, technology-based assessment, and data-management tools.

Follett Software's **Destiny Resource Management Solution** is a 100-percent browser-based library management appli-

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cation that adds textbook management to its list of capabilities. The system is installed at the district level; schools access it via web browser. Follett Software Company produces centralized, library- and textbook-management solutions.

AAL's **Mobile Assistant** is a secure and scalable micro-application for both PalmOS- and Windows-based handhelds. Mobile Assistant gives administrators new ways to capture meaningful information from front-line education staff.

NetOp School, from CrossTec, is software for networked classrooms. It enables real-time screen demos and student PC monitoring and controlling. Other new features include screen recording, application and URL blocking, and an easy-to-use teacher interface.

Classroom Connect is adding three new courses to its 70-plus roster at **Professional Development Connected University 1.5** (<http://cu.classroom.com/info.asp>). Classroom Connect offers a variety of K-12 professional development programs and instructional materials.

Promethean, Inc.'s **Promethean Planet** web-based resources for ACTIVboard users now include 1,000 new, multimedia resources for flipcharts, web-links, on-line training, user's forums, and video case studies.

The affordable and easy to use **Prosper Assessment System** for the PC, (\$1,500-\$2,000 for a single license; inquire about building site-licensing), from Pearson NCS, combines item banking, test generation, scoring, and reporting.

Sagebrush Corp.'s **Sagebrush Analytics**, a data-analysis tool, now offers a starter data set to get districts up and running quickly.

Also from Sagebrush is **ExpressView**, a new interface for **Sagebrush Accent**. It provides a streamlined, user-

friendly interface that lets novice users enjoy total functionality without extensive training.

Savvy CyberTeacher professional development services, available online from Stevens Institute of Technology's Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education (CIESE), promote the innovative use of Internet-based resources in the classroom as students learn in math and science. Cost: \$500 per teacher for a 30-hour course. CIESE was founded in 1988 to improve K-12 science and math education via technology.

ASSESSMENT

Pearson Digital Learning's **Concert** provides web-based assessment and student performance analysis for district-wide benchmark testing. Use it to assess progress, diagnose needs, and prescribe individualized instruction to students.

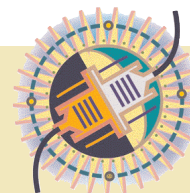
LearningWare's **Gameshow Pro 4.0** consists of six engaging game formats for collaborative review and individualized assessment.

American Education Corp.'s (AEC) **State Snapshots Assessment** tool lets you create on-the-fly, short, and frequent assessments for grades 1-12 in math, language arts, science, and social sciences. You can also create an immediate curriculum prescription to inform instruction.

CURRICULUM

AOL@School (www.aolatschool.com), a free online service from America Online, provides 200,000 pages of K-12-gear content including more than 10,000 lesson plans. Content includes special needs and counseling information for classroom application. The site also offers a four-week SAT prep course, in cooperation with TestU (www.testu.com), an online assessment service that helps schools achieve NCLB standards, among other benchmarks.

The multimedia Spanish tutor component of AutoSkill's **Academy of Reading** assists the process of



HARDWARE



Neo, from AlphaSmart, Inc., is an easy-to-use, lightweight, affordable learning device with a built-in LCD screen and full-sized keyboard. It features a 50 percent larger screen and twice the memory as its predecessor, the AlphaSmart 3000. Educational pricing for AlphaSmart's new Neo starts at \$229, with a rechargeable version starting at \$249. Quantity discounts apply for classroom bundles. More than 8,000 school districts use AlphaSmart's portable "computer companion" products to enhance writing, keyboarding, and reading comprehension skills.



The 6.6-pound **XP-58z LCD projector** (\$1,800), from Boxlight, has presentation-friendly features such as monitor loop-through and multiple inputs. Boxlight presentation solutions include a full line of projectors and peripherals, in addition to technical support and repair services.

English literacy instruction among Spanish-language students. AutoSkill publishes scalable literacy intervention software solutions.

PLATO Learning, Inc.'s **Achieve Now K-3 Reading** addresses the five key

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areas of instruction outlined by the National Reading Panel—all available on a PlayStation game console or Windows CD-ROMs to encourage extended family involvement. PLATO Learning products assist educators in meeting NCLB demands.

Promethean, Inc.'s **ACTIVstudio 2 Student Edition** is a free addition to the ACTIVstudio 2 Professional Edition, which lets students create flipcharts and presentations. The ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom System facilitates true, interactive instruction with its resource rich ACTIVstudio software: ACTIVslate, which provides real-time interaction between teachers and students; and ACTIVote wireless peripherals, which provide for instant student feedback.

AlphaSmart Manager 2.0, by AlphaSmart, Inc., lets educators manage an entire classroom of

AlphaSmart 3000 or Neo computer companions. The application eases the configuration of settings and the exchange or updating of files on up to 30 devices. More than 8,000 school districts use AlphaSmart's portable computer companions to teach writing, keyboard, and reading comprehension skills.

AlphaSmart Manager for Dana, also by AlphaSmart, Inc., is the first classroom management solution for Dana and Dana wireless devices. Use it to manage the configuration and operations of 30 AlphaSmart computer companions simultaneously from your PC.

American Education Corp.'s (AEC) **AnyWhere Learning System** provides computer-adaptive assessment tools that are aligned to both state and national standards.

The newest version of Learning.com's

New at NECC from Califone is a series of **wired and wireless headsets**, including 4100-USB (\$48) the first school-targeted headset for broadband multimedia applications to come with a USB connector for faster downloading of audio, tutorials, music, and games; it offers full stereo sound. An added boom mic for spoken word and language applications works in both Windows and Apple operating systems.

Califone's **Analog-to-Digital Converter** (AX-14, \$28) connects a traditional 3.5mm plug to a USB connector for faster downloading and prolongs investment in existing equipment. Ideal for use with voice recognition, games, or listening to MP3 files. It is Windows and Apple compatible.

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EasyTech, an online instructional system for technology integration, helps students achieve mastery in tech skills and helps teachers effectively integrate such instruction into coursework.

FableVision's **Stationery Studio: K-5 Writing Software** (\$69.95 for single-user; \$699.95 for building license) lets you custom design writing paper by designating line styles, line widths, layout, color, and font.

Heartwood Institute is releasing the **Pre-K Ethics Kit**, a program it calls "the first research-based character education program for the pre-kindergarten classroom." It comprises developmentally appropriate, literature-based classroom activities that are both teacher-directed and child-initiated. Kits contain 15 illustrated multicultural books, a teacher's guide, a large floor map, and reproducibles.

Verizon SuperPages.com has launched **Enlighten Me: Read, Learn and Explore** (<http://superpages.com/enlightenme>), an online literacy and education site. Its activities promote logic, problem solving, critical thinking, cooperative learning, imagination, and creativity skills.

Inspiration Software's **Inspiration** is now available for Palm OS handheld devices, as well as the AlphaSmart Dana. Inspiration Software uses visual thinking and learning methods to help students brainstorm, organize, plan, and create.

Kurzweil Educational Systems' **Kurzweil 3000 V.8** addresses language and literacy difficulties and adapts to individual learning styles. This latest version features powerful new language and communication capabilities, including advanced audio and word usage tools that further enhance the learning experience in and outside the classroom. It also features NeoSpeech's VoiceText, an optional add-on that lets you alter the voice in which you hear books, assignments, and notes.

Quest Network's **LifeQuest** (www.thequestnetwork.com), a free

online interactive expedition, sets out to find the world's oldest and healthiest people. Quest Network, Inc. aims to educate students while engaging them in online adventures.

Look, Listen, & Speak Series, from Evan-Moor, is a series of 10 interactive CD-ROMs (\$29.99 each) for grades K-3. Its print support materials, including games, storybooks, audible e-posters, and posters, build English vocabulary and concepts.

Sunburst Software introduced a new version of its **QuickMind.net** online learning environment with a new interface, simplified navigation, and additional state standards, among other improvements. QuickMind.net contains a collection of standards-based activities designed to help students meet NCLB requirements and fulfill learning standards. It provides 24-hour access to project templates, tools, lesson plans, reference materials, and online professional development.

CornerStone2, from Achievement Technologies, Inc. (ATI), teaches and enriches Grade 2-8 fundamental skills. New offerings include CornerStone Reading Comprehension LL for young learners, grades 2-4, and the Math, Level C program, with new problem-solving activities for grades 7-8. Cost: \$250 for single license to \$2,525 for unlimited site license.

Also from ATI, **SkillsTutor**, appropriate for grade 6 to adult, addresses up to 20 basic skills modules in such critical learning areas as reading, writing, math, language, algebra, and science. Its 1,500-plus lessons cover skills commonly assessed on standardized tests.

ATI's **18 Accountability Reports** (\$3,995; one-year subscription) comprises six administrative reports and 12 teacher reports covering school-wide progress, class summaries, student activity, and product usage. The School Profile Report summarizes overall student activities and gives a snapshot of



Gateway introduced two new **entry-level servers**. The company says both servers are easy to install and maintain, while providing flexibility for e-mail, print or file serving, supplemental storage, edge of network applications, or network infrastructure. **The Gateway 9115** (\$899) supports Intel's Celeron and Pentium 4 processors, up to 4 GB of RAM, two integrated Ethernet ports, a standard 80 GB SATA drive, a dual-port SATA controller, integrated RAID 0/1, an integrated management controller, and expandability options. The server supports Windows Server 2003 Enterprise, Standard, web, and Small Business Server Editions.



The Gateway 9210 (\$499) offers the same functionality as the 9115, adding three additional hard-drive bays for SATA drives or optional SCSI drives, plus a tool-less chassis for easy serviceability. The 9210 supports Windows 2003 Standard, web, and Small Business Server Editions.

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student participation organized by subject and average scores on pre-tests, lessons, and post-tests. A parent report details a child's learning activities and helps parents understand learning plans and their child's skill deficiencies.

The Take It to the Computer: Literacy and Math Centers foursome of resource kits (\$299; \$499 for a 10- or 30-user license), from Evan-Moor, help K-3 teachers integrate literacy, math, and technology in the classroom or lab.

Tom Snyder Productions's **Thinking Reader for Grades 6-8** systematically builds reading comprehension skills for students reading below grade level. Snyder, a Scholastic company, publishes educational software for more than 400,000 K-12 classrooms.

Pearson Digital Learning's **Waterford Early Math & Science Level 2 and 3** gives students a solid

foundation in basic math skills, science content, and creative problem-solving. Pearson is a maker of proven, comprehensive curriculum, assessment, and enterprise data management applications.

NETWORKING

FinalSite's **finalsiteSurvey** (www.finalsite.com/neccoffer) lets you design, edit, and analyze results of your forms, surveys, and quizzes online. Its database format omits the need for double entries. Cost: \$3,500 annually for 20 users and 50 MB of storage. **finalsiteMail** web-based software puts virus-free e-mail, calendars, files, and contacts all in one place with no extra hardware or software needed. Cost: from \$1.50 per mailbox/per month.

NetSupport's **NetSupport School 7.5** includes enhancements, such as record and replay, which let teach-



InFocus's new projector line covers a broad spectrum. The **LP70+** (\$1,999) is wireless-ready, easily transported between classrooms, and offers educators seamless digital-to-digital connectivity. The **LP640** (\$2,499) is versatile, with remote networking and wireless capabilities, and works well in shared resource spaces such as libraries or computer labs. The **LP840/850** projector (\$5,099/\$6,499) comes with a variety of lenses, easy set-up, and network control. The **X2** (\$999) provides high-quality images at a low price.

The **LiteShow** wireless add-on device (\$499) attaches to an InFocus or Proxima projector; it provides for the wireless receipt of PC-based presentations from a desktop or laptop PC.

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ers instruct, monitor, and quiz students in a computer lab with ease and efficiency. NetSupport provides PC management software to the education community that focuses on increasing productivity, enhanc-

ing learning, and improving help desk support.

Editors' Note: The companies appearing in this guide provided both the product descriptions and contact information for their respective offerings.



The **KidzMouse Scroll Mouse** for 'tweens (ages 9 and up) is larger than its sibling, Scroll Mouse, and features a scroll wheel (\$29.95). **KidzMouse Ears** headsets come in small (\$21.95) and large (\$26.95) sizes, with volume discounts available. They're used in computer labs, classrooms, or with an MP3 player. KidzMouse manufactures and distributes computer peripherals geared to children and the classroom. *See Tech Tools (p. 16) for another KidzMouse release.*



The **Lexmark X422** (\$1,479) is a small workgroup laser printer that prints 22 pages per minute and 600 dots per inch; it also scans, copies, and faxes. Lexmark personal and workgroup printing solutions are designed to help schools manage and distribute information efficiently.

The active area on Promethean's **ACTIVboard Pro** gives teachers more workspace. It now has a radio connection to ACTIVslate XR, and ACTIVotes and Bluetooth connectivity with PCs. ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom System products, made exclusively for the education space, facilitate real-time interaction between teachers and students.

When used with a document camera, Toshiba's **TDP-T91** projector lets you add photos, documents, or other digital images to presentations. The **TDP-T90** boasts 2,000 lumens, native XGA resolution, and a 2000:1 contrast ratio. Toshiba's projectors also offer wireless operation and special monitor connectors. *See Tech Tools (p. 16) for another Toshiba offering.*

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HARDWARE

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Gateway
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Poway, CA 92064
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www.gateway.com

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KidzMouse
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www.netopfor
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www.ets.org

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www.evan-moor.com

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