Welcome to 2009, a new year; my favorite time of the year. It is a time to celebrate the end of one year and to look forward to the promise of something better in the New Year. It is a time for resolutions, a time for new goals, a time to make a plan for a better you. Wall Street Journal recently interviewed people from politics, business, and entertainment asking them to share their personal, professional, and industry resolutions. Are you interested in the resolutions of Mitt Romney, Martha Stewart, or Katy Perry? You can read the article online at http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123033735965236411.html

As you make your New Year resolutions we at UCET have resolutions as well. We have many private personal resolutions, a collective industry resolution, and many interesting professional resolutions.

OUR COLLECTIVE RESOLUTION: Create a conference overflowing with new ideas and excitement. Combine the best of the 21st century with creativity, innovation and best teaching practice to produce a conference you surely will not want to miss!

This year’s conference focuses on the theme “DEFINE YOURSELF. How do you define yourself? Does that definition include technology? We certainly hope so! As an attendee you will have the opportunity to expand on the current definition of your self as a technology teacher, learning new skills and techniques. Or possibly you may find ideas that help you to create a brand new definition for yourself as a technology teacher. We promise a phenomenal opening keynote featuring Dr. Tim Tyson from Maybry School Online, many interesting sessions with strands such as …

• a student showcase
• over-the-shoulder sessions
• vendor displays
• and an excellent forum for collaboration and conversation.

Find out more and register today at http://www.ucet.org/. Early registration ends February 13! Rachel Murphy, UCET President

A FEW PROFESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS FROM THE UCET BOARD:

Rachel Murphy, UCET President; Granite School District

“Create and publish a Library Media podcast focused on young adult literature & technology. Listen to my favorite podcasts more regularly.”

Nathan Smith, UCET Webmaster & Newsletter; Utah State University

“Use free web 2 applications to increase the efficiency of my operation here at USU. Also, get a graphics tablet and start painting digitally.”

Margo Shirley, CForum Representative; Jordan School District

“I want to compliment and say thank you to more teachers. Also, during the past year I have been lucky enough to purchase a Wii, iPhone and Kindle. I now need to spend more time learning these great “tools” and how they can be utilized to increase my learning as well as improve student learning.”

Craig Bogart; SARS Representative

“I would like to improve skills in working with digital images including using new software to store and edit digital photos. And also increase customer service skills by responding promptly to requests for assistive technology services.”
KiddieRecords Is Extending into 2009! Over 300 Records!

Link: http://www.kiddierecords.com

We introduced you to the Kiddie Records site in one of our earlier newsletters. For those of you who may have missed that, KiddieRecords.com is a site dedicated to preserving the “golden age” of children’s records.

From their website: “Kiddie Records Weekly began in 2005 as a one year project devoted to the golden age of children’s records. This period spanned from the mid forties through the early fifties and produced a wealth of all-time classics. Many of these recordings were extravagant Hollywood productions on major record labels and featured big time celebrities and composers.

Over the years, these forgotten treasures slipped off the radar and it became our mission to give them a new lease on life by sharing them with today’s generation of online listeners. Each week throughout the year we added a new recording and before we knew it, our one year project turned into four!

So whether you are hearing these records for the first time or reuniting with a childhood favorite from long ago, we hope you take great pleasure in your trip down memory lane!

We’ve got some good news! Kiddie Records Weekly will return in 2009!”

You can download MP3 versions of each of these records, along with JPG images of the album cover, album back side, record label, and any booklets that may have come with the album. You can also listen to streaming versions of the audio.

If you’ve taken time to download every weekly record they posted between 2005-2007, plus the extras, you have over 230 stories! Now they’ll be adding at least another 52 - one a week through 2009! Some weeks, they release two or four titles at a time.

For the first half of next year, some of the records you can download will be...

- Luke the Singing Duck
- Tom and Jerry at the Circus
- Dumbo
- Happy Habits
- Bozo at the Dog Show
- Cinderella
- Capitol Music Appreciation Singles
- The Wedding of the Princes
- Bible Stories for Children
- Little Freddy and his Fiddle
- King Thrushbeard
- The Sorcerer’s Apprentice
- Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves
- Little Orley
- Mickey and the Beanstalk
- One String Fiddle
- Bozo on the Farm
- Uncle Remus Stories

There are some great stories online that you can share with your children at KiddieRecords.com. Be sure to go have a look. It will be well worth your time.
CareerForward

From their website: The CareerFoward program takes on the challenge of assisting young people as they prepare for careers in the global market that is impacting their lives now and in the future.

Technology, along with many other factors, has leveled job prospects for people all over the world. Career opportunities are more diverse than they used to be, and students today need to be introduced to the growing global competition that they will face. Most important, they need motivation to plan and see the education that is so crucial for their futures.

This website is designed to provide a framework for students and teachers to use as they explore possibilities and learn how to prepare for the future.

The program contains about 20 hour-long online sessions using personal reflection and activities and gives each student an independent exploration of the possibilities for their future that will allow them to move on and create an Educational Development Plan (EDP).

Link: http://nroc.careerforward.org/

LifeWorks - Online Exploration of Careers in Health & Medicine


The National Institutes of Health Office of Science Education presents LifeWorks, an online guide to exploring careers in the health and medical sciences. LifeWorks offers a number of features such as Career Finder – a searchable database of over 100 career descriptions. Details include required education and average salary. The site also features interviews with people working in the health and medical fields. While no formal lesson plans are provided, LifeWorks should be a useful resource for students who may be interested in pursuing health-related careers.

(Source: Internet Scout Project)
Student & Teacher Opportunities From NASA!

Registration Open: 16th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race

Registration is open for the 16th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race. High school and college students design and build a vehicle that addresses a series of engineering problems similar to those faced by the original lunar-roving vehicle team. Each school may enter up to two teams. The race will take place April 3-4, 2009, in Huntsville, Ala., at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Entries must be received by Feb. 1, 2009.

For more information about the competition and to register online, visit http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov/index.html

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Sabrina Pearson at Sabrina.M.Pearson@nasa.gov

2009 RASC-AL Competition for College Students

NASA and the National Institute of Aerospace announce the 2009 Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts Academic Linkage Competition. RASC-AL is a design project competition aimed at university-level engineering students.

The RASC-AL contest challenges university students to think about what sorts of conditions astronauts will face when they return to the moon, then design projects that may become part of actual lunar exploration.

Student teams must submit a summary of and an outreach plan for their proposed projects by Feb. 6, 2009. Their work must be based on one of four themes: outpost to settlement, initial lunar outpost, bringing the world along with virtual exploration, and novel approaches to increase sample return from the moon. The RASC-AL Steering Committee of NASA and industry experts will evaluate the proposals and select as many as ten undergraduate and five graduate teams to compete against each other at a forum in June 2009 in Florida.

The RASC-AL Program is open to full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in engineering or science at an accredited university. University design teams must include one faculty or industry advisor with a university affiliation and two or more undergraduate or graduate students. A group of universities may also work in collaboration on a design project entry. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

For more information about this competition, visit http://www.nianet.org/rascal/index.html

If you have questions about this competition, please contact Audrey Staples at Audrey.Staples@nianet.org.

ACCESS: NASA Internships for Students with Disabilities

Applications are now being accepted for the Achieving Competence in Computing, Engineering and Space Science project, also known as ACCESS. This 10-week, paid internship at NASA centers around the U.S. is designed for undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities.

Students should have strong backgrounds in science, a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and a desire to pursue technical careers. Students who are chosen will work with scientists and engineers in an area compatible with their skills and interests.

Applications for placement at NASA are due Jan. 16, 2009.

For more information, visit http://ehrweb.aaas.org/entrypoint/apply.htm

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Janie Nall at Janie.Nall@nasa.gov

Graduate Student Researchers Project

Applications are now being accepted for NASA’s Graduate Student Researchers Project. Through GSRP, NASA awards fellowships for graduate study leading to research-based master’s or doctoral degrees in science, technology, mathematics and engineering fields related to NASA research and development.

Applicants must be currently enrolled or accepted as full-time students at an accredited U.S. college or university. Applicants must also be U.S. citizens.
All application materials must be received no later than Feb. 1, 2009. For more information, visit
http://fellowships.hq.nasa.gov/gsrp/nav/

**MUST Scholarships**

The Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology Project, funded by NASA, is a joint partnership between the Hispanic College Fund, the United Negro College Fund Special Programs and the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers.

The NASA MUST Project offers scholarships and exciting hands-on summer internship experiences at NASA to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. The MUST Project selects students who aspire to becoming tomorrow’s researchers, physical scientists and innovators.

The MUST Scholars receive:

- One-year, competitive scholarship covering up to 50 percent of tuition and fees, up to $10,000.
- Paid summer internship experience at a NASA center.
- Year-round academic support and mentoring through the MUST P.A.S.S. (Professional Academic Support System).

The MUST scholarship is renewable, provided scholars continue to meet the academic requirements.

Applicants must:

- Be U.S. citizens. Those from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.
- Reside in the U.S. or territories of the U.S.
- Currently be a high school senior, a full-time college freshmen or a full-time college sophomore.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in the U.S. or U.S. territories.
- Be pursuing an undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering or a mathematics discipline.
- Have a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

The application period closes on Feb. 1, 2009. For more information, visit
http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/Motivating_Undergraduates_Science_Technology.html

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Vanessa Webbs at Vanessa.R.Webbs@nasa.gov

**Applications Available for 2009 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship**

Applicants are currently available for the 2009-2010 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program. This program is open to current public or private elementary and secondary mathematics, technology and science classroom teachers with demonstrated excellence in teaching.

Selected teachers spend a school year in a congressional office, the Department of Energy, or a federal agency such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Applicants for this program must be U.S. citizens and be currently employed full-time in a public or private elementary or secondary school or school district. Applicants must have been teaching full-time in a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least five of the last seven years. Three recommendations are required. One must be from a school district official.

During the fellowship, each Einstein Fellow receives a monthly stipend plus a monthly cost of living allowance. In addition, there is a moving/relocation allowance as well as a professional travel allowance.

The deadline for applications is Jan. 13, 2009. For more information about this opportunity, visit
http://www.trianglecoalition.org/fellows/einapp.htm

Inquiries about the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program may be directed to tricoal@triangle-coalition.org.

**15th Annual Space Exploration Educators Conference, Feb. 5-7, 2009**

Register today for the 15th Annual Space Exploration Educators Conference, to be held Feb. 5-7, 2009, at Space Center Houston. This conference is for all K-12 educators. Activities presented use space-related themes to teach across the curriculum and can be used for science, language arts, mathematics, history and more.

Attend sessions hosted by scientists and engineers working on the International Space Station, Mars exploration and the planets beyond. Hear from astronauts who will be leading the charge in exploration. Learn about the bold vision to send humans back to the moon and off to Mars. Attend sessions presented by educators and receive ready-to-implement classroom ideas. Attendees can earn up to 24 hours of continuing professional education credit.

For more information and to register for the conference, visit http://spacecenter.org/TeachersSEEC.html. If you have any questions about the conference, please call 281-283-7773 or email seecc@spacecenter.org.

The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

**Lunar Nautics Instructional Video Available Online**

On Oct. 27, 2008, education curriculum specialist Paula Rodney presented a 30-minute instructional webcast highlighting many of the activities included in the Lunar Nautics Education Guide. This webcast has been archived and is now available on demand.

To view the webcast and to download the Lunar Nautics Education Guide, visit

The Lunar Nautics Educator Guide has 40 activities geared toward students in grades 6-8 and in informal settings. Students assume roles of workers at Lunar Nautics Space Systems, Inc., a fictional aerospace company specializing in mission management, lunar
habitat construction, exploration design, and scientific research. This guide features lessons that address the basics of Newton’s Laws of Motion, rocket design, microgravity and the moon. Students will design, test and analyze a model lunar lander, a robotic model and a soda bottle rocket. Other activities include building edible models of spacecraft and creating a solar oven to cook hot dogs. Students can also build a microgravity sled as part of an underwater activity.

The Lunar Nautics CD now has enhanced accessibility features designed with visually and hearing-impaired students in mind.

Follow the previous link to download the free educator and student guides and/or to order a copy of the CD from the Central Operation of Resources for Educators, or CORE.

**The Hubble Ultra Deep Field Lithograph -- Grades 10-12**

At the end of their lives, low-mass stars expand in size and become red giants. Then they shed their outer layers and become planetary nebulae. The Hubble Ultra Deep Field, an image that contains as many as 10,000 galaxies of all shapes, sizes, colors and ages, is on the first page of the lithograph. Background information about the HUDF is on the second page. The lithograph includes a Level One Inquiry activity entitled “In Search of... Galaxy Evolution,” in which students analyze galaxies from different eras to determine how they have evolved and changed over time.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Hubble_Ultra_Deep_Field_Lithograph.html

**Using Scrapbooks in Science Educator Guide-Grades 3-12**

Employ students’ creativity and artistic talents to build on their knowledge of science and scientific concepts. The guide includes teaching tips and examples of assignment sheets, grading strategies, students’ scrapbook pages and ideas to involve parents.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Scrapbooks_In_Science.html

**Seven Skills Students Desperately Need**

eSchool News reports that Tony Wagner, who was the keynote speaker at the recent SETDA conference in Washington, D.C., says that today’s students could fail at life, because their schools are too busy teaching to the test. Dr. Wagner, who is co-director of the Change Leadership Group at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, feels education ought to focus on helping our students gain these seven critical skills:

1. Problem-solving and critical thinking;
2. Collaboration across networks and leading by influence;
3. Agility and adaptability;
4. Initiative and entrepreneurship;
5. Effective written and oral communication;
6. Accessing and analyzing information; and
7. Curiosity and imagination.

We are making [Adequate Yearly Progress] at the expense of failing our kids at life. Something has to change,” he concluded.

Copyright Guidelines for Educators: Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Media Literacy Education

Free PDF from Temple University - From the introduction: “This document is a code of best practices that helps educators using media literacy concepts and techniques to interpret the copyright doctrine of fair use. Fair use is the right to use copyrighted material without permission or payment under some circumstances—especially when the cultural or social benefits of the use are predominant. It is a general right that applies even in situations where the law provides no specific authorization for the use in question—as it does for certain narrowly defined classroom activities.

This guide identifies five principles that represent the media literacy education community’s current consensus about acceptable practices for the fair use of copyrighted materials, wherever and however it occurs: in K–12 education, in higher education, in nonprofit organizations that offer programs for children and youth, and in adult education.”


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21st Century Skills Map for English Released

Link: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/21st_century_skills_english_map.pdf

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills’ reports and publications support a vision for learning in the 21st century that better prepares students for work and life in the new millennium. Their reports and publications have been developed through a comprehensive process involving thorough input from partners, educators, researchers, organizations and businesses across the country.

This 21st Century Skills Map is the result of hundreds of hours of research, development and feedback from educators and business leaders across the nation. The Partnership has issued this map for the core subject of English. This tool is available at http://www.21stcenturyskills.org

The Partnership advocates for the integration of 21st Century Skills into K–12 education so that students can advance their learning in core academic subjects.

The Partnership has forged alliances with key national organizations that represent the core academic subjects, including Social Studies, English, Math, Science and Geography. As a result of these collaborations, the Partnership has developed this map to illustrate the intersection between 21st Century Skills and English. The maps will enable educators, administrators and policymakers to gain concrete examples of how 21st Century Skills can be integrated into core subjects.

Besides the English map, the partnership also released a similar map for Social Studies. If you’re interested, you can get that publication at...

Link: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/ss_map_11_12_08.pdf

You can view the partnership’s other publications at...

Link: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=185
National Teacher Associations for Core Subjects

National Council of Teachers of English
http://www.ncte.org/

National Council for the Social Studies
http://www.socialstudies.org/

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
http://www.nctm.org/

National Science Teachers Association
http://www.nsta.org/

National Association for Sport and Physical Education
http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/

National Art Education Association
http://www.naea-reston.org/
Some Great Things You Can Do in Firefox 3

Smart Bookmarks folders: Starting in Firefox 3, you can create “Smart Folders” in the Places Library. These folders are like saved searches that update automatically.

After installing Firefox 3, you will already have some Smart folders:

• Most Visited - available from the Bookmarks Toolbar, this folder looks in your history to find which pages you visit most frequently.
• Recently Bookmarked - available from the Bookmarks Menu, this folder keeps track of the last several bookmarks you’ve added. Expand the Recently Bookmarked folder to see a list of sites.
• Recent Tags - available from the Bookmarks Menu, this folder keeps track of the bookmark “tags” you’ve used most recently. Expand the Recent Tags folder to see a list of tags, then expand each tag to show pages you’ve recently bookmarked using that tag.

You can create your own smart bookmark folders, too. To create a new Smart Folder based on your browsing history:

1. Open the Places Library for History by clicking on the History menu and selecting Show All History
2. In the upper-right corner of the Places Library window, click in the Search History box.
3. Start typing a search term into the Search History box. The filtered list of matching sites will come up as you type.
4. Underneath the Search History box, click Save. The Save Search dialog box will appear.
5. Enter a Name for the new Smart Folder and click OK.

To create a new Smart Folders based on your bookmarks:

1. Open the Places Library for Bookmarks by clicking Bookmarks menu and selecting Organize Bookmarks...
2. In the upper-right corner of the Places Library window, click in the Search Bookmarks box.
3. Start typing a search term into the Search Bookmarks box. The filtered list of matching sites will come up as you type. (You can narrow your search to a single Bookmarks folder by clicking on a bookmarks folder in the left half of the Window, and then typing in your search term.)
4. Underneath the Search Bookmarks box, click Save. The Save Search dialog box will appear.
5. Enter a Name for the new Smart Folder and click OK.

Setting Your Default E-Mail Program: Normally, clicking on an e-mail address on a Web page will open up a new e-mail using your default e-mail program. If you’d rather use GMail or Yahoo! Mail, open up Options under Firefox’s Tools menu, select the Applications tab, and scroll down to the mailto: entry. Select your email choice and click OK. For Macintosh users - go to the Firefox menu, choose preferences, click on the Applications tab, scroll down to the mailto: and select your mailto preference.

Looking at your passwords: In Firefox 3, you can view the passwords for any of your password protected sites. How do you do this? First you go to a site where you need to login with your username and password. Right-click anywhere on the page and select View Page Info. Click on the Security tab. Then click on View Saved Passwords. You’ll see a new window showing the usernames associated with that site. Click Show Passwords to see the passwords for each username.

Shortcuts that will speed up your browser use: Zooming! Things too small to see or read? Zoom in on a Firefox page by repeatedly pressing CTRL - + (Mac users use the Command key instead of the control key). Zoom out by pressing CTRL - - (Control and the minus key). To reset the view to the default size, press CTRL-0 (zero).

Want to type a different URL without having to click in the URL bar and highlight the old one? Just press CTRL-L. The old URL will be highlighted. Then just start typing the new URL. The old one disappears, and is replaced by the one you’ve typed.

Need to open a new tab? Press CTRL-T to open a new, blank tab in Firefox. Your cursor will be sitting in the URL bar waiting for you to type or paste a new web address. For more great shortcuts...

http://support.mozilla.com/en-US/kb/Keyboard+shortcuts
Building Houses - A 3D Math Challenge Puzzle

Link: http://mathsnet.net/geometry/solid/houses.html

Want to challenge your students to think three dimensionally? Try MathsNet’s Building Houses puzzles. There are 10 puzzles to solve. Each puzzle gives you a standard draft with front, top, and right side views (all 2 dimensional). Then you have to build the three dimensional shape at the right side of the screen, by clicking where you want cubes to be.

From the website: “MathsNet.net is an independent educational website providing free mathematics resources to the education community. Its aim is to offer truly interactive resources that are both wide and deep in terms of their applicability and usefulness.

MathsNet is not an online textbook. It is interactive, requiring the user to participate rather than be a passive observer.

MathsNet is not owned by any commercial company, just me [Bryan Dye], and is therefore free to use.”

Link: http://mathsnet.net/

Explore this and many other math puzzles and games - most are interactive java applets. Have a look at the listing at right.
Macintosh OSX 10.5 Users! Print Non-Contiguous Pages, Contact Sheets, and more in Preview App

Have you ever wanted to print just certain pages of a document? Say, just pages 1, 3-5, 7, and 9? Difficult to do, but if you’re a Macintosh user with OS-X 10.5 installed, you can do this in the Preview application. Simply open your document or PDF file in Preview, hold the command key down and click the thumbnail pages you want to print. When you go to the File menu, choose Print Selected Pages, and you print only the pages you wish to print!

I found another very useful way to use Preview. Sometimes I need to open several images and create a PDF file of them all. To do this, I select all the images I want to open and drag them onto the Preview icon in the dock. Preview opens them all, and shows each image as a thumbnail in the panel to the right. I then select them all, choose Print Selected Images, and then choose to print as a PDF in the print dialog.

You can also print a contact sheet of images this way. In the print dialog box, select Layout from the dropdown menu, and choose to print 16 images per page (or whatever number you choose from the dropdown menu).

Search Flickr Images By Color

This will please those of you in the visual arts. Go try this link...

Link: http://labs.ideeinc.com/multicolr/

This site allows you to search Flickr Creative Commons images by color scheme. When you first open the page, you’ll see a color map where you can pick up to ten colors. Each time you click a color, its swatch appears just below the map, and the images start pouring onto the page. Of course, you can then click on any of the images to be taken to that Flickr page, where you can download it.

It’s an amazing way to go look at images by color scheme. I can think of quite a few uses for something like this if I were teaching an art class.
Some iPhone/iPod Touch Tricks You May Not Know...

Did you know that the iPhone or iPod Touch keyboard supports over 20 languages? How do you get those special characters, as in é, ø, ñ, and so forth? Easy. Just press and hold the letter on the iPhone’s keyboard and a pop-up menu will show you all the other options. Then slide your finger to the one you want and let go.

Also, are you tired of having to press the .123 key to get to the numbers and non-alphabetical characters, and then having to press the ABC key to get back to typing? If you press and hold the .123 key, you’ll see those characters. You slide your finger up to the one you want, and when you let go - you’ll have your character and be back at the ABC keyboard. Neat shortcut.

Also, when you are typing and come to the end of a sentence, double-tapping the space bar will add a period and a space so you can start a new sentence.

Listening to music on your iPhone or iPod Touch and need to pause or change the volume. Double-clicking the home button will bring up the music controls without having to log-in.

On the new iPhone 3G, you can take a screen shot by simultaneously pressing the home button and the sleep/wake button. The screen will flash white, and the screenshot will be placed in your Photos app on your iPhone. From there you can email it as an attachment or save it for a later look.

Have you ever been caught in an application that froze up on your iPhone or iPod Touch? Press and hold on any of the applications to where you want them to be. If that doesn’t work, hold the power button down for several seconds and shut down your device completely. When you turn it back on, everything will be refreshed.

Have you ever wondered where the preferences for an application on the iPhone or iPod Touch reside? They are in the Settings application. Apple encourages programmers to put the settings there rather than in the application itself.

Finally, would you like to re-arrange your applications on your iPhone or iPod Touch? Press and hold on any of the applications for a few seconds. They’ll all start jiggling and dancing like they’ve been placed on a stove top burner. At that point you can drag the applications to where you want them to be. If you’d like to put them on a new page, slide the application clear to the edge of the screen. A new page will pop up where you can drop it. Any applications with an “X” in the corner can be deleted by pressing the X. You’ll be asked to confirm the deletion and given the opportunity to cancel. You can even re-arrange the “main four” at the bottom of the screen, so you have the apps you use most there.

Air Sharing - an Inexpensive iPhone/iPod Touch Application that Lets You Connect To Any System

- Mount your iPhone or iPod touch as a wireless drive on any Mac, Windows, or Linux computer.
- Drag-drop files between your iPhone or iPod touch and your computers.
- View documents in many common formats.

Features:
- New Upload button when connecting via a web browser
- Local passcode lock for app security
- Scrollbar in document viewer for easy access
- New slideshow options in settings
- Faster app launch
- Support for viewing TCL, SQL, and VB text files.
- User-selectable Port in connection settings
- Much better rendering of high-resolution images
- Familiar Finder-like file browser
- Prominent display of available space
- Use of Bonjour and WebDAV (like iDisk) for easy connection
- Extensive in-line Help with detailed, simple instructions
- Controls to prevent or to delay iPhone auto-lock
- Syntax coloring of source code
- Fast access
- Page Up and Down buttons that accelerate while held down
- A folder popup for going back to previously viewed folders
- Automatic jump to last viewed location when opening a long document

Compatibility: Mac OS X (Tiger and Leopard), Windows (XP and Vista), Linux (GNOME and KDE), Any Web browser

Viewable Formats: iWork (Pages, Numbers, and Keynote), no zipping or “save with preview” required; Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), with limited support for XML formats; Web Archive (web-page downloads packaged by Safari); HTML Web page; PDF; HTML; RTF (Rich Text Format); RTFD (TextEdit documents with embedded images); Plain text (many different file extensions), with Unicode support; Source code (C/C++, Objective C/C++, C#, Java, Javascript, XML, shell scripts, Perl, Ruby, Python, and more), with color-coded formatting; Movies, Audio, and Images (standard iPhone formats).
Uncharted

From a local Cache Valley Blog... “Hello everyone. Just spreading the word about a project several of us USU alumni, Cache Valley residents, and other friends have put together called Uncharted. Its a new website at

Link: http://www.uncharted.net

that has a focus on discovering new places, people and cultures. The professional editorial staff and registered “Explorers” in our online community cooperate together as we make our discoveries. We’re striving for high quality and compelling content, but also a lot of interaction with everyone. I hope it is something that can help many people discover the uncharted. We started our business and created a traditional editorial website over two years ago, but yesterday was the official launch of our new “geo-social media” website, a first in the industry. We are eager to make it successful and hopefully provide a new source of employment to the community in the future. Wish us luck, and best wishes to all as you explore the world!”

The site developers are looking for professional, interesting geographical content. Feature stories for the launch include a Michigan adventure race, Spud Days in Shelley Idaho, and Alligators in the Snake River, Idaho. Some of the content submitted by registered Explorers includes Malaysia, France and California features.

You can read more about the site on the developer’s blog:

Link: http://unchartedblog.blogspot.com/

Pre-Register Now and Save!

UCET 2009 Conference preparations are in full swing, with a great line-up of conference sessions, a marvelous keynote speaker, an opportunity to hobnob with your peers. All coming sooner than you think!

The last day you can pre-register for the conference is February 13! (Friday the 13th! - only a few weeks away!) Save ten dollars on the conference registration by going online to register at...

Link: http://www.ucet.org

New this year - you can pay with your credit card online. The link is on the site.

We invite you to join us March 6-7 at Taylorsville High School in Salt Lake City. You can find all the information you’ll need about the conference at the UCET website.

We’re looking forward to another great conference. We’ll see you there!
It’s Conference Time!

It’s time to register for the UCET 2009 Conference. Registering before February 13th will not only save you money, but it will help us to accurately prepare for all of you who will attend. As always, we have a great conference coming up! Our keynote speaker is Dr. Tim Tyson. Read more about him on our website’s homepage...

http://www.ucet.org

If you have any last minute questions? concerns? problems? Please call UCET at 801-542-9301. If you get voice mail, please leave your name, phone number or email address, your message or questions, and we’ll get back with you as soon as we’re available. Or, you can email your questions to ucetinfo@ucet.org

Theme: Multimedia - Define Yourself
Date: March 6-7, 2009
Place: Taylorsville High School, Granite School District
      5225 South Redwood Road
      Salt Lake City, UT 84123

Friday, March 6
7:45 - Registration and Breakfast
9:00 - Conference Opens - Awards Presented
9:30 - Keynote - Dr. Tim Tyson
10:45 - Session 1 - Exhibition Hall opens - Lunch 1
10:45 - Over the Shoulder Sessions in Vendor Areas (all day)
11:45 - Break
12:00 - Session 2 - Lunch 2
1:00 - Break
1:15 - Session 3
2:15 - Break
2:30 - Session 4
3:30 - Vendor time - Please visit our sponsors/vendors!
4:30 - Conference closes for the day

Saturday, March 7
7:30 - Breakfast
8:00 - Session 1
8:00 - Over the Shoulder Sessions in Vendor Areas (all day)
9:00 - Break
9:15 - Session 2
10:15 - Break
10:30 - Session 3
11:30 - Break
11:45 - Closing remarks and prize drawings
12:30 - Conference ends

Be sure to nominate candidates for this year’s Technology Educator of the Year, Technology Leader of the Year, and Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Services Award (This award is for network specialists, technology specialists, computer support personnel, etc.) You can submit your nominations online from our conference page...

http://ucet.org/inUCETnew/conference/index.html

You don’t want to miss this opportunity to learn new skills and share ideas with your peers. We have a wonderful group of sponsors and exhibitors who’ll be showing their technology tools, teaching resources, and software solutions. Prizes, awards, food, fun. Don’t miss this one. See you there!
As an operating system, Windows seems to age as you use it. Things get slower, less responsive than they used to be. Perhaps you’ve been infected with spyware, or some other bug. Your files become fragmented over time. Your system registry gets littered with invalid entries.

Sounds like time for a good spring cleaning, doesn’t it? Wouldn’t it be nice to have one program that does almost all the cleaning for you in a single click?

“Advanced SystemCare Free (formerly Advanced WindowsCare Personal) has a one-click approach to helping protect, repair, clean, and optimize your PC. With over 20,000,000 downloads since 2006, this fantastic, award-winning, free program is a “must-have” tool for your computer, 100% safe and clean with no adware, spyware, or viruses.” (from the iobit website)

Link: http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindows-careper.html

“Advanced SystemCare Free provides a convenient way for non-technical users to perform routine maintenance and apply system optimization tweaks without the need to become a computer geek.”

In our own trials of this product, we’ve found that it does as advertised, it cleans your windows pc, fixes registry problems, deletes junk files, and much more.

I’ve used it on both Windows XP and Vista and it has performed flawlessly. One Vista machine was horribly slow shutting down - it took about an hour to shut off. After running the “Maintain Windows” utilities, it shut down normally (within seconds).

Advanced SystemCare Free has a high-speed Disk Defrag function to defragment hard drives up to 10 times faster than other defragmentation tools. It tunes up Windows by unleashing the built-in power of your system. It dramatically improves both system and Internet performance up to 400%. It does even more than a registry cleaner, keeping your PC stable and running at peak efficiency. Repairs PC configurations by eliminating system bottlenecks and preventing crashes.

Here’s a tool that will bring life back to your Windows PC again. Like many free products, you’ll see some features listed that will only function if you buy Advanced SystemCare Pro, which costs around $20. But I can live with that - the features in the free version are well worth the download.
BookPedia - What’s On Your Shelves? (Macintosh)

Here’s an amazing use of current technology. Have you a library of books you’d like to have cataloged? Do you want to keep track of who borrows them? Would you like to have a database of information about each of your books in your library?

Bookpedia is a unique database solution for Macintosh. At a cost of $18, you can have a very iTunes-like circulation system on your Macintosh.

When you begin to add books in your library collection, you can search for the book a number of ways, or manually enter the information. I liked the iSight option. If you click on iSight, it opens a camera window (see above) and you hold the book’s barcode up to the scanner lines in the window. The lines blink green and beep, the program goes searching Amazon.com and a number of other sites for your book. If the book is found (and I found that almost all my books worked), another window opens with all kinds of information garnered (see inset at right). You’ll see information such as author, publisher, isbn number, genre, format, price, dimensions, release date, rating, number of pages, dewey decimal call number, summary, and subject headings. Click the add button, and it’s added to your collection.

After that, it’s very similar to using iTunes - even with iTune’s cover-flow view. You can even check out your books to friends, and keep track of who has what, and when it’s due back. What a phenomenal program!  Link: http://www.bruji.com/bookpedia/
PocketPedia (Free for iPhone or iPod Touch)

From the Bruji website: “Forget pen and paper to remember books you want to buy or DVDs you’d like to rent. Use Pocketpedia on your iPhone or iPod touch to keep your media library right in your pocket. Create collections, sync your data from DVDpedia, Bookpedia, CDPedia and Gamepedia and browse Amazon for price comparisons and reviews.

Create as many different collections as you like in Pocketpedia - set up a wish list for items you’d like to buy in the future, keep a borrowed collection to remember who has what or simply use a regular collection to quickly note books, DVDs, CDs and games you see when you’re out and about.

If you have a Mac, use the Pedia programs (such as BookPedia) to sync your media collections directly to your iPhone and iPod touch. With both programs running and connected to your wireless network, a ‘Sync’ button will appear in your Pocketpedia Collections tab. (If you run into any trouble with the synching, take a look at the Pocketpedia Manual for some more tips.)

You’re browsing DVDs at the video store and want to know more about a movie before renting it? Find a Wi-Fi hot spot and tap the Pocketpedia button to check the reviews on Amazon. Or maybe you just saw a book you’d like to buy in the future? Add it to your Pocketpedia wish list so you’ll remember it next time you’re at the book store. Once an entry is in your Pocketpedia collections you can also give it a star rating.”

Link: http://www.bruji.com/pocketpedia/

Delicious Library for Macintosh

Another personal library cataloging option for Macintosh users, and very similar in many respects to BookPedia described on the last page, is Delicious-Monster.com’s Delicious Library. Like Bookpedia, it uses your iSight camera or manual entry to search barcode numbers online, and then add an item’s picture an information to your library database. However, you can scan more than just books into this program. It also recognizes Audio CDs, DVD movies, video games, toys, tools, and even your clothes and jewelry. Price is $40.

Link: http://www.delicious-monster.com/

Use Your Digital Camera or Cell Phone Camera to take Pictures of Pages and Convert To Editable Text! (WIN)

You may have used scanners and software to convert a scan of a page into editable text. But have you ever tried it using a digital camera or cell phone camera? You may want to have a look at TopOCR, a free download for Windows. According to their website: “Before you make the mistake of spending a lot of money on OCR software, you should try TopOCR! Our software is designed to be simple and user-friendly for use with your digital camera or smartphone. Now, wherever you go, you can quickly and easily acquire documents from business cards, newspapers, books and magazines, all without having to carry around a bulky notebook computer and scanner.

• Incredible OCR accuracy, upto 99.8% with a 3 MP camera
• No page limits, and no extra downloads or components needed
• Handles images with mixed text and graphics (Manual or Auto Zoning)
• Tolerates skew and uneven lighting
• Multiple text output formats, including searchable PDF and HTML
• Able to read 11 different languages
• Powerful, easy to use Image Processing with Image Dewarping
• Supports Smartphones: See some Smartphone samples
• Includes built-in, full featured Text and Image WYSIWYG Editors
• Post-processing spell checker for all 11 languages
• Built-in Text-To-Speech software. How about OCR to MP3?
• Includes a built-in multi-lingual text translator
• Supports a Command Line Interface and a GUI
• Make a high performance document Search and Indexing system
• Browser Helper Mode supports creating free audio eBooks
• With TopOCR’s Web Engine it’s easy to add new features”

Link: http://www.topocr.com/

Another product, ABBYY FineReader, is a more polished commercial product that does the same thing.

Link: http://finereader.abbyy.com/

Gizmos approved by USOE for math in 2008 and now approved for Science in 2009. Gizmos 3rd - 12th grade math and science virtual online simulations and assessments, bring learning to Life.

2009 Intel Schools of Distinction Awards

Intel believes all students, everywhere, deserve to have the tools they need to become the next generation of innovators - and that good schools and good teachers are the foundation of student excellence.

Intel Schools of Distinction exemplify this excellence. The yearly Intel Schools of Distinction Awards recognize U.S. schools that demonstrate 21st century teaching and learning environments and implement innovative, replicable programs that inspire their students to excel in the areas of math and science.

Every year, Intel honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education as Intel Schools of Distinction. Eighteen schools – three elementary, three middle and three high schools in each of two categories – math and science – will be selected as Finalists, receiving a cash grant for $2,500 from the Intel Foundation. Six winners – one elementary, one middle and one high school in each of the two categories receive $10,000 cash grants and more than $100,000 in products and services from sponsors.

One of the six winning schools is chosen as the Star Innovator, and receives an additional $15,000 grant from the Intel Foundation as well as additional products and services.

In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards.

Winning programs serve as models for schools across the country. By replicating proven programs such as these, schools everywhere can reinvigorate their own science and mathematics programs, inspiring generations of future scientists and mathematicians.

Apply before February 17, 2009

Link: http://www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/application.htm
Link: http://www.intel.com/education/teach/index.htm?id=ed_nav+teach

JOIN THE UCET COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!

Did you know that UCET has a FaceBook page? We do! Please come join us in conversation, dialog, and fun!

Link: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2551225447

$2.2 million for safe school initiatives - Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students program supports the implementation and enhancement of integrated, comprehensive community-wide plans that create safe and drug-free schools and promote healthy childhood development. (eSchoolNews)

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 4, 2009

Link: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-31024.htm

$4,400 awards for summer seminars and institutes - Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers

Each year the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Division of Education Programs offers teachers opportunities to study humanities topics in a number of summer seminars and institutes. Seminar topics include Developing Cartographic Literacy with Historic Maps, Production and Consumption in World History, 1450-1914, and The History and Philosophy of the Peaceful Revolution in East-Central Europe. (eSchoolNews)

The application deadline is March 2, 2009 (postmark).

Link: http://www.neh.gov//projects/si-school.html

CDWG Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes

Educators are asked to enter their schools to win a Mobile Wireless Lab, which is valued between $41,658 and $41,957. Five grand-prize-winning schools will receive 20 notebook computers or Tablet PCs, a projector, a printer, a Promethean ACTIVboard and stand, A Promethean ACTIVote pack and wireless access points. (eSchoolNews)

Contest goes through May 1, 2009

Link: http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/1208/
Win up to $15,000 for innovative STEM programs - Innovation Generation

Motorola is calling for applications for the 2009 Innovation Generation Grants, the technology company’s signature giving program. Innovation Generation Grants support programs that inspire and cultivate the next generation of inventors and innovators by making science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) accessible and relatable to students at any age. In 2008, the Motorola Foundation’s Innovation Generation Grants supported more than 90 programs that use innovative approaches to develop students’ interest and skills in STEM. Of the recipient programs – ranging from after-school and summer science enrichment programs to activities that promote innovative technology use and teacher-training initiatives – 43 percent serve African American students, 23 percent reach Hispanic youth, and 35 percent reach girls. (eSchoolNews)

DEADLINE: February 15, 2009

Link: http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153

$5,000 for teachers to help improve academic achievement in students - Student Achievement Grants

The NEA Foundation provides grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area. The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students’ habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, software, or scholars-in-residence. Although some funds may be used to support the professional development necessary to implement the project, the majority of grant funds must be spent on materials or educational experiences for students.

Notification: Applications may be submitted at any time. Applicants are encouraged to plan ahead. Applications are reviewed three times per year, every year. (eSchoolNews)

Link: http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm

Free access to SAS online curriculum resources - SAS Curriculum Pathways

SAS Curriculum Pathways, which is used by thousands of teachers in more than 30 states, is now available for free to every educator in America. SAS Curriculum Pathways provides content in the core disciplines of English, mathematics, social studies, science and Spanish. Aligned with state standards, it has more than 200 InterActivities and 855 ready-to-use lessons that enable technology-rich instruction and engage higher-order thinking skills. It is primarily for use in grades 8-12, though middle school content is in development. (eSchoolNews)


Note: eSchoolnews is a wonderful site that focuses on educational technology issues, opportunities, grants and more. Sign up for eSchoolnews at http://www.eschoolnews.com. Photo courtesy of http://www.sxc.hu/photo/843566 - Stock.xchng.
UnderTheMicroscope - a New Website to Inspire and Help Young Women Scientists

The Feminist Press, City University of New York, and IBM recently collaborated to create UnderTheMicroscope.com. Their goal: to inform the public of the need for women in science-based fields.

From their website: “UnderTheMicroscope.com is the website of Women Writing Science, a project initiated by The Feminist Press at the City University of New York and funded by the National Science Foundation through the Graduate Center.

Women Writing Science seeks to celebrate the achievements of women while frankly discussing the challenges they face by publishing a series of books about women in science and providing a social networking site for students, working scientists, teachers, counselors, and parents. The site will encourage young women to take an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by interacting with peers, mentors, and professionals scientists. The site will also provide special features and information about useful resources, including other science-related projects.

Mission Statement

Because women are under represented in science, technology, engineering and math, the goals of UnderTheMicroscope.com website and the books to be published are:

- To increase for young women and the general public the visibility of women working in scientific fields and engineering.
- To raise awareness about how women enter scientific careers inside and outside traditional pathways.
- To provide young women with role models, images and accounts of women working in STEM fields.
- To provide young women with widespread access to essential STEM concepts in especially interesting and socially-relevant ways.
- To help parents and teachers use their influential positions and wisdom to encourage young women to pursue STEM fields.”

Link: http://www.underthemicroscope.com/
Virtual Math Manipulative - Calculator for Grades 1 & 2


Teaching children how to use a calculator? Let this site walk them through the process. An on-screen problem is shown to the student. The student must use the calculator to solve the problem. A yellow highlight shows the student which button on the calculator they need to press. The drill helps student understand how to input a math problem on a calculator.

![Calculator Image](image)

Add. Use the calculator to help.

52 + 45 = __

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Hand-Made Math Manipulatives Site

Link: [http://mason.gmu.edu/~mmankus/Handson/manipulatives.htm](http://mason.gmu.edu/~mmankus/Handson/manipulatives.htm)

Click on a link, print out the page, and make your own math manipulatives that students can use during math activities. Here's a list of what's there...

- Pattern Blocks
- Triangles, Squares, and Smaller Rhombus Cutouts
- Larger Rhombus Cutouts
- Trapezoids Cutouts
- Hexagon Cutouts
- Base-Ten Blocks - Set of ones, tens, and hundreds.
- Base-Five Blocks - Set of ones, fives, and twenties.
- XY-Blocks - Set of X, X2, XY, Y, and Y2 blocks. Each has a different shading. The shaded side can represent negative values.
- Attribute Blocks
- Rods
- Color Tiles
- References for making paper fraction strips.
- Graph Paper
- Pattern Block Grid Paper
- Geoboard Paper
- Graph Paper
- Polar Graph Paper

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A Variety of Virtual Math Manipulatives

Link: [http://www.arcytech.org/java/](http://www.arcytech.org/java/)

Enter each program, read the instructions, and play the game. There are Base 10 Blocks, Cuisenaire Rods, Fraction Bars, and Pattern Blocks.

![Virtual Math Manipulative](image)

ArithmAttack - Free Drill Game

Need to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division? ArithmAttack is a timed math drill. The page is a gift to the children and math students of the world from the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory.

Link: [http://www.dep.anl.gov/aattack.htm](http://www.dep.anl.gov/aattack.htm)

![ArithmAttack](image)

MathCar Racing from FunBrain


![MathCar Racing](image)
FunBrain has added new Flash-based games that are more interactive and colorful. In Math Arcade, for example - you are a bee. When you fly (mouse over) the cloud in the corner of the screen, the wind blows and releases a seed with a number attached to it. You fly down and grab the seed and drop it into the flower that contains the correct mathematical equation for the number.
Test Your Internet Connection at SpeakEasy

Are you concerned that your internet connection is too slow? You contact your internet service provider and they tell you everything is working great - it must be your computer. But you're sure it's your connection... SpeakEasy has a website that will test your connection speed. By measuring the download and upload rate from various locations you are able to accurately measure your current line throughput or internet connection speed. From their website...

“Speed Test — About Broadband Speed

Here's some information to help you understand your results.

There are a lot of things that factor into your speed test results. Download and upload speeds, backbones, networks, latency, ping times, and DNS servers.

Download - Download is a measure of how fast your connection delivers content to your computer or local area network.

Upload - Upload is the measure of how fast content is delivered from your computer or local area network to others on the Internet.

For businesses or power-users, download and upload speed should match or at least be very close. This is important for applications like VoIP, on-line gaming and other interactive programs. Upload speed is even more important if you are operating a server at your location. If achieving optimal upload speed is a concern, consider Ethernet, T1 or SDSL services.

Kbps - Kbps transfer rate = kilobit per second transfer rate. There are 8 bits in a byte, so we would divide kbps by 8 to get KB/sec transfer rate.

Transfer Rate - Transfer rate is speed at which data can be transmitted between devices. This is sometimes referred to as throughput. As files to download become increasingly larger, the highest data transfer rate is most desirable.

Latency - In a network, latency, a synonym for delay, is an expression of how much time it takes for a packet of data to get from one designated point to another. In some usages, latency is measured by sending a packet that is returned to the sender and the round-trip time is considered the latency. Low latency is extremely important for businesses and power-users.”

Link: http://speakeasy.net/speedtest/

Join NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., in celebrating Black History Month

Each week in February, a different African-American employee from GSFC will be featured. In the opening week, two will be featured. The employees will talk about their careers, career paths and, in some cases, obstacles and challenges they have faced.

• Week of Feb. 2 -- Dewayne Washington, Public Affairs Officer
• Week of Feb. 2 -- Noble Jones, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Engineer
• Week of Feb. 9 -- Denna Lambert, Disabilities Program Manager
• Week of Feb. 16 -- Danielle Wood, M.I.T. Ph.D. Student/NASA Researcher
• Week of Feb. 23 -- Jahi Wartts, Business Resource Analyst

Each day a two- to three-minute video clip of the NASA employees talking about their careers will be available at http://www.nasa.gov/goddard
Great Educational Resources from NASA

The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

2008 NASA Education Highlights

NASA is taking a leading role in the effort to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through its unique mission, workforce, facilities, research and innovations. NASA continues to pursue three major education goals: strengthening NASA’s and the nation’s future workforce, attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines, and engaging Americans in NASA’s mission. Read the highlights of NASA’s education strategy in pursuance of these goals. From collaborations with Disney to more than one million students’ participation in the NASA Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber, 2008 was a year to commemorate NASA’s 50th anniversary of exploration and a year of innovation.


Rockets Educator’s Guide -- Grades K-12

Few classroom topics generate as much excitement as rockets. The scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical foundations of rocketry provide exciting classroom opportunities for authentic hands-on, minds-on experimentation. The activities and lesson plans contained in this educator guide emphasize hands-on science, prediction, data collection and interpretation, teamwork, and problem solving. The guide also contains background information about the history of rockets and basic rocket science. The rocket activities in this guide support national curriculum standards for science, mathematics and technology.

The Rockets Educator Guide is available as a complete guide or can be downloaded in easy-to-use individual lesson plans.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Rockets.html

Space Faring: The Radiation Challenge Unit -- Grades 6-12

Space radiation can be an obstacle to exploration. In this teaching unit, students learn about the types of radiation, the types of damage to DNA caused by radiation and how to prevent exposure. The lesson plans in these units of study are hands-on investigations that encourage the use of science, mathematics, engineering, technology, problem solving and inquiry skills. The activities provide a general framework that can be modified based on student needs and classroom resources.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Space_Faring_Radiation.html

Meteorology: An Educator’s Resource for Inquiry-Based Learning -- Grades 5-9

Supplement your existing curricula with this guide. Many of the activities build upon each other. They use the inquiry from the previous activity to assist in the activity that follows. Thus, this publication enhances the understanding of meteorology by beginning with basic and essential parameters of weather and then moving through mind-engaging interactions with complex meteorological systems. Students will build and use weather instruments; then they will build a weather station. Students will collect weather information and combine it with existing information about cloud systems. They can then apply their knowledge to predict weather systems.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Meteorology_Guide.html

Ceres and Pluto: Dwarf Planets as a New Way of Thinking about an Old Solar System Teacher Guide -- Grades 5-8

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union defined the terms “planet” and “dwarf planet.” The IAU’s decision created an opportunity for students to understand the solar system better by considering the definitions of planet, dwarf planet and asteroid. New discoveries in the solar system require a change in the language used to discuss it. This activity uses direct vocabulary instruction to help students learn these new definitions.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Ceres_and_Pluto_Dwarf_Planets.html
Wordle - A Word Cloud Generator

Link: http://www.wordle.net

From the website: “Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

The images you create with Wordle are yours to use in any way you choose. You may print T-Shirts, business cards, brochures, what have you. On the other hand, when you place an image in the gallery, anyone else can use it too! So if you want to keep it to yourself, print it out without saving it.

You may take a Wordle, put it on your book cover, your t-shirt, your campaign poster, what have you. You may get rich off it. Just tell people how you made the image, or, if you’re using one from the gallery, where you got it.”

One interesting thing to do is to copy and paste a student composition into wordle and evaluate the most prominent words. Then take the most prominent words and create a poem from them.

Most of you may have seen the 2009 UCET poster we created in Wordle. You have many choices of colors, fonts, and layout. I’m sure you’ll have fun using this website.

Some Final Thoughts for February...

There’s so much out there for teachers and students! I could write newsletter 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and hardly scratch the surface! As UCET’s newsletter and website board member, I hope that you find these resources useful.

Of course, I hope you know that I’d love to hear back from you. What resources are you looking for? What great resources do you use in your classroom? What success stories have you to share about using technology to “turn on the lights” in students’ minds?

I think we’re going to see a big push from the current administration to infuse technology into our classrooms. I’m not sure what form this will take, but I think we need to keep an open mind about how we can teach smarter, more effectively, and more efficiently with technology.

Please feel free to drop me a line...Nathan.Smith@usu.edu

Be sure to come to UCET 2009 March 6-7!

One of my professional roles is serving as Director of one of NASA’s Educational Resource Centers. NASA recently sent me two new lithographs that I’ve added to this newsletter as a special bonus this month. For more NASA educational resources, please visit... http://www.nasa.gov
Diverse Galaxies
A Universe of Diverse Galaxies

Galaxies come in an assortment of shapes, sizes, ages and colors. The galactic hodgepodge seen in the image on the front from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope highlights the diversity of our universe. The image contains thousands of galaxies. Some of the largest galaxies are members of a small cluster of galaxies called Abell S0740.

The golden ball of light, to the left and slightly above center, that dominates the image is an elliptical galaxy. Elliptical galaxies are stellar retirement homes. They mainly contain aging stars, and are no longer giving birth to new generations of stars. This oval galaxy, named ESO 325-G004, is packed with a few hundred billion stars. Stars are clumped tightly in the center of the galaxy and are sprinkled sparingly on the edges. They are spread out so much in the outskirts of the galaxy that it is transparent — the light of distant galaxies shines through.

The glittering whirlpool in the bottom, right corner of the image is a spiral galaxy. Sweeping arms speckled with young blue stars coil out from the galaxy's bulging middle. Spiral galaxies are rich in dust and gas, the two important ingredients for making new stars.

Our own Milky Way Galaxy is a spiral galaxy. We view the Milky Way from inside it, and cannot get a bird's-eye view of the whole structure. Observing distant spiral galaxies, like this one, gives us the chance to better understand what our home galaxy looks like.

Many more elliptical and spiral galaxies are sprinkled throughout the background. Some of the spiral galaxies are slanted — their flat spiral disks are seen edge-on with their centers protruding like eggs cooked sunny-side up. Others appear face-on from our viewpoint and look like pinwheels.

In the image on the front, a number of stars within the Milky Way appear in the foreground. Individual stars can be distinguished from galaxies because they appear to have narrow crosses of light protruding from them. The cross pattern is not real but is produced by the telescope’s optics. The foreground blue stars are young and hot. The red stars are older and cooler.

Galaxies far outnumber the individual stars seen in the image. The section of sky in this view is no wider than a pencil tip, but extends 450 million light-years into outer space. In this narrow slice of sky, astronomers see a wide variety of galaxies. They are typical of the rich diversity of galaxies in our universe.
In Search of ... Galaxy Types

Description
Use the “Diverse Galaxies” lithograph as the initial source of information to engage your students in a Level One Inquiry activity. Students will use the images and text to generate questions about the diverse collection of galaxies on the front of the lithograph. They will conduct research to answer their questions, identify patterns, and/or compare and contrast galaxy characteristics. This curriculum support tool is designed to be used as an introductory activity in a unit that has a scientific inquiry and/or a galaxy classification theme.

About Inquiry-based Learning:
The inquiry process is driven by a student’s own curiosity, wonder, interest, or passion to understand an observation or solve a problem. It involves a process of exploring the natural or material world. This exploration prompts students to ask questions and make discoveries in the search for new insights. A Level One Inquiry activity uses questions and problem-solving methods directed by the teacher. In this activity, teachers use the lithograph images to help students formulate questions about galaxy characteristics. Teachers suggest selected resources about galaxies to help students answer their questions, discern patterns, and/or compare galaxy characteristics. Students provide supporting evidence for their conclusions. This process can help prepare students to be more independent thinkers. Note: The preparation section below can direct you to resources for inquiry-based learning.

Grade Level
Middle–high school, grades 6–12

Prerequisites
Students should be aware that galaxies are groups of stars, gas, and dust held together by gravity.

Misconceptions
Teachers should be aware of the following common misconceptions and determine whether their students harbor any of them. Students may think all galaxies are the same size, shape, and color, and/or that most galaxies can be viewed without the aid of a telescope. In addition, students may not comprehend the vastness of the universe nor the number of galaxies it contains.

Purpose
The purpose of this activity is for students to participate in a Level One Inquiry-based activity using astronomical images and information. Students will gain experience using the Internet to search for information. They will practice the process skills of pattern recognition and comparing and contrasting. Students will organize their material and present a report. Students then will reflect on their learning.

Materials
• “Diverse Galaxies” lithograph
• Computer with Internet connection for researching galaxy characteristics.

Instructions for the Teacher
Preparation
• Obtain a lithograph for each student. The lithograph is available as a PDF file at: http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/capture/galaxies/preview-diverse-galaxies.php.
• Preview the Overview page found at: http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/eds/overviews/print/lithos/diverse-galaxies.php. Use the “Related Materials” section to (1) become familiar with inquiry-based learning and/or (2) familiarize yourself with the galaxy types.
• Note that a similar list of “Related Websites” can be found on the preview page for the lithograph: http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/capture/galaxies/preview-diverse-galaxies.php. Identify the appropriate Websites for your students to use.

Procedure
Before beginning this activity, evaluate your students’ misconceptions about galaxies by having them write down anything they know and understand about this topic. Use these statements to
evaluate your students' misconceptions in one of two ways. Have students volunteer their ideas about galaxies. From those ideas, identify their misconceptions and discuss them with the class. An alternative is to collect their written ideas about galaxies. From those ideas, compile a list of their misconceptions and discuss them with the class.

Ask students to look at the image of the galaxies on the front of the lithograph, and write three questions about the features visible in the image. Collect these questions and group them by common themes. Ask students to read the information on the back of the lithograph. Then ask them if they found the answers to any of their questions. Using the Internet, have students research their questions. The Internet sites listed on the preview page provide a starting point for their research. Tell students how to access other Websites.

Ask students to prepare a report in which they answer their questions, identify patterns, and/or compare and contrast galaxy characteristics. This report could be in the form of a slide show, a skit, a story, a graphic organizer, a Power Point presentation, or a written report—anything that conveys a student's understanding of the topic to another student, a group of students, or the entire class. Ask students to review their original questions to see if they were answered during their research or from talking with other students. Then ask them if they have any additional questions.

Instructions for the Student

Your teacher will ask you to write down things you know and understand about galaxies. You may be asked to share this information with the rest of the class. Study the image of the galaxies, and write down three questions about what you see in the image. Then read the back of the lithograph, and check if any of your questions were answered.

Using your questions as a guide, conduct an Internet research to find the answers to your questions, identify patterns, and/or compare and contrast galaxy characteristics as directed by your teacher. Your teacher also will guide your search by providing some Websites to use. To demonstrate your understanding of the material you researched, your teacher will ask you to present a report. This report could be in the form of a slide show, a skit, a story, a graphic organizer, a Power Point presentation, or whatever presentation you think will communicate the information you learned about the galaxies. You can work individually or in small groups. You can make your presentations to another classmate, another group of students, or the entire class.

Education Standards

Project 2061

http://www.project2061.org/publications/bsl/online/bolintro.htm

4. The Physical Setting
   A. The Universe
      By the end of the 8th grade, students should know that
      • The sun is a medium-sized star located near the edge of a disk-shaped galaxy of stars, part of which can be seen as a glowing band of light that spans the sky on a very clear night. The universe contains many billions of galaxies, and each galaxy contains many billions of stars. To the naked eye, even the closest of these galaxies is no more than a dim, fuzzy spot.

   1. The Nature of Science

B. Scientific Inquiry
   By the end of the 12th grade, students should know that:
   • Sometimes, scientists can control conditions in order to obtain evidence. When that is not possible for practical or ethical reasons, they try to observe as wide a range of natural occurrences as possible to be able to discern patterns.
Ancient Supernova Explosion Creates “Ribbon of Light”

In 1006 A.D., observers from Africa to Europe to the Far East witnessed and recorded the arrival of a “new star” that appeared suddenly in the sky. For several weeks, people could see the star with unaided eyes even during the day, and it remained visible for about 2½ years before fading away. It is likely the brightest star ever observed by humans.

Astronomers now know the object’s true identity. It was a star that exploded as a supernova, called SN1006, about 7,000 light-years from Earth in the constellation Lupus.

The stellar explosion sent a blast wave racing outward through space at nearly 20 million miles an hour for a thousand years. The blast wave is sweeping up and heating any interstellar gas and dust in its path. Today we see a “supernova remnant,” a large, nebulous bubble some 60 light-years across, surrounding the site of this explosion.

The Hubble picture shown on the front is a close-up view of a tiny portion of this expanding blast wave. As hydrogen atoms are caught up in the blast wave, they emit wisps of light that are perceived by Hubble’s camera as a faint ribbon of light. The hydrogen atoms then quickly become ionized and stop emitting light. Thus, Hubble sees a “snapshot” of how the expanding blast wave appears at any given instant. The orange-colored dots in the image are background galaxies, and the white points of light are background and foreground stars in our Milky Way Galaxy.

The “ribbon of light” is actually a bit of an optical illusion. The ribbon actually has depth. It appears like a ribbon because Hubble is looking almost exactly along the edge of the expanding bubble.

Astronomers have observed the SN 1006 remnant in many different wavelengths of light, each of which reveals different aspects of the supernova remnant. They have combined the observations to make a complete picture of the bubble-shaped object. This full view is shown in the image at right.

Interestingly, the optical emission is only visible along one section of this huge expanding bubble. The blast wave is exciting and ionizing the hydrogen gas in that area, making the gas glow in visible light. Even though the blast wave is still expanding at 6 million miles per hour, it takes years between observations to detect any motion of the ribbon filament against the background stars because it is so far away.

Credit for Hubble image: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA). Acknowledgment: W. Blair (Johns Hopkins University)

VOCABULARY

Blast wave: The leading edge of energy produced by a stellar explosion.

Ionization: The process of removing electrons from neutral atoms.


The corresponding classroom activity for this lithograph can be found at: http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/ or may be obtained by contacting the Office of Public Outreach at the Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218.
Welcome to the March 2009 UCET Newsletter!

There's lots happening! The biggest, most exciting thing is the UCET Conference happening on March 6 & 7, 2009 at the Taylorsville High School. Don’t miss out on this great conference! If you want to learn how to use technology to improve education, this is the place to attend!

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Tim Tyson will deliver the keynote address at UCET 2009! Here’s a little information about Dr. Tyson from the Mabry website:

Link: http://mabryonline.org/

“Dr. Tim Tyson is the Principal of Mabry Middle School. He earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois and has been in the field of education for over 25 years. A technology enthusiast, Dr. Tyson began the Mabry Film Festival, when he arrived at Mabry in 2001, as a way to help teachers and students infuse technology into highly engaging learning practices for students.

When he is not traveling, reading, dabbling with photography, digital video, or on the computer, he enjoys arranging and composing music. In fact, most people don’t know that he is a published composer. He values creating more beauty in our world in all of the many different forms it can take.

He believes that the most beautiful thing in the world, which is closest to his heart, is helping children reach their highest potential. He challenges students to work hard and do their very best, to strive, to learn and to achieve, to create knowledge and solutions, and to rigorously pursue goals with the utmost integrity so that our world will be a better place for everyone.”

This issue of the newsletter contains a number of helpful tutorials: How to use Google forms to collect data and surveys; how to use Google docs to work collaboratively on papers, spreadsheets, and presentations; how to use TechSmith’s free Jing to capture screens and computer videos; how to use Acrobat Pro to create searchable PDFs from photos or scans of text; and how to use Acrobat Pro to embed audio and video into your PDF documents and add more interactivity. We’re sure you’ll enjoy this issue of the UCET newsletter. See you at the conference!
Have you ever wanted to invite a group of people to respond to questions via email? Do you wish that all the replies could automatically be assembled into a spreadsheet format, so you didn’t have to copy and paste everything into a format that was useful to you? Through Google Docs, you can easily create a questionnaire or survey, and then invite others to respond. All responses are assembled automatically into a Google Docs spreadsheet, which you can save to your computer as an Excel spreadsheet. Let’s show you how this is done. You’ll need a free GMail account to do this...

Get a free GMail Account:  http://www.gmail.com

Once you’re logged in to your GMail account, click on “Documents” in the upper-left portion of your browser page.

Now you’re in the documents section...

Now on to the questions. The yellow section indicates a question you are editing. You’ll see three icons in the upper-right corner. The pencil icon stands for EDIT, the two papers icon stands for DUPLICATE, and of course, the trash icon means DELETE.

Give the question a title, and any help text that needs to accompany that question. Choose what type of a question it will be. Your choices are text, paragraph text, multiple choice, checkboxes, choose from a list, and answer on a scale from 1-n.

You also have the option of making the question required (must answer) or optional. When finished, click the DONE button.

You can see how your respondents will see your questionnaire by clicking the save button at the top, and then clicking the link, “You can view the published form at...” at the bottom of the page. Your form will open in a new window or tab. Close the window or tab to get back to the form editor.

If you need more questions, click ADD QUESTION at the top of the editor. Continue to add questions in this manner until you have completed your survey or questionnaire. At any time you can return to earlier questions (the question area will turn yellow as you mouse over each question) and click to get the EDIT, DUPLICATE, and DELETE icons for that question.

Once you have completed your form, you can publish it in a number of ways. You can email it to a list of people. See the illustration at the top of the next page...
Email addresses are separated by commas in your list. I added my email address and sent the form to me. I also checked the box, “Include form in the email.” As you can see from my email I received, my email program didn’t see the form, but not to worry, the link to the online form is always included.

If you have your own website, you can copy and add that link to a webpage as well. This is especially useful if you don’t want to limit your respondents to just your email list.

After you’ve published your form, you can return to it at any time in your GMail account. Go to the documents and you’ll see your form in your list...

Click on the form and it will open as a spreadsheet in a new tab or window...

You can also go back to editing your form, stop accepting responses, or see a summary of the form responses in the FORM menu...

In spreadsheet format, you have many options. If you’d like to embed your form in a website or on a blog, after you create your form and save it, click the More Actions button at the top of the editor (you can get to the editor again from the forms menu), and select the Embed option in the menu that drops down. To edit the confirmation message that the person filling out your form will see after submitting their response. Click the More Actions button at the top of the editor, and then select the Edit confirmation option in the menu that drops down.

While in the spreadsheet, you can:

- Insert columns to contain your own content next to form responses, such as for calculations, notes, or lookups.
- Insert Rows of information at the top - below the column headers (questions) and ABOVE the area where data is collected. The form responses will always be inserted in the first available/blank row.
- Insert new sheets or move sheets. Responses will continue to be automatically entered in the same sheet.

You can export your spreadsheet in the following formats...
Google Docs forms give you a powerful, free tool to collect data. Think of the ways you could use it. Here’s just a few examples:

- A computer lab manager at a school needs to get permission from every parent for their child to use the internet at school. This also includes going through and checking that they’ve read the acceptable use policy. Why not do it online with a Google form?
- A teacher wants to do an anonymous survey of student reactions to a teaching unit.
- A principle wants to do an anonymous survey of faculty opinions on a sensitive topic.

The sky is the limit. Web 2 applications such as this can make our jobs easier, can help us be more productive, and can get us needed information and present it to us in useful ways.

As a final bonus, you can share the spreadsheet with selected people, so they can view the results, collaborate with you by allowing them to make changes to the spreadsheet, and more.
Collaborating with Others Using Google Docs - Tutorial

Google Docs provides a great set of free tools that allow you to word process, do spreadsheets, create PowerPoint-Like presentations, create questionnaires and forms, and more. One great service these tools provide is the ability to share your documents and collaborate with others. (Source: Google Docs Help)

Here’s what you can do with documents:

• Upload Word documents, OpenOffice, RTF, HTML or text (or create documents from scratch).
• Use a simple WYSIWYG editor to format your documents, spell-check them, etc.
• Invite others (by e-mail address) to edit or view your documents and spreadsheets.
• Edit documents online with whomever you choose.
• View your documents’ and spreadsheets’ revision history and roll back to any version.
• Publish documents online to the world, as Web pages or post documents to your blog.
• Download documents to your desktop as Word, OpenOffice, RTF, PDF, HTML or zip.
• Email your documents out as attachments.

Here’s what you can do with spreadsheets:

• Import and export of .xls, .csv, .txt and .ods formatted data (and export functionality for .pdf and html).
• Enjoy intuitive navigation and editing, like any traditional document or spreadsheet.
• Use formatting and formula editing in spreadsheets so you can calculate results and make your data look the way you want it.
• Chat in real time with others who are editing your spreadsheet.
• Embed a spreadsheet, or a piece of a spreadsheet, in your blog or website.

Here’s what you can do with presentations:

• Share and edit presentations with your friends and coworkers.
• Import existing presentations in .ppt and .pps file types.
• Export your presentations using the Save as PDF and Save as PPT features from the File menu.
• Edit your presentations using our simple WYSIWYG editor.
• Insert images and videos, and format your slides to fit your preferences.
• Allow real-time viewing of presentations, online, from separate remote locations.
• Publish and embed your presentations in a website, allowing access to a wide audience.

When you share a file you’ve created in Google Docs, you can invite others to be owners, collaborators, or viewers.

Owners

• Can edit documents, spreadsheets and presentations, and invite more collaborators and viewers.
• Can delete documents, spreadsheets and presentations, and thereby remove access for collaborators and viewers. Please note: To fully delete a document, spreadsheet or presentation, and remove access to it, you must delete it and then Empty Trash.

Collaborators

• Can edit documents, spreadsheets and presentations.
• Can invite or delete other collaborators and viewers (if the owner has given them permission).
• Can export a copy of the document, spreadsheet or presentations to their local hard drive.

Viewers

• Can see the most recent version of a document, spreadsheet or presentation, but can’t make any changes.
• Can export a copy of the document, spreadsheet or presentation to their local hard drive.

Access with Google Accounts

Documents and spreadsheets: if they are published, or accessed by invitation, anyone can view them without a Google Account.

Presentations: anyone can view if they are published. If a user is invited, a Google Account is needed.

Sharing: Adding viewers and collaborators

There are two ways you can share your Google Docs: from your Docs list or directly from a document, spreadsheet, or presentation.

Sharing from the Docs list:

• From the Docs list, select the checkbox next to the item(s) you want to share and click More Actions-Manage Sharing.
• Enter the email addresses of the people or mailing lists that you’d like to add.
• Choose as Collaborators or as Viewers from the drop-down list.
• Add a message and click Send Invitation (this is optional).
At this time, PDFs can only be shared from the Docs list, not from the PDF preview.

Sharing directly from a document or presentation:

- Click Share > Share with others. You’ll then see the same share dialog as illustrated on the last page.
- Select as Collaborators or as Viewers, depending on your preference.
- Enter the email addresses or mailing lists that you’d like to add.
- Click Invite collaborators or Invite viewers.
- If you’d like to add a message to your invitation, input your text in the box that appears and click Send. To skip sending an invitation, click Cancel. Your collaborators and viewers will still be able to access the doc from their Docs lists, but they won’t receive an email invitation.

Sharing directly from a spreadsheet:

- Click the Share > Invite people…
- Select To edit or To view, depending on your preference.
- Enter the email addresses or mailing lists that you’d like to add.
- If you’d like to add a message to your invitation, input your text and click Send. To skip sending an invitation, click Add without sending invitation. Your collaborators and viewers will still be able to access the doc from their Docs lists, but they won’t receive an email invitation.

Please note that the following sharing restrictions apply:

Limits for documents and presentations: 200 combined viewers and collaborators can be explicitly shared with; however, publishing your doc grants people access without the need to specifically invite them. 10 people may edit and/or view at any given time.

Limits for spreadsheets: 200 combined viewers and collaborators can be explicitly shared with; however, publishing your doc grants people access without the need to specifically invite them. 50 people may edit and/or view at any given time.

Collaborating: About collaboration

Google Docs enables multiple users in different locations to collaborate simultaneously on the same project. This is what is meant by “collaboration.”

For example, when Alice in New York enters something into her document, spreadsheet or presentation, Meredith in Los Angeles can see the changes in real time and respond to them immediately. Instead of having to compare and consolidate their individual files, both women edit a single document. Plus, editing is possible from any computer with Internet access.

You can access and view a document without a Google Account (via an invitation), but you’ll need to have a Google Account to continue accessing and to edit the document. If you already have a Google Account, simply sign in with your username/password combination and begin collaborating with Google Docs.

Google Apps users, please sign in with your Google Apps account at ‘http://docs.google.com/a/yourdomain.com.’ Make sure to replace ‘yourdomain.com’ with your domain name.

Collaborating: Simultaneous editing and viewing

Documents:

If you and another collaborator are editing the same document at the same time, a box at the bottom left of the screen will appear, telling you the name of the collaborator(s) you’re working with.

10 people can edit a document at the same time. Once this simultaneous collaborator user limit has been reached, additional users will be able to view, not edit the document. However, you can share a document with 200 people (whether you add collaborators or viewers, the total cannot exceed 200 people).

Spreadsheets:

If multiple people are editing or viewing the same spreadsheet at the same time, the Discuss tab will open and you will see the names of those people listed. From here, you can chat with these people about changes being made to the spreadsheet, or anything else you’d like.

A total of 50 people can edit a spreadsheet simultaneously. You can share a spreadsheet with 200 collaborators and/or viewers.

Presentations:

If more than one person is editing a presentation at once, the names of your simultaneous collaborators will be displayed in the bottom-right corner. You’ll also be able to chat with other viewers and collaborators in View presentation mode (available in the upper-right corner of the edit page).

10 people can edit a presentation at the same time. However, you can share a presentation with 200 people (whether you add collaborators or viewers, the total cannot exceed 200 people).

You can publish if you’d like a faster way to share a document, spreadsheet or presentation with viewers. When you publish, you put the file online where people can view it (but not edit it). You send out the URL and anyone who clicks the link can instantly see your doc.

We’d love to learn how you’re collaborating. You can now show off your finished doc by editing our knol (a knol is an authoritative article about a specific topic).

Collaborating: Using chat in spreadsheets

The chat window is a convenient way for you to see who else is viewing and editing a spreadsheet. Most importantly, the chat window enables you to chat with other collaborators about the changes you’re making, in real time.

Additionally, when collaborators join or someone sends a chat message, you’ll receive a notification message that will pop up on
Collaborating: Publishing your docs

In Google Docs, publishing allows you to make your document available to the whole world. Once you publish your document, spreadsheet or presentation to a web page, you are given a URL. After this, anyone you choose can access your document by linking to it through the URL. Robots and spiders can’t get to your documents, spreadsheets or presentations, which means they won’t appear in any search index.

To publish your documents, click on the Share drop-down menu on the top right and choose Publish as web page. On the next screen, click on Publish document (Publish now in Spreadsheets.)

Please note, at this time it is not possible to publish PDFs.

Collaborating: Removing collaborators

If you’re the owner of a document, presentation or a spreadsheet, you can add and remove collaborators and viewers as much and as often as you like.

If you’re a collaborator, you can add and remove other collaborators as long as the document’s owner has allowed you permission.

To remove collaborators from Documents and Presentations:
• Sign in to Google Docs and open the document in question.
• Click the Share tab in the top-right corner of the page. For documents, click on the Share drop-down menu and choose Share with others.
• Under This document is currently shared, click the X to the right of the name you’d like to remove. If you don’t see this option, you don’t have the authority to remove collaborators. After clicking the X, the collaborator you wish to remove will no longer have access to this document, spreadsheet or presentation.

To remove collaborators from Spreadsheets:
• Sign in to Google Docs and open the spreadsheet in question.
• Click the Share tab in the top-right corner of the page and then See who has access.
• Under People with access, click the drop-down menu to the right of the name you’d like to remove and select None. Click Save and close. If you don’t see this option, you don’t have permissions to remove collaborators.
• After you select None, the collaborator you wish to remove will no longer have access to this spreadsheet.

Sharing a document, spreadsheet or presentation with the world

Publish any doc to the Web by clicking the SHARE menu in the upper-right corner of the Edit page. For documents, click the Share drop-down menu and select Publish as web page. You’ll obtain a URL that allows anyone, with or without a Google Account, to access and view your published document.

Please note that Google is constantly at work adding features - and as they do the interface may change somewhat. The instructions in the tutorial may become outdated in time - but should give you the general idea of what to do to collaborate on your Google docs.
Jing Free: Screencasts and Screen Captures - Tutorial

Many of you have wanted to capture a portion of what is showing on your computer’s monitor, and then save it as a picture file. I use this technique often when I create tutorials on how to use software. A picture IS sometimes worth a thousand words. Also, it’s nice to capture what’s happening on your computer-and save it as a video file. This is where Jing, from TechSmith Corporation, comes in handy. What can you do with Jing?

• Collaborate on a design project
• Share a screen snapshot
• Narrate your vacation photos
• Capture that pesky bug in action
• Show your students how to do a task in Word
• Comment verbally on students’ homework

Jing has a free version and a paid professional version. The professional version has features the free version doesn’t. The Pro version allows you to save files in MP4 format as well as SWF, whereas the free version only saves SWF (Flash Video) files. The Pro version compresses video into smaller files. Pro lets you upload directly to YouTube. And Pro takes the JING ads off.

Both versions limit you to a five minute video recording.

That said, let’s show you how to use the product. First, you’ll need to download Jing...

Link: http://www.jingproject.com/

Jing is available for Windows or Macintosh. For Windows, follow the installation instructions after double-clicking the install application. Mac users, Jing downloads as a disk image file (.DMG file.) Double-click the .dmg file to mount the disk image. Then you can either click the script button to automatically install everything, or you can drag the Jing application to your applications folder yourself. Now that Jing is installed, let’s learn how to use it.

First of all, as you’re installing Jing, you’ll be asked to set up a ScreenCast account. This is a must if you want to use Jing. Quoting from the Jing website: “Screencast.com is TechSmith’s media hosting solution. Jing uses Screencast.com to securely host your content since it’s perfect for the kind of images and videos you’ll want to make with Jing. We also use Screencast.com so we can give everyone a free, secure hosting option that enables the fastest visual communication possible!

• Does Jing only work with Screencast.com? No. You can upload content to your own FTP server, save images and video to your computer, and more.
• Is Screencast.com free for Jing users? Yes. We give you 2 GB of storage, and 2 GB of bandwidth per month.
• Is Screencast.com private? Yes. Your content on Screencast.com is your business. (You can make it public if you want to.)

Screencast.com offers a ton of other benefits as well:

• Video and image quality is lossless. That means that Screencast.com doesn’t mess with your content. No compression, no loss of quality, no resizing.
• You have great control over the privacy level of your content.
• Allow viewers to comment on your content.
• Screencast.com lets you create MediaRolls and Playlists—a nice way to put a lot of content in one convenient place for viewers—and when you update it, viewers have the option to be automatically notified.
• Screencast.com returns convenient, small links to your content. They’re easy to paste or even re-type if someone has to.
• Return embed code automatically. This is great for bloggers or people that want to provide viewers with Jing images or videos right on their site. (As opposed of a user having to click a link and leave the page.)
• Attach files to your content. For example, allow people to view your Jing video and download an accompanying PDF or ZIP file.
• Track the number of times people have viewed your content. You can even sort by what’s most or least popular.”

After you’ve set up your account, and logged into Jing’s Screencast.com site – you’re ready to do some capturing. Jing has a very easy-to-use help section, with screen captures and videos to walk you through about every thing Jing can do...

Link: http://help.jingproject.com/

Now that Jing is running on your computer, you’ll notice a sun icon at the top of your screen...

When you mouse-over the sun, three “pseudopods” appear. The first is capture. This is what you click when you wish to capture a screen, a window, or a portion of your screen. Your cursor turns into a cross hair. Draw a rectangle of the portion of the screen you wish to capture. (See the illustration at the top of the next page.)
Once you've selected the area you wish, let go of the mouse button and a dialog will appear that lets you choose to capture a picture or a movie (screen cast) of what's happening on your monitor. The button on the left captures a picture. The next button captures a screen cast.

If you capture an image, you'll see the screen below. The tools on the left side allow you to add shapes and annotations on your image. Think of it as a mini-drawing program. You can add text, arrows, shapes, or freehand drawing - as well as select the color for each element you add.

Just below the image is a spot where you can name your file. The buttons below the filename field are, from left to right:

- Share your capture on Screencast.com. Your free Screencast.com account allows you 2GB of storage space, and up to 2GB bandwidth per month. When you upload to screencast.com, a link to your file is returned and placed on your clipboard.
- Save your Jing capture to your hard drive.
- Copy the image to the computer's clipboard - so you can paste it into another program such as Word or PowerPoint.
- Cancel
- Button Options: Here you can set up your own buttons such as upload to Flickr, upload to YouTube (Pro version only), save to a specific location on your hard drive, or upload via FTP to your own site.

If you choose to capture a screen cast, you'll have some different options...

You'll see a countdown (3...2...1). Click the microphone button to toggle audio capture on or off. Jing only captures the microphone input. After the countdown Jing starts recording what's happening on your screen in real time.

Again, you are limited to five minutes of screen recording time. If you need to do more than this, you can capture what you need to do in multiple sessions. Once finished with your screen cast capture, click the stop button on the left, and Jing will show you a preview of your recording, also with the same save options (minus the clipboard one) as explained with the still images.
Screen cast files in Jing Free are saved as SWF files - or flash videos. The easiest way to play these files is in your web browser. You can drag a JING .swf file right on the browser’s window, and it will play. Or you can go to the FILE menu and open the file. If you have a web site, you can upload these files and link directly to them and they will play in your browser when clicked...

Since they are flash files, they contain all the programming they need to play within your browser. You may need to install the free Flash player if you don’t already have it installed on your computer.

Flash Player Link: http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/

The “More” option in Jing gets you to the Jing preferences. Here you can set a hotkey to invoke Jing. You can change your Jing account information. If you have the Pro version of Jing, this is where you choose the video format you wish to save screen casts with. You also have the option of turning off the “Launch on startup” that Jing prefers.

My personal preference is to turn off the “Launch at startup” option. Launching Jing automatically makes your computer’s startup time longer. Jing uses memory resources even when you don’t use Jing. So I prefer to launch the application by hand, when I choose to.

As well, the “More” option is another place you can add customized buttons to your Jing save screens, such as a button for uploading images to Flickr, FTPing to your own site, etc.

Overall, Jing is a very good program for the purpose it serves. It has a friendly, easy-to-use interface. It’s great for doing quick tutorials, or sharing something you’ve captured on screen.

As I mentioned earlier, you can’t get computer audio in your screen casts - only the microphone input. So if you don’t want your own narration, you can get around this using a patch cable to connect from the headphone jack into the microphone jack. Microphone inputs are extremely sensitive, so you’ll want the computer volume control turned almost all the way down or you’ll get some serious audio distortion. I set it at its lowest possible level without muting it. Once you’ve connected the two, do your screen cast, and you’ll capture the computer’s audio.

Be sure to visit the Jing help site for even more help on using this program.

Other Free/Paid Applications that Capture Screens:

SnapzPro: http://www.ambrosiasw.com/utilities/snapzprox/
Camtasia Studio: http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.asp?CMP =KgoogleCShome&gclid=CKq9oZIIU5SgCFQ6jagod9xZVcg
CamStudio: http://camstudio.org/
AviScreen: http://www.bobyte.com/
Copernicus: http://danicsoft.com/projects/copernicus/
ScreenCast-o-matic: http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/
Wink: http://www.debugmode.com/wink/
AllCapture: http://www.allcapture.com/eng/index.php
HyperCam: http://www.hyperionics.com/
ishowU: http://www.shinywhitebox.com/home/home.html
Screen Mimic: http://www.decimus.net/ScreenMimic.php
From Doodle's FAQ page (edited somewhat to conserve space): Doodle helps finding suitable dates and times for group events, e.g., an appointment, a conference call, a family reunion, etc. Doodle is particularly easy to use – and passes the „grandma-test“.

In addition to scheduling events, Doodle also supports polls in general. That is, groups can conveniently decide on options other than dates: as a reservation tool for a shared holiday home, for the exercise planning of your sports club, for instance, or to find out who travels to the company excursion by train and who by car as well as who has space left in the car. With Doodle you can also vote quickly and easily on the movie for the next DVD-night, the logo for the new web presence or the restaurant for the Christmas dinner.

The Swiss-based company Doodle AG runs Doodle. Numerous volunteers contribute to Doodle.

How much does Doodle cost? Nothing, Doodle is a free service.

But you can support Doodle by using it as your advertising platform or by renting Branded Doodle for your organization.

Can I use Doodle from my mobile phone? Sure, MobileDoodle is available at m.doodle.com.

If you open www.doodle.com on your mobile phone, we ask you to switch into MobileDoodle or remain in the standard Doodle Mode. MobileDoodle is optimized for small screens.

How can I edit or delete my answer? On the poll page, simply follow the “Edit an entry” or “Delete an entry” function below the poll table.

Why can I change / delete the poll entries of others? You can change entries because Doodle doesn't authenticate the user – in order to keep the service as simple as possible. When someone enters „Heather“ as the user name, Doodle doesn't know whetheer it's Heather herself at the next visit. Therefore users can change the entries of other users. Doodle relies generally on cooperative behaviour of all users. Normally that's the case in reality. If you want to prevent changes of participants you can choose a „hidden poll“. Another way to protect your vote is to participate while being logged into your MyDoodle-Account.

How can I delete a poll? When you created the poll, Doodle sent you a so-called admin link. It can be used to modify or delete the poll. You can also just ignore a poll you no longer need, Doodle deletes outdated polls from time to time. Please refer to the Policy for additional information.

How do I poll for a date range? Click on “Make choice“ instead of “Schedule event“ on Doodle's home page. On the 2nd wizard page enter textual descriptions of the date ranges you want to poll for.

Why is Doodle called “Doodle”? For starters, “Doodle” is a short word that is easy to remember. Furthermore, “Doodle” sounds fun - and that's what Doodle is supposed to be! Finally, “Doodle” is an English term and means “casual scribble”, “casual design”, or “casual sketch”. While Doodle is not a drawing service, it indeed makes scheduling events so simple as to make this an almost casual task.
Tutorial - Using Acrobat Pro to Scan Documents with Text Recognition

Have you ever wanted to scan a pile of documents and change them into editable text? Or create a PDF file that you can search? Most digital cameras today are 5 megapixels or better - and have a text mode, where you can snap a good photo of a page of text. Using these photos or a scanner can bring the text into Acrobat Pro, where OCR (optical character recognition) can be performed on the image.

If you have Acrobat 9 Pro or the free Acrobat 9 Reader, you can watch two videos on this page. Click each video window to enable it. Acrobat will ask you if you wish to allow this. Say, yes, then click the play button to begin viewing. If you don’t have Acrobat 9, click the links below to view these flash videos directly in your browser.

Link: Creating a PDF in Acrobat Pro with a Scanner – [http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/training2/acrobat/Acrobat_Capture_to_PDF_with_OCR.swf](http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/training2/acrobat/Acrobat_Capture_to_PDF_with_OCR.swf)

Link: Recognizing text in an already scanned file with Acrobat Pro - [http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/training2/acrobat/Acrobat_Capture_to_PDF_with_OCR2.swf](http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/training2/acrobat/Acrobat_Capture_to_PDF_with_OCR2.swf)

The Ares I Launch Vehicle—Carrying America Exploring Toward the end of the next decade, America will send explorers back to the moon. Once there, we’ll build outposts and eventually journey on to Mars and beyond. The launch system that will carry our next generation of space explorers to the moon, Mars and beyond is called Ares I. Atop the Ares I rocket will be an Apollo-like capsule, Orion, with enough room to carry four astronauts.

The first stage of Ares I will use a shuttle-derived solid rocket booster that delivers almost 3.5 million pounds of thrust at liftoff.

The upper stage will use an Apollo-derived liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen engine (referred to as the J2X) that provides almost 300,000 pounds of thrust.

Building your Ares I

**Step 1.** Punch out the first stage, roll into a tube and insert the tabs in the slots as shown to the right.

**Step 2.** Punch out the upper stage, roll into a tube and insert the tabs in the slots as in Step 1.

**Step 3.** Punch out the frustum and insert tab in the slot. Attach the first stage and the upper stage to the frustum.

**Step 4.** Punch out the aft skirt and place tab in the slot. Fold the black disc and insert the tabs inside the bottom of the skirt. Attach the aft skirt to the bottom of the first stage.

**Step 5.** Punch out the nozzle and place tab in the slot. Insert the tabs inside the bottom of the aft skirt.

**Step 6.** Punch out the Orion crew exploration vehicle and place the tab in the slot. Attach to the upper stage.
Since Acrobat acquired Macromedia last year, they’ve been working furiously to incorporate the Flash technology into their Creative Suite, including the new Acrobat 9. Now you can embed flash videos (the files that end with .SWF or .FLV) right into PDF files. Although you have been able embed multimedia audio and video into PDFs before version 9, you had to have an external player installed on your computer in order to view them. That usually meant Quicktime for Macintoshes, and the Windows Media Player for Windows machines. Now Acrobat 9 Reader and Pro versions have the flash player technology built right into the product, so no external player need be installed for the user to view them. Let’s show you how this is done...

First, you’ll click the Multimedia button in the tool bar of Acrobat 9. Choose the Flash tool. The cursor will change to a crosshair. With this tool, draw a rectangular area on your PDF where you wish to place the Flash file. The following dialog box will appear. Click “Show advanced options.” Then make your choices as explained in the illustration below, then click OK. The flash file will be placed in that area.
Save your PDF file and try it out. You’ll notice that when you mouse over the flash video a tool tip will appear that says, “Click to activate...”

Once clicked, Acrobat is going to try to protect you from harmful PDFs by asking if you really want to allow this to happen...

Once you click allow, the flash file will then start. Just a comment here. If you are familiar with working and creating Flash files - I must tell you that it’s not only videos you can embed in the PDF, but any flash file. So you can do things like interactive media, calculators, animated charts, and much more.

If it is a flash video, the next thing the user may see is the big play button - like you see on most YouTube videos. Click the play button to begin viewing the embedded video.

This is an exciting new development that has great potential for producing educational products. Imagine electronic texts that interact with the user - saved in the universal PDF format that everyone can use. For embedding other types of videos and audio, please see the April 2007 tutorial which we’ve included on the next page. By the way, the graphics in this tutorial were created in Jing!
How to Create a PDF File With Embedded Audio and Video

Adobe's PDF has become a standard worldwide for distributing documents that retain their formatting. The ability to open a PDF document is pretty standard on computers anymore. If you have the full version of Acrobat, you can create PDF files easily, and then add features like form fields, annotations, hyperlinks, and multimedia.

Not all PDF readers will allow a user to access these additional features, however. To be safe, you should have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. A good example of this is Preview on the Macintosh. It won’t play embedded audio or video in a PDF file.

When adding media to a PDF file, you have some choices. You can embed the video or audio right into the PDF file itself. The advantage is that you have only one file to deal with - the PDF file itself. The disadvantages are that you must have Acrobat 6 or later, and that the PDF file grows larger with each embedded audio or video you add. You can specify an external file - then the pdf document stays smaller, but the multimedia files must travel along with the pdf document in order to play them. It’s very much like adding multimedia to a PowerPoint file in this regard. Or you can specify a URL to link to your multimedia. This way you get a smaller PDF file, but the user must be online with a broadband connection in order for the media to play.

As far as adding movies, Macintoshes will let you insert Quicktime and standard AVI video files. Windows will let you add .WMV and .AVI file formats. If your computer doesn’t have the proper player software installed, the PDF document will ask the user to go download it. For adding sounds, you’re probably safest using MP3 audio files.

Adding movie clips (Source: Acrobat Help File)

When the Acrobat 6 Compatible Media option is selected, you can embed media files in a PDF document, or you can create a link to them. You can also allow for different renditions of a movie to be played, depending on the user’s settings. For example, you may want to allow a low-resolution movie to be shown if the user has a slow Internet connection, or you may want to allow a different player to be used if the default player isn’t available to the user.

Note: If an alert message tells you that no media handler is available, you must install a media player, such as QuickTime, before you can add media clips to the PDF document.

To add a movie clip:

1. To select the Movie tool, do one of the following:
   - Choose Tools > Advanced Editing > Movie Tool.
   - Right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac OS) the toolbar, and then choose Advanced Editing. Select the Movie tool from the Advanced Editing toolbar.

2. Drag or double-click to select the area on the page where you want the movie to appear. The play area is the exact size of the movie frame (if Acrobat can read the media clip’s dimensions). The Add Movie dialog box appears.

3. Select Acrobat 6 Compatible Media if you want access to all movie options, or select Acrobat 5 (And Earlier) Compatible Media if you want your media clip to be available to users who have not yet upgraded from version 5.0 or earlier of Acrobat or Acrobat Reader.

Note: To embed media clips, assign different renditions, create a poster from a separate file, and specify the content type, you must select Acrobat 6 Compatible Media. These options are not available when you select the Acrobat 5 Compatible Media option.
4. To specify the movie clip, type the path or URL address in the Location box, or click Browse (Windows) or Choose (Mac OS) and double-click the movie file.

5. For Acrobat 6.0-compatible movie clips, do the following:
   - Specify the content type to let Acrobat know which media player to use. In general, you should use the content type selected by default. Specifying the wrong content type may cause difficulties during playback.
   - Select Embed Content In Document if you want the movie file to be included in the PDF document. If you deselect this option, the document includes only a link to the external movie file. If you don’t embed the file, make sure that you use the correct file name and relative path location for the movie clip when you distribute the PDF document.

6. Select Snap To Content Proportions to maintain the movie’s original size when it plays.

7. To select a movie poster, which determines the appearance of the play area when the movie isn’t playing, do one of the following, and then click OK:
   - Select Use No Poster to leave the background of the movie’s play area invisible.
   - Select Retrieve Poster From Movie to show the first frame in the clip as a still image when the movie is not playing.
   - Select Create Poster From File to select a different image to use as the poster. Click Browse, and then double-click the file.

To move, delete, or resize the movie:
1. Using the Movie tool, the Sound tool, or the Select Object tool, click the play area to select it.
2. Do any of the following:
   - Move the clip by dragging its icon to a new location on the page.
   - Delete the clip by selecting it and pressing Backspace or Delete.
   - Resize the clip by dragging one of the corners of the frame until it is the desired size. Hold down Shift to prevent the play area from becoming skewed.

Note: When the Movie tool is selected, the borders around all play areas are highlighted, even those with invisible borders. The highlight disappears when the tool is no longer active.

**Adding sound clips** *(Source: Acrobat Help File)*
You can add sound clips using the Sound tool. You can also use page actions to play sound clips from links, bookmarks, and form fields. The steps for adding a sound clip are nearly identical to adding a movie clip.

To add a sound clip:
1. To select the Sound tool, do one of the following:
   - Choose Tools > Advanced Editing > Sound Tool.
   - Right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac OS) the tool-

- bar, and then choose Advanced Editing. Choose the Sound tool from the media pop-up menu on the Advanced Editing toolbar.

2. Drag to create a rectangle that defines the play area. The rectangle boundaries define the activation area for the sound clip.
3. In the Add Sound dialog box, follow the steps described in Adding movie clips. Some movie clip options are not available for sound clips.

To move, delete, or resize the sound clip play area:
1. Using the Sound tool or the Select Object tool, click the play area to select it.
2. Do any of the following:
   - Move the clip by dragging its icon to a new location on the page.
   - Delete the clip by selecting it and pressing Delete.
   - Resize the clip by dragging a corner of the frame.

Note: When the Sound tool is selected, the borders around all play areas are highlighted, even those with invisible borders. The highlight disappears when the tool is no longer active.

Since PDF is such a widely used format, it becomes a means for easily (and inexpensively) distributing information. Now add multimedia to the mix, and you have a powerful means of enhancing the information you share with others. There are many uses for this in education. I’d be interested in hearing what you’ve done with this.

To all UCET 2009 attendees, presenters, vendors, volunteers and board members...a huge THANK YOU!

This year we had over 1000 people in attendance, and two days packed with a great keynote presenter, Dr. Tim Tyson, http://drtimtyson.com/clients/UCET09/

and some of the best breakout sessions we have ever had. If you missed a session and are still interested in the presentation materials check out our 2009 conference archives at:


We at UCET could go on and on about how incredible we thought the two days were – but why listen to us? Here are a few comments from those in attendance:

• “From the Keynote to the last exhibitors to the last breakout session, the quality and attention to detail was excellent. I liked the innovation of the clicker participation in the keynote speech. That was an effective demonstration of technology in gathering real-time results. I was pleased with the number of excellent technically-oriented presentations. Wish I could have seen more of them.”

• “Dr. Tyson was excellent. His vision for use of technology was extremely motivating. All of the sessions I attended were excellent.”

• “Really enjoyed Tim Tyson. I went to one of his breakout sessions also and it is hard to believe that he was able to do what he did as a principal. Amazing!”

• “I really enjoyed the Keynote speaker. He inspired me to continue integrating technology into my classroom. The classes were very engaging and I learned something from each one.”

• “I felt validated in the technology I use in my classroom and was excited to learn other techniques.”

• “Great sessions, incredible keynote speaker! Great selection of topics!”

• “These sessions were some of the best I’ve ever attended and I’ve been coming for the past 10 years. I walked away with lots of great ideas!”

• “I enjoyed learning more about Google. I didn’t realize there was so much to Google. I use Google Earth and the search but there is so much more.”

Please, don’t forget to complete the conference evaluation. Your feedback helps us to create a better conference each year. As a thank you for completing the conference evaluation one lucky submission will win a $50.00 cash prize.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tFD1mpD7cchratwo7RuC0g_3d_3d

Deadline for our conference evaluation prize give-away is April 15th.
Congratulations to the UCET 2009 Award Winners!

We were very pleased to award three very capable and talented individuals with the UCET 2009 awards. Here they are along with the nomination statements read in opening ceremonies of UCET 2009...

UCET 2009 Technology Educator of the Year - Brad Butcher - Granite School District

Brad Butcher currently teaches Spanish, web technology, PE, and is the STS at Thomas Jefferson Jr. High in Granite District.

He sets high expectations for teachers through his trainings and encourages them to meet those expectations, helping them every step of the way until they reach independence. Just as a teacher walks his/her students through a new skill, so he walks TJ Jr High teachers through it and keeps helping them until we have mastered the skill on their own. This often requires multiple trainings on the same thing. His patience with teachers is incomparable to anyone else's! His is very focused and prepared at all times with all of this!

UCET 2009 Technology Leader of the Year - Preston Checketts - Box Elder School District

Preston Checketts is the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Leader Award. He has distinguished himself in the State of Utah leadership in Educational Technology. He understands how technology works from line speed down to the student computer training programs. He has worked tirelessly to improve speed and reliability of connections through the USU T-forum.

Preston has been active in helping expand the overall network in Box Elder School District and Utah by working with UEN and vendors to provide better technology for Education.

Anyone who has been around Preston cannot come away without a feeling of his passion for technology. He expects and inspires the best of those around him.

UCET 2009 Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Service Award - Don Remy - NUES

Don has been the network engineer at NUES for two years. He exhibits a high level of professionalism, along with a friendly helpful demeanor. Don regularly visits each district in the region.

Don has no “platform bias;” he is equally willing to support users on Windows, Macs or Linux; he is knowledgeable on all. He has deep knowledge of Netware and Windows networking, as well as proficiency in developing and maintaining physical infrastructure. Don will stick with a project until it is finished, even if it means a late night trip back to his home in Springville.

Don has served the NUES region well by upgrading network systems at several districts, taking the lead in negotiating software and hardware purchase contracts, and assisting with server and workstation installations. He is always cheerful and a pleasure to work with.

Link: http://www.ucet.org/inUCETnew/awards/
International Year of Astronomy 2009

From the U.S. Node of the International Year of Astronomy 2009's website: "In the year 2009, the world will celebrate the International Year of Astronomy as it commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the skies, and Kepler's publication of Astronomia Nova. 2009 is also the anniversary of many other historic events in science, including Huygen's 1659 publication of Systema Saturnium. This will be modern astronomy's quadricentennial, and the 2009 Year of Astronomy will be an international celebration of numerous astronomical and scientific milestones. Events are still being planned, and you are invited to tell us how you want to celebrate. This page is a product of the U.S. 2009 IYA team, and we want to help you make 2009 a year long celebration to remember."

Link: http://astronomy2009.us/
Explore the Geology of the West’s National Parks in 3D

Link: http://3dparks.wr.usgs.gov/

The USGS - U.S. Geological Survey - has a fun site for teachers and students. It is a series of 3D/photographic tours that feature park geology and natural history. You can have a partial list of the parks in the illustration above. Each park has links to 3D photos that require red/blue 3d glasses, to photo galleries, to the National Park Service website, and to geological sites related to the park.

This photograph collection is useful for activities in many different grades. Choose images to print or download by either browsing individual park websites.

The large images are typically 800 x 600 pixels and work well in PowerPoint presentations, slide shows, or printed on paper in landscape orientation. The 3D effects work equally well on computer screen, projected, or printed in color.

Photographs on this USGS website are public domain. They can be used in other publications or presentations in any manner, however, acknowledgment of the USGS as the source would be appreciated. All modern photography presented here was taken by Philip Stoffer (USGS Menlo Park, CA).

For an advanced challenge, have student try to make their own 3D images! Use the following link to see a description on how to make 3D images (anaglyphs) similar to those on this website.

Link: http://3dparks.wr.usgs.gov/education.htm

Red and cyan 3D viewing glasses work best. Some glasses are darker than others, so we suggest the “lighter” variety to get a brighter image. The cost of glasses are about 25 cents each (plus shipping), but volume purchase can bring the price down. Many sites selling 3D glasses can be found on the World Wide Web.

Or, if you’re up to the challenge, try making your own 3D glasses! I think you’ll enjoy exploring this site. The information found there is fun, informative, and useful.

Link: http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/classroom/glasses.shtml
What is CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network, is a unique, non-profit, community-based, high density network of individual and family volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, who take daily measurements of rain, hail and snow in their backyards.

Why is there so much interest in rain, hail, and snow?

Precipitation is essential for life. It varies greatly with topography, storm type and season. It really is true that it may pour on one side of the street and be dry on the other. A portion of a field may be pounded by hail while others nearby receive no damage. Snowfall may pile up in one neighborhood and only dust another. Rain, hail and snow are easy to measure, and the data collected are very important. Meteorologists are very interested in precipitation, but so are many others. Engineers, hydrologists, entomologists, insurance experts, building contractors and even baseball players and coaches...you name it, everyone seems to care about rain, hail, and snow. And for some, like farmers, it is their very livelihood.

A brief history

CoCoRaHS came about because of a devastating flash flood that hit Fort Collins, Colorado in July 1997. A very localized storm dumped over a foot of rain in several hours while other portions of the city had only modest rainfall. The ensuing flood killed five people and caused 200 million dollars in damages. With this in mind, CoCoRaHS was born in 1998 with a few dozen volunteers. As more volunteers participated, rainfall maps could be produced for every storm showing fascinating local patterns that were valuable both for scientists and for the local residents. As a result, CoCoRaHS continues to grow with thousands of volunteers across the country.

Volunteers of all Ages Welcome

The foundation of the network are volunteers willing to spend a few minutes each day measuring and reporting precipitation. This is a project we can all help with: Adults, children, senior citizens and entire families.

Simple measuring tools

Volunteers use high quality rain gauges. In some states, "hail pads" are used to study hail storms.

Training “The Key to Our Success”

It is important that all CoCoRaHS precipitation reports be as accurate and consistent as possible. Local training sessions are held to teach new observers how to install their instruments and properly measure the precipitation. Training materials are also available on the CoCoRaHS web site.

Data on the web

Volunteers post their daily observations on the CoCoRaHS web site. Observations are immediately available in map and table form for scientists and the public to view. By providing high quality, accurate measurements, the observers are able to supplement existing networks and provide many useful results to scientists, resource managers, decision makers and other users.

CoCoRaHS is educational

CoCoRaHS offers a variety of learning opportunities for volunteers. In addition to training, periodic emails and newsletters inform participants about how CoCoRaHS data are used by researchers. CoCoRaHS is also involved in developing classroom resources for teachers, and in conducting teacher workshops on weather and climate. This would be a great opportunity for classrooms or individuals. You can volunteer by signing up at the CoCoRaHS web site.
**Why Earth Science?**

If that’s the question you hear from students, parents, or administrators, then watch “Why Earth Science” - free on Youtube.

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxbUH4fTYo

“Why Earth Science” is a new video available from the American Geological Institute (AGI), organizer of Earth Science Week. The video features eye-popping cinematography and computer animations from AGI’s “Faces of Earth” mini-series broadcast last year on The Science Channel/Discovery Communications.

In less than 10 minutes, “Why Earth Science” provides an exciting and compelling introduction to the geosciences. The video explains why Earth science education is vital for success in school, careers, informed decision-making, and civic engagement.

“Why Earth Science” is the first of many educational video products being released by AGI.

Link: http://www.agiweb.org/

**K-5 Geosource from AGI, The American Geological Institute**

Another AGI site you’ll want to have a look at is the K-5 Geosource, the online Earth science professional development tool for K-5 teachers

Link: http://www.k5geosource.org/

From their web site: “Welcome to K-5 Geosource, the one-stop professional development web site for Earth science! If you are involved in elementary science education in any way, this Web site is for you. The site has a rich store of content, activities, services and links for you to explore, but this is only the beginning. Over the coming months the site will grow as more items and activities are developed, tested and added. We encourage you to come back often and tell us what you think.”

Here you’ll find links to content, activities, assessments, career information, training tools, and other resources.

**Earth Science World Image Bank**

The Earth Science World Image Bank is a service provided by the American Geological Institute (AGI). This Image Bank is designed to provide quality geoscience images to the public, educators, and the geoscience community. Click on one of the images to browse that category or go to the Search Images page for an advanced search.

January 2006 - The Image Bank now has over 6,000 images available to search, making it one of the largest sources of Earth Science imagery available on the web! So start searching today!

Link: http://www.earthscienceworld.org/images/
Exploring Wildlife Through Multimedia

Learn to identify wildlife by the sounds they make. Watch videos of wildlife throughout the world. Here’s a quick list of links to explore!

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services - Sound Clips Page
http://www.fws.gov/video/sound.htm

ARKive, a unique collection of thousands of videos, images and fact-files illustrating the world’s species. - http://www.arkive.org/

National Geographic Video Page
http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/

Wildlife Sound Recording Society
http://www.wildlife-sound.org/listen/

One fun and informative activity is to record your own wildlife sounds. A cassette recorder, voice recorder, computer, MP3 player with recording capability all work. Audacity, the free audio editor, is a great tool to use to edit, enhance, and save the files in standard audio formats. You can also study the wave forms!
In 1803 Luke Howard used Latin terms to classify four main cloud types:

- **Cumulus** means pile and describes heaped, lumpy clouds.
- **Cirrus**, meaning hair, describes high level clouds that look wispy, like locks of hair.
- Featureless clouds that form sheets are called **Stratus**, meaning layer.
- The term **Nimbus**, which means “precipitating cloud”, refers to low, grey rain clouds.
- **Alto** is used to describe mid level clouds.

**Convective Clouds** form because of large updrafts of warm, moist air moving up into cold air! 

The water on Earth is always on the move, changing states from liquid to vapor back to liquid and solid, and vice versa, the water cycle. The process used to describe the continuous movement of water between the Earth and atmosphere is known as the water cycle, and is often referred to as the hydrologic cycle. There is no beginning or end to the water cycle. It becomes part of a larger system that moves around and around.

**Visual Opacity** The thickness of a cloud determines the amount of light being transmitted through the cloud. Shadows often provide a clue.

**Cloud Cover** Determines the amount of cloud cover in sky by estimating the percentage of the sky covered with clouds. This is one of several possible scales or categories for cloud cover.

**Cloud Level** Three levels of clouds have been identified based on the altitude of a cloud’s base.

- High
- Mid
- Low

**Clouds**

- **Altostratus**: Low, grey rain clouds.
- **Altocumulus**: Mid level clouds.
- **Altostratus**: Low, grey rain clouds.
- **Altocumulus**: Mid level clouds.
- **Cirrostratus**: High level clouds.
- **Cirrus**: High level clouds.

**Cloud Cover**

- **Clear** (0% - 5%)
- **Partly Cloudy** (5% - 50%)
- **Mostly Cloudy** (50% - 95%)
- **Overcast** (95% - 100%)

**Visual Opacity**

- **Opaque**
- **Translucent**
- **Transparent**

**Cloud Level**

- **High**
- **Mid**
- **Low**

**Introduction to Clouds**

The Earth’s Water Cycle

**Study the Clouds with NASA and NOAA - Free Poster**

Link: [http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/cloud_chart/](http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/cloud_chart/)


Link to Poster in Spanish: [http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/cloud_chart/PDFs/Cloudchart_ESP.pdf](http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/cloud_chart/PDFs/Cloudchart_ESP.pdf)

NASA is interested in clouds because they are an integral part of the water cycle, and because they are a controlling factor in the Energy budget of the Earth. This chart provides a basic introduction to the identification of clouds. The reverse contains a much more detailed cloud chart from NOAA’s National Weather Service.

Also, visit the NOAA web site associated with this poster for even more details and information...

Link: [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/synoptic/clouds_max.htm](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/synoptic/clouds_max.htm)

The NOAA page has the image to the right with a clickable link to every type of cloud shown on the poster. There you’ll get more information, other images, what level, the cloud symbol, and more.
The 2009 BudBurst Field Campaign

From the Project BudBurst web site: “Join thousands of others in gathering valuable environmental and climate change information from across the country. Project BudBurst engages the public in making careful observations of the phenophases such as first leafing, first flower, and first fruit ripening of a diversity of trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses in their local area.

Follow these 5 simple steps to complete your phenological investigation!

For complete information, download the Steps to Getting Started.

1) Select and identify your plant using the plant list or by geographic area. (For help use our Identification Guides.)

2) Describe the site where your plant is located. This includes finding the latitude and longitude of your site.

3) Determine the phenophases (phenological stage) you are looking for (i.e. First Leaf, First Flower, First Fruit Ripe). For help use our Phenophase Field Guides.

4) Begin observations (before expected time of leafing or flowering)!

5) Report your observations online.

Register online with Project BudBurst to save your observation sites and plants that you are monitoring throughout this year and for coming years. This allows you to report the phenophases as they occur each week!

Don’t forget to subscribe to our mailing list to receive updates and announcements as the growing season continues!”

There is a section just for teachers. Download and use these teaching materials and classroom activities designed for each grade level to effectively implement Project BudBurst in the K-12 classroom setting. General descriptions of selected classroom activities are provided. Anticipated release - April 2009

Link: [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/index.html](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/index.html)
Looking for K-12 Earth Science Classroom Activities?

The Earth Learning Idea website publishes Earth-related teaching ideas for K-12 teachers. A new activity was posted every week through 2008. Activities involve student participation for maximum learning.

Link: http://www.earthlearningidea.com

The Earth Learning Idea website is published in honor of the U.N. declared International Year of Planet Earth.

The International Year of Planet Earth is a global effort to bring all countries together to focus on the Earth Sciences during 2008 and 2009. Research and education efforts will focus on: oceans, groundwater, climate, soil, deep earth, and more.

To learn more about what is happening worldwide during the International Year of Planet Earth, go to:

Link: http://www.yearofplanetearth.org

To learn more about what is happening in the U.S. go to:

Link: http://www.iype-usa.org/

While there, download or watch the Geoheritage slideshow produced by the Geological Society of America.

Link: http://yearofplanetearth.org/content/downloads/movie.swf

Top Stars: Educators Invited to Submit Examples of Inspiring Uses of Hubble in Education

For almost 20 years, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has inspired and engaged educators and students of all ages. U.S. formal (K-12, college) and informal educators are invited to submit their best examples of using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope for science, technology, engineering or mathematics education. Those selected as "Top Stars" will receive national recognition and awards.

Entries will be accepted from May 2009 through January 2, 2010.

For more information, visit http://topstars.strategies.org

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to topstars@strategies.org.

2009 NASA eEducation Electronic Professional Development Network Series

NASA's Digital Learning Network presents a series of videoconferences to assist educators in staying current on NASA education resources and related products.

During each event, product producers, authors and experts will demonstrate their materials designed to optimize awareness and understanding of science concepts. Instructional objectives, accessing the materials and primary contacts for the materials will also be discussed. During the videoconferences, participants will be able to submit questions to the presenter that will be addressed during the presentation.

The following topics will be covered:

Meteorology: An Educators Resource Guide for Inquiry-Based Learning: April 29, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EDT

Meteorology is one of the oldest observational sciences in human history and perhaps the most relevant to a broad segment of society. Learn how the first early meteorologists used this knowledge for their success and survival. This educator guide covers weather patterns, climate and measurement tools.

NASA Explores Virtual Worlds: May 27, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EDT

Virtual immersive environments are increasing in popularity in modern America. Explore the virtual world that NASA education is building in Second Life and learn how to become an active citizen of this world.

For more information about these videoconferences and to sign up online, visit http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/webcast/. Questions about these events should be directed to Caryn Long at caryn.long@nasa.gov.
NASA Education Unveils Do-It-Yourself Podcast Activity

NASA Education is excited to introduce the Do-It-Yourself Podcast activity in the For Educators section of NASA.gov. Students can preview and download audio and video clips of astronauts performing work in space and on the ground. They can then use these clips to build their own podcast or similar audio/video project.

Learning modules on the DIY Podcast page will be categorized by topic to assist students with creating projects about a subject of interest. Each subject module includes video and audio clips, images, helpful information and links to related resources. A variety of audio and video clips will be provided to enhance flexibility and creativity. Students can create video or audio projects using free or inexpensive software on Windows or Macintosh computers.

Educators and their students are encouraged to distribute their NASA projects through podcasts, social networks, Web sites, CDs, DVDs or other channels that they may choose.

The Do-It-Yourself Podcast Blog will keep users posted on the latest updates. Tips and suggestions for incorporating the DIY Podcast into the classroom and updates on when new topic modules are available will be posted regularly. Use the Comments feature of the blog to share ideas and experiences with other teachers and students.

To learn more and to start making podcasts, visit http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diypodcast/index.html

For answers to questions about this activity, please contact Deana Nunley at Deana.Nunley@nasa.gov.

TapNTune 1.2, a combination Tuner and Metronome for Macintosh - Freeware

Link: http://jnote.org/47

TapNTune brings to your desktop something that was until now only available in hardware form: namely, a combination tuner and metronome that runs from a single window. TapNTune's easy-to-use interface includes the best features of both a metronome and a tuner, but feature bloating is avoided in favor of simplicity. Nonetheless, TapNTune possesses a powerful feature set including:

### Metronome:
- Choice of sound production
- Real-time tempo tapping
- Global muting
- Beat and division capability
- Multiple methods of data input
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Individual volume control
- Visual interface elements for when sound is muted
- Ability to mute selected divisions of beat
- Factory reset
- Ramped volume and mute control to avoid pops and distorting when changing volume

### Tuner:
- Switchable microphone and sound modes
- Choice between Sine and Saw waves for Tuner sound
- Musical keyboard entry
- Fully chromatic 10-plus octave range for built-in synthesizer
- Both* mode: allows users to hear pitches while still enabling the microphone and pitch tracker
- Live entry of pitches, including note name and octave number
- Separate buttons to switch both octave and individual pitch
- Individual volume control
- Sensitivity adjust for input
- Calibration between 380 and 480 Hz for A4
- Slow - Fast adjustment for pitch tracker
- Metronome and tuner can be shut off individually, in order to save CPU resources without shutting down the application
The BBC’s KS2 BiteSize - English, Math, and Science

The United Kingdom’s BBC’s website contains an educational section called KS2 BiteSize, which has activities focused on Math, Science, and English. Let’s overview what’s in each section...

Each main section, English, Math, and Science, have subsections. Science, for example, has Living Things, Materials, and Physical Processes. Clicking on Living Things will bring you to a list of Activities, Revision Bites (reviews), and Quizzes. Each activity is an interactive flash-based program that teaches the concept. For example, the illustration at the lower-right is one of the first screens you’ll see when you click on the Food Chains activity. Here your cursor changes to a camera, and you must take a picture of eight different living things in the picture. Once you’ve located all eight, you are taught the names, habitats, and foods of each.

After you’ve studied about each of the animals you must arrange them into a food chain. (See picture below) And then the lesson continues on from there. Each activity is engaging and makes you think. There is a good sized collection of activities to be explored by your students.

Link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/

For easier or harder activities, check out:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/
Net Frog - the Frog Dissection Site

On Net Frog, each page explores a step in the frog dissection process, beginning with the materials set up, and concluding with a review and quiz. Each step is illustrated with images and links to additional facts, movies and activities.

You can listen to narrators Wayne Conners and Jean Foss as you explore the dissection images. Just click on the Quicktime play button on each dissection page.

When you see the video graphic on a dissection page, you can link to a movie of biology teachers, Martha Foss and Richard Strauss, demonstrating the main steps of the dissection.

Click on the “Did You Know” graphics to learn interesting and fun facts about frogs. You can view these facts along the way, or link to them from the “Clean-up” review page at the end of the dissection.

“Try It” is a fun way to practice your knowledge of frog anatomy as you learn about each step of the frog dissection. Just click on the “Try It” button when it’s available.

Link: http://frog.edschool.virginia.edu/Frog2/

The content of the Net Frog site is intended to provide a basic understanding and knowledge of frog anatomy and physiology and the dissection of a frog. The site provides images and video clips of an actual frog dissection. Teachers or those providing the learning experience may wish to review the content prior to using the site. The authors of the site provide links to external resources that are not under the control of Net Frog. Please notify them of broken links or pages not found. They also kindly invite your comments and suggestions. You’ll find Net Frog a fun and informative site that teaches frog dissection.

M.I.T. Joins Other Noted Universities’ Decision to Make Research Freely Available On the Internet

On March 18, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) faculty voted to make the school’s scholarly research available to all on the internet. They join other universities in an effort to promote scholarship. Another goal is to expand the researchers’ readership.

Link: http://web.mit.edu/

YouTube Creates a Section on Higher Ed

“More than 100 colleges have set up channels on YouTube, and this week the popular video service unveiled a new section that brings together all of that campus content in one area.

It had been difficult to find college lectures on YouTube, since they are generally far less popular than the site’s humorous and outrageous clips, and so they do not show up in lists of the most viewed videos on the site. Although YouTube has long had an education category, it relies on users who post videos to decide whether to categorize their videos as educational, and as a result the definition of education is very broad. The new YouTube EDU page includes only material submitted by colleges and universities....”

Jeffrey Young, YouTube Creates New Section to Highlight College Content, Wired Campus, March 27, 2009

Link: http://www.youtube.com/edu
Finding Software Resources to Teach School Children During a Stressed Economy

2009 has been a stressful year for the U.S. financially. Government cut backs, job layoffs, and a severely repressed economy are making schools scramble to find less expensive software solutions. Fortunately for us all, there’s a very strong open-source movement that supplies software at little or no cost. Many of these software packages are as good or better than their commercial counterparts. SAAS, or software as a service, is another solution schools are looking at. Rather than buy licenses and install software on each computer as we typically do, SAAS products are web-based applications (similar to Google Docs) that are either free, or purchased on a subscription.

Many of the open source software packages can be found at...

Link: http://sourceforge.net/

Many of these software packages are distributed under the GNU General Public Licence...

Link: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt

...which basically says that the software creator retains copyright to his/her work, but that the software is free to use by others - even to the extent of re-programming the source code. This means your schools can install an open source package on as many computers as they desire, and can even modify the code so the program better fits a particular school’s needs, etc.

For schools with limited budgets, it is a good idea to look at the open source market first before purchasing software. The advantages of saving money, and the freedom to modify the application to your needs may outweigh the disadvantage that you use this software at your own risk, there’s little or no technical support, and no guarantee that the software will be supported or upgraded as technology moves forward. On the brighter side, for every open source package there usually is an online forum of users who actively collaborate with each other and provide support. Since the open source license allows others to modify the code, when a glitch is encountered someone will fix it and post a new download or upgrade.

I recently read an article in a popular trade magazine that talked about Zoho’s online word processing program being very competitive with commercial office products. It’s definitely worth the time to look.

In This Issue of the UCET Newsletter:

• Video Monkey for Macintosh: Free Video Conversion tool. Also, instructions on how to capture streaming video to use in Keynote or PowerPoint.
• Energy Conservation Education
• The Jason Project
• The Art Institute of Chicago Art Explorer
• Color In Motion
• Google Adds a Color Filter to its Image Search
• Entomology for Kids and Teachers
• Insect Identification at www.insectidentification.org/
• Google Earth Street View
• Google Summer of Code Program
• Read, Write, and Think Lesson Plans
• PortaPortal.com - Free Web-based Bookmarking Site
• Selene: A Lunar Science Game
• W3Schools - Self Train and Certify as a Web Developer
• Educational Freeware - Avogadro, Oscillating Rhythms, Switch Audio Converter, Picassa 3 for Mac, Calibre, and Dicom
• Butterscotch.com - Online Video Tutorials
• I Was Wondering - A Book and Web Site Combo from the National Academy of Sciences
• See What’s New in Windows 7
• Macintosh Basics - Mac 101
• Internet Users - Protect Yourselves
• New Newsletter Design/ Become Involved?
Sometimes it’s nice to be able to convert a video file from one format to another. The other day, a teacher approached me and asked if I knew how to get a streaming National Geographic video about avalanches into his Keynote presentation. He said he had asked several other tech people who were familiar with Macintosh computers, but they were unable to help him.

Fortunately, the answer was, yes, he could do that. We would need two free tools to work with. The first would be an add-on to his Firefox browser, called Video Downloadhelper. The second would be Video Monkey, a free video encoding application exclusively for Mac.

First we went to his Firefox browser, and in the Tools menu, chose Add-ons. When the Add-ons dialog appeared, we clicked on the Get Add-ons tab at the top of the window, then clicked on Browse All Add-ons. In the Firefox Add-ons browser window, we searched for “Video Downloadhelper” and installed it into his browser. Whenever you install an add-on, Firefox will prompt you to restart the browser so the add-on becomes active.

Then off to the National Geographic site we went. When we arrived at the page with the streaming avalanche video, he noticed something new in his Firefox toolbar, an icon that looked like animated Wonderbread balloons.

When the balloons become animated, it means there’s streaming media that can be captured to a download. He clicked the small, black triangle next to the balloons to drop down a menu of downloads. He chose the avalanche video and was prompted to save the file to his hard drive. However, the file was a .FLV - a flash video. Keynote doesn’t natively handle Flash videos, so we’d need to use Video Monkey to convert it to a Quicktime movie. We downloaded Video Monkey from the following site...

Link: http://videomonkey.org/

…and fired up the application after we installed it. We dragged-dropped the Flash Video into the Video Monkey window, chose to convert it to an iPod Touch video with H.264 encoding (this would give us a nice quality video that would be perfect to display in Keynote), and clicked the start button. The video conversion is quite fast, and in just moments we had an MP4 video that played in Quicktime beautifully.

Opening Keynote, we inserted the MP4 video into a slide, saved the file, and went to present to the kids. It worked perfectly.

Video Monkey just released a 0.2 version which handles many types of common videos 0.1 wouldn’t. It’s a great tool for the Macintosh!
**Energy Conservation**

What can I do to save energy? And how can recycling save energy? These are the topics addressed at the Energy Kids Page, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy.


The site has several PDF downloads, among them - Energy Efficiency and Conservation - with versions for both middle school and high school. These discuss the concepts of energy conservation and consumption, and energy sustainability.

The site also links to several other great web sites that teach and discuss energy conservation. One site, EnergyStar Kids, is an interactive site for elementary age kids that helps them look for and identify ways to conserve energy.


Also you’ll find a link to energy efficiency and conservation lesson plans divided into grade levels. This site can be a jump start to a series of very practical science lessons that are relevant and interesting to students now.

**The Jason Project**

The following are excerpts from the Jason web site:

“A nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society, JASON connects young students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. Its core curriculum units are designed for 5th – 8th grade classrooms but are flexible enough to be adapted for higher or lower grades.

The JASON Project was founded in 1989 by Dr. Robert D. Ballard, the oceanographer and explorer who discovered the shipwreck of RMS Titanic. Within months, he received thousands of letters from middle school students asking to join his next expedition. Dr. Ballard knew his discovery had tapped a wellspring of curiosity and excitement about science and was determined to feed it.

Using the cutting-edge research and researchers of its longtime partners—National Geographic, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—The JASON Project provides inspirational connections to great explorers and great events through core curriculum units and a global online community for students, teachers, and scientists.

Telepresence is now embedded in JASON’s inquiry-based curriculum through videos, podcasts, Web casts, live chat sessions, and interactive computer simulations—all aligned to national science standards and seamlessly integrated into the framework of a four-color, magazine-style print curriculum.

JASON involves students in science learning. Throughout the year, JASON gives every student opportunities to join real expeditions without leaving their classrooms. We think that, once inspired, students internalize the desire to learn, overcome obstacles to improving their proficiency, and are more apt to make science part of their future.

By providing educators with those same inspirational experiences—and giving them the tools and resources to better teach science—JASON seeks to energize them for a lasting, positive impact on students.”

Link: [http://www.jason.org](http://www.jason.org)

The Jason Project has some exciting projects for students to become involved in. One earlier project, Monster Storms, investigated the formation and impact of hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe weather.
Art Education Resources:

The internet is a great boon to art educators. Virtual museums abound! Do an image search on about any artist, and you’ll find a wealth of artworks online.

One fun site is the Art Institute of Chicago’s Art Explorer...

Link: http://www.artic.edu/artexplorer/

...where you can browse artwork or the artists, such as Degas, Cezanne, Gaugin, Manet, Matisse, Munch, and more. Most the works are from the Impressionist and Postimpressionist movements.

If you sign up, you also have the ability to create scrapbooks of artwork in the collection. This application allows you to save, rearrange, and annotate images and resources you have found on Art Explorer. To create a scrapbook, use “Search by keyword,” “Advanced Search” or “Search by Artist” to select some Artworks and/or Resources. With your selection of artworks and/or resources, you can:

• Prepare for a classroom lesson
• Create notes for a school field trip to the Art Institute
• Assign students to create a virtual exhibition of Impressionist or Postimpressionist artworks, with notes on individual artworks

The site also features a good search tool that will help you find particular works in their collection.

Collections include African, American, Ancient, Architecture and Design, Arms, Armor, Medieval, Renaissance; Asian, Contemporary, European Decorative Arts, Indian Arts of the Americas, Modern, Photography, Prints and Drawings, Textiles, and more. Enjoy your visit!

Color In Motion

Although I try not to repeat resources that I’ve shared in earlier newsletters, this one from our December 2005 newsletter is still a great teaching tool, and worth another mention.

Link: http://www.mariaclaudiacortes.com/colors/Colors.html

Claudia Cortes created a flash-based tutorial called Color in Motion, an animated and interactive experience of color communication and color symbolism.

Here you can learn about each of the primary and secondary colors. Did you know that some of yellow’s positive traits are active, bright, cautious, clear, and communicative? That some of it’s negative traits are coward, dangerous, envious, hazardous, etc.? For Hindus, yellow stands for truth.

The animation and music are lively and fun to watch. You and your students will enjoy this exposition on color!

Google Adds a Color Filter to its Image Search Engine!

Now that you’ve explored the meaning and symbolism of color, you may want to go to Google’s Image Search and use the newly implemented color filter.

Link: http://www.google.com

Click on images like you normally do, and search for an image. When you arrive at the results pages, you’ll notice an All Colors drop down menu. In the menu you can choose a particular color, and only images with that color will appear in the results window.

I searched for tulips (bottom right), and then filtered for yellow. Now I see only yellow tulips in the results. (Center right) You can then choose other colors in the drop down menu to instantly switch to that color.

According to Google, “You can also combine the color filter with any other image filter to further refine your search. For example, if you’re looking for an image of an orange butterfly, try restricting to photos or clip art.”

This adds additional layer of functionality to the Google image search, which is an already powerful tool! Use the advanced search for even more power!
Entomology

Entomology for Kids and Teachers

Are you interested in learning about insects? How about collecting them, too? With some easy to find materials, you can begin your own "bug" collection.

The University of Kentucky Department of Entomology has a wonderful website for children and teachers. Here's their list of insect collecting tools...

Link: http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/ythfacts/bugfun/collect.htm

Teachers of younger children may worry about having killing jars in their hands. One such teacher found a non-toxic way of killing insects - just put them in the freezer overnight.

Once you've collected some insects, have a look at the University of Kentucky's Entomology for Kids and Teachers web site...

Link: http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/dept/youth.asp

The Critter Files section details many insects, spiders, and arthropods. Each insect has a color photograph, a description, information about their life cycles (with pictures), ecology, and pest status. There's also information about collecting and photographing each species. And for some of them, you'll find myth, legend, and folklore information.

In the Parent/Teacher resource section, you'll find links to Wee Beasties, an entomology newsletter for teachers. There are lesson plans, three Kentucky 4-H entomology units (PDF files) - including the leader's guide, and much more. You'll find Get This Bug Off of Me! - a guide to Kentucky's dangerous and not so dangerous insects and their relatives. There's even a section on Bug Food: Edible Insects. That ought to make a few kids squeamish... The thought of eating insects may be very unsettling to most people in this day and age. However, in many cultures insects and other arthropods have been eaten as a staple and/or as a delicacy. The children research this topic in groups, finding out what might be a typical diet for a given culture.

Last year's Earth Science week's theme was, "No Child Left Inside..." - Insect observation and collecting is a good start!

Insect Identification at www.insectidentification.org/

From their website...

Link: http://www.insectidentification.org/

“There are over 1 million identified species of insects and spiders (Arthropods) in the world today with many more still awaiting categorization and discovery. As ancient as time itself, insects offer up an mostly forgone and often times misunderstood existence in our ecosystem. In short, without their being here among us, we surely would not exist in the way that we do!

InsectIdentification.org tries to provide a casual understanding about common North American insects - most notably those found in the continental United States of America - and tries to put some knowledge out there for you, our special guest, to absorb."

One of the site's main features is BugFinder (see illustration above). You put in an insect's dominant color, secondary color, and the state where it was collected, and then search the insect database. A results page will appear with insect names and photos that match your search criteria. Clicking a link will take you to a page of useful information that includes common and scientific names, a kingdom-phylum-class-order-family-genus-species listing, an insect size comparison link, and an informational summary.

There are many ways to explore the insect world at this site. It’s a place a student would want to spend some time exploring - the information is interesting and useful.
Exploring Street Views in Google Earth

There's a marvelous feature growing inside Google Earth - and many don't know about it! It's called street view. In the Layers palette of the Google application screen you'll see street view - make sure it's checked.

Now go somewhere in the U.S. and zoom to where you can see streets and buildings. The folks at Google have been doing a lot of driving in cars that have 360 degree panoramic cameras mounted on top. (In fact, you can even see the shadow of these cars in many of the street view images.) They've been taking pictures and adding them to Google Earth.

To see these street views, all you need do is double-click on a camera icon! When you do, all of the sudden it looks as if you're dropping into a bubble, and then suddenly you're in street view, as if you were really there. At right, I dropped in on Murray High School, where next year's UCET Conference will be held on February 26 & 27, 2010. As you can see in the bottom illustration, you get a 360 degree panoramic view of the location. You use the panning buttons in the window or your arrow keys to pan through the image. As you look down the street in front of (or behind) you, there are more camera icons. Double clicking any of these will move you on further down the road. To get out of the street view and return to Google Earth's normal view, just click on the Exit Photo button next to the panning controls, and then zoom out to a higher elevation. What a marvelous tool!

When I plan a trip, I use Google Earth to take a bird's eye view of the areas I plan to visit. I look at the Panoramio and Wikipedia information and photos people have placed. Then I go into street view to have a more detailed look around. A tool like Google Earth's Street View could be used in the classroom to stimulate a number of discussions that are very relevant to Geography today - topics such as: Why do businesses choose to locate where they do? What have towns and cities done to revitalize their central business districts? Based on nearby resources, how do towns drive their economies?

To learn about Google Earth's features, visit

For teacher materials, visit the Google Education Site:
Link:  http://www.google.com/educators/index.html
Google Summer of Code Program

Google Summer of Code (GSoC) is a global program that offers student developers stipends to write code for various open source software projects. They have worked with several open source, free software, and technology-related groups to identify and fund several projects over a three month period. Since its inception in 2005, the program has brought together nearly 2500 students and 2500 mentors and co-mentors from nearly 100 countries worldwide, all for the love of code. Through Google Summer of Code, accepted student applicants are paired with a mentor or mentors from the participating projects, thus gaining exposure to real-world software development scenarios and the opportunity for employment in areas related to their academic pursuits. In turn, the participating projects are able to more easily identify and bring in new developers. Best of all, more source code is created and released for the use and benefit of all.

Link: http://socghop.appspot.com/

Read, Write, and Think Lesson Plans

Excellent teachers deserve excellent resources—not only for their own professional development, but to use in their classrooms. And what better for today’s busy teachers than research-based lesson plans, just a mouse-click away?

IRA is a partner with the National Council of Teachers of English on the Verizon Foundation’s signature online educational and literacy program, Thinkfinity. The IRA–NCTE website is ReadWriteThink.org, a rich resource of lesson plans and related materials for reading and language arts teachers from kindergarten through 12th grade. And like all Thinkfinity partner websites, ReadWriteThink.org is freely available to all.

Visit ReadWriteThink.org regularly to find lesson plans to suit every need. New lessons appear each month. And for information about writing for ReadWriteThink.org, visit their Publications area.

Link: http://www.readwritethink.org/

PortaPortal.com - a Web-based Bookmarking Site

Using PortaPortal, a Teacher can set up a classroom portal to sites related to a particular unit.

PortaPortal is a bookmarking site. It allows you to create categories and bookmarks of your favorite web sites. More importantly, your students can access them by logging in as a guest into your PortaPortal account.

From their website: Setting up your personal portal is as easy as 1-2-3. This Quick Start guide will assist you in setting up your personal portal. Once your portal is set up, and you’ve added your links, you will be able to access it from any computer anywhere, or any number of computers at once.

1. Sign up: If you haven’t already, sign up for an account. Once your portal is set up, you should log in. Then you can add, delete or edit your categories and bookmarks as often as you wish. The Login Name you choose will also be the guest name of your portal. So don’t choose anything of a personal nature if you plan on allowing guest access to your portal.

2. Add categories: Begin by entering up to five categories of your choice. Into these categories you’ll place links and/or other categories. You can divide your portal by class or by subject (and create different portals for each class). For now just create some categories. You can always go back and edit them at any time.

3. Add links to each category: Now you can fill in your categories. You can add links to get started, or add sub-categories to provide more detailed organization. To add sub-categories click on the subcategory button (folder button just to the right of the category). When you’re ready to add links click on the ‘plus’ icon in the category title. This will bring you to a page where you can enter links as well as associate them with names, descriptions, and icons. You can add links as many times as you like. You can always edit the links.

4. Set preferences: Finally you can go to your preferences page and tailor the details of your portal to your taste. On the preferences page you can change the colors, layout, greetings and many other decorations. Its also where you go to turn sharing on or off.

5. Share your portal: Once you’re ready to share your portal just tell your students the login name. This is all the information they need to view your portal. Guest access can be found by entering your user name in the special ‘guest access’ forms, or by entering your user name in the regular login form. Alternatively the guest page can be accessed directly at the URL: http://guest.portaportal.com/YOUR_USER_NAME

Link: http://www.portaportal.com
Selene: A Lunar Science Game

Would young people learn science better if it were packaged in a videogame? That’s the question at the heart of the Selene project. Originally funded by NASA and now carried on through a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation, Selene studies videogame learning and the ways researchers can assess how effectively that learning takes place.

The Center for Educational Technologies® at Wheeling Jesuit University created the Selene online game to see how organizations like NASA could best use videogames to introduce important science concepts.

Named after the Greek lunar goddess, Selene challenges players to learn the major geologic processes scientists believe formed the modern Moon. Players create their own moon and then pepper it with impact craters and flood it with lava. It’s a great opportunity for students to learn about lunar geology while helping researchers study some key videogame design principles. In addition, playing Selene offers a way to take part in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei.

The Center for Educational Technologies produced Selene to conduct its research. If you’re a student between the ages of 13-18, they’d love to have you play. The game takes about an hour to complete, but you can spend more time after checking out Selene’s various resources about the Moon. To play, though, you have to be enrolled by an adult recruiter to ensure parent/guardian consent for your participation.

If you’re an adult who’d like to help out, click on the Recruiter button and help them find players to take part in the study. Being a recruiter is simple and doesn’t involve a lot of paperwork. The whole process involves getting oral consent from a parent or guardian, then forwarding Selene registration access to your recruited players. It’s that simple.

You’ve always wanted to know if video games enhance learning. Here’s your big opportunity to participate in a research study that aims to find out. Join them in this exciting venture and be a part of cutting-edge research sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Link: http://selene.cet.edu/

**Self Train and Certify as a Web Developer**

Link: http://www.w3schools.com/

This a a wonderful site for do-it-yourself web site designers. Have you ever wanted to learn HTML? Cascading Style Sheets? XML? SOAP? This is the site for you.

Is it free? According to them, yes. W3Schools will always be free. “When we created W3Schools, we wanted it to be completely free and we are doing our best to keep it that way. The costs of running this site and the costs of writing the tutorials are covered by people that want this web site to be a completely free developers portal.”

What will you find there? The site has in-depth tutorials on nearly everything having to do with creating websites, online databases, javascripting, and more. You’ll find plenty of example scripts to try. You can even use the W3Schools materials as a path to certification. You study online at this site, test your skills by taking the online quizzes, apply for the exam and pay the examination fee, and then take the certification exam online.
Educational Software

Avogadro for Macintosh, Linux, and Windows

Freeware - Free Registration Required

Avogadro is a user-friendly molecule builder and editor. It offers flexible rendering and a powerful plugin architecture for developers. The program supports interactive building of molecules with integrated molecular mechanics and a fragment database. Input generation for GAMESS or Gaussian calculations is provided. For visualization, the program supports crystallographic unit cells, isosurfaces and orbitals from Gaussian cubes and OpenDX.

Link: http://sourceforge.net/projects/avogadro/

Oscillating Rhythms 1.05 for Macintosh

Freeware - A generative tool designed to help you explore rhythmic space. Leveraging the power of periodic functions Oscillating Rhythms provides users with high level control over low level detail. Up to four tracks can be layered providing users with a rich pattern generation tool, from straight 8ths through to the most complex polyrhythms. Oscillating Rhythms is an AudioUnit host, so load up your favorite drum sampler and away you go. From the simple to the sublime Oscillating Rhythms is sure to spark your creativity – just don’t forget to record your performance!

Oscillating Rhythms is a generative tool designed to produce drum patterns by leveraging the power of simple oscillators. Oscillators are used to control all aspects of a performance including pitch selection, velocity, timbre change and modulation. The reason that Oscillators are such useful tools for producing musical material is their inherently periodic nature. By combining oscillators controlling pitch, rhythm and timbre and providing very precise control over each oscillators period, phase and amplitude it is possible to build rhythmic patterns ranging from the subtle to the outrageous.


Switch Audio Converter 1.52 for Macintosh


A sound file converter. It can convert over 20 audio formats to mp3 or wav format. Features:

• Automatically normalise audio while converting.
• Access online database to add song information as you convert.
• Import multiple file formats at the same time and convert to one output format.
• Simple and intuitive interface.
• Converts a variety of different audio file formats (including WMA, MOV, AIFF formats) into MP3 or WAV format.

Picassa 3.0 for Macintosh - Beta

Organize: Manage your photos in one place, and find photos you forgot you had.
Edit: Eliminate scratches & blemishes, fix red-eye, crop and more.
Create: Turn photos into movies, collages, slideshows and more.
Share: Upload seamlessly to Picasa Web Albums to share with friends, family & the world.

Now the popular photo manager and editor is available for Macintosh! To download the beta version, please visit...

Link: http://picasa.google.com/mac/

Watch a video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDKFjc3_wrk
Educational Software (cont.)

Calibre 0.5.2 for Windows, Mac OSX, and Linux - Freeware

Calibre may be a solution to your e-book needs. It is free, open source and cross-platform in design. Calibre is meant to be a complete e-library solution and thus includes library management, format conversion, news feeds to e-book conversion, as well as e-book reader sync features and an integrated e-book viewer. Calibre's features include: library management; format conversion (all major ebook formats); syncing to e-book reader devices; fetching news from the Web and converting it into ebook form; viewing many different e-book formats; giving you access to your book collection over the internet using just a browser. Version 0.5.2 fixes the HTML to EPUB conversion error, supports reading metadata from Amazon Topaz books, automatically accesses your EPUB collection in Stanza, and other bug-fixes.

Link: http://calibre.kovidgoyal.net/

Dicom 4.0 Freeware Programmable Unit Conversion Calculator

Dicom calculates, converts and computes. The first ever computing tool that deals with dimensions of physical quantities in mathematical expression, Dicom, has the answer to expression like: 30 mi./h.+6 ft./s.+15.24 m./s. to ft./s. Dicom can evaluate expressions anywhere in a rich text formatted document. It has a built-in rich text editor.

Dicom can meet your calculation needs, be it simple, scientific, financial, mathematical, statistical, or you name it. Process your words, numbers, and measurements at one place.

Dicom can be useful in many areas, especially in science and engineering. Besides the need of quick calculation or unit conversion, some possible applications of Dicom can be, design verification, quick estimates, surveying, laboratory calculation, research, student's work sheet, etc.

Link: http://www.knowbotron.com/

Butterscotch.com - an online source for video tutorials

You've wanted to take a little time to learn about how to use your iPhone. Or perhaps it was how to set up and use a blog at Blogger. Maybe you wanted to learn how to use Firefox, eBay, Flickr, Hotmail, Google Maps, or any of a host of cool online applications. Butterscotch.com offers video tutorials on all of these and more. Here's a sampling...

In Depth with IrfanView: In this butterscotch.com special 10-part tutorial series, we get the complete beginner's guide to working with free image editing utility IrfanView. We'll look at everything from working with images in batches and setting up a slideshow to enhancing and altering images.

iPhone Basics: Andy Walker runs through the basics and the finer points of getting the most out of your iPhone. He uses the 3G model but his tips and tricks also work for the original iPhone. Many will even work for the iPod Touch. If you've got a shiny new iPhone and want to learn to make the most of it, this is the tutorial series for you!

A wonderful resource at your fingertips, Butterscotch provides some excellent tutorials that will not only help you, but your students.

Link: http://www.butterscotch.com
I Was Wondering - A Book and Web Site Combo from the National Academy of Sciences

From the web site: “What would it be like to build the first robot that could interact with people? Or to study human remains in search of criminal evidence?

“In Women’s Adventures in Science, readers will learn about the trailblazing women who are leaders in a variety of scientific fields, from robotics to forensics. Each book focuses on the life and work of a woman active in her field today, providing readers with insights into the personal and professional paths that led to their careers in science. The companion Web site, www.iwaswondering.org, offers another way to “meet” these inspiring women scientists. The fun, interactive site builds on the content of the books and includes games, comic strips, videos, activities, and a timeline of women in science.

Link: www.iwaswondering.org

“The Web site iWASwondering.org is a project of the National Academy of Sciences intended to showcase the accomplishments of contemporary women in science and to highlight for young people the varied and intriguing careers of some of today’s most prominent scientists. The site draws from and accompanies the publication of a ten-volume series of biographies entitled Women’s Adventures in Science, co-published by the Joseph Henry Press (an imprint of the National Academies Press) and Scholastic Library Publishing.

“Each of the 10 featured women scientists is introduced via her home page. The scrapbooks give students the opportunity to explore the lives, backgrounds, and passions of each scientist. Interactive comic strips explore one important scientific discovery, telling the story through text, pictures, and animations. (Encourage students to use their mouse to roll over each screen to find fun science facts that expand the story.) On each home page, there are videos to watch, science labs to try, and related Web sites to visit.

“Kids will discover that being a scientist is only partly about academics—who you are as a person contributes greatly to who you are as a scientist!”
Macintosh Basics - Mac 101

Have you purchased a new Macintosh? Or perhaps you’re already a Mac user and want to learn how to be a more efficient user of your computer? Or maybe a Windows user curious about the Mac interface and applications? Well, if you’re in any of those groups, you’ll want to have a look at this site...

Link: http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/

The site is divided into five sections, with a series of short lessons in each. Section one gives you the grand tour of the Macintosh interface - the Finder, the Desktop, the Menu Bar, the Dock, and working with files, folders, and the applications that come with the Macintosh.

Section two teaches about using the Mac - such as essentials like software updating, storing your passwords, ejecting disks, working with disk images, etc. It provides help on using the address book, using the automator, the dictionary, the iLife programs, and the many other applications that came with your computer. It shares how the Mac can work for those with disabilities with things like VoiceOver, being able to zoom in on any part of the screen with an easy keyboard shortcut, and more.

Section three shares ideas about how to customize your Macintosh experience to your own preferences.

Section four will train you on how to connect and disconnect peripherals, such as your flash drive, external hard drive, printers, cameras, etc.

Section five discusses what to do when something goes wrong.

Finally, there’s a handy Cheat Sheet. Whether your Mac asks you for certain information or you’re seeking help from Apple or an Apple Authorized Service Provider (AASP), there may come a time when you need to have access to your serial number, hardware configuration, passwords, email server or internet access information. And then you discover that you’ve either forgotten or misplaced this information. If you forget it, don’t worry, pull out your Mac Cheat Sheet instead.

Even if you are an experienced Macintosh user, I’m willing to bet that this site will give you some information that you didn’t know about. It would be worth any Mac user’s time to work through.

See What’s New in Windows 7!

Link: http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/

Microsoft’s new operating system that will replace Vista is Windows 7. With Vista not being as commercially successful as they had hoped, Microsoft listened carefully to users complaints and requests when developing the new operating system. It claims that Windows 7 will be faster, more reliable, easier to use, and leaner than its predecessor. That’s good news. When operating systems compete to be the “King of the Hill” we all win.

The new taskbar at the bottom of the Windows 7 screen is what you use to switch between the applications you’ve got open. Windows 7 will keep what you use the most often in easily accessed Jump Lists. As you work with open windows, you can drag a window to the top of the screen to minimize it. Drag it back away from the top of the window to return it to the desktop.

Many of the features that bloated Windows Vista will be moved out of the operating system entirely and into Windows Live - an online set of free applications that perform tasks such as working with photos, movies, mail, and instant messaging.

Connecting a device to your Windows 7 computer will become much easier, as well as accessing all the options for that device at any time.

Personally, I’m looking forward to Windows 7. The feature set seems to be user friendly, it looks good, and seems to be more responsive than Vista did. Some of the pieces have become available now, such as Windows Explorer 8, Silverlight, and Windows Live.
Internet Users - Protect Yourselves!

There are some fairly serious threats to users of online email systems and browsers. They fall into different camps, but let's cover a couple of them.

Internet criminals have figured out ways to get your username and password to access your GMail, Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, and similar online email systems. Typically, when a webpage requests information from you, and it’s not a secure connection, that text can easily be read by any “sniffer” application looking for such things. The information is sent over wireless, or through the routers, as plain text.

On this topic, Google says, “If you sign in to Gmail via a non-secure Internet connection, like a public wireless or non-encrypted network, your Google account may be more vulnerable to hijacking. Non-secure networks make it easier for someone to impersonate you and gain full access to your Google account, including any sensitive data it may contain like bank statements or online log-in credentials. We recommend selecting the ‘Always use https’ option in Gmail any time your network may be non-secure. HTTPS, or Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, is a secure protocol that provides authenticated and encrypted communication.

To enable this feature in Gmail:

1. Sign in to Gmail.
2. Click Settings at the top of any Gmail page.
3. Set ‘Browser Connection’ to ‘Always use https.’
4. Click Save Changes.
5. Reload Gmail.

Please note that selecting ‘Always use https’ will prevent you from accessing Gmail via HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol). In addition, it may make Gmail a bit slower. If you trust the security of your network, you can turn this feature off at any time.

If you use a public computer to check your email, it’s also important to end each of your Gmail sessions by clicking Sign out at the top of any Gmail page and to close all Gmail browser windows.

There is another current threat that’s even more vicious. Called Cross Site Request Forgery (also known as XSRF, CSRF, and Cross Site Reference Forgery), it works by exploiting the trust that a site has for the user. If a user is logged into the site and an attacker tricks their browser into making a request to a malicious site that embeds a task URLs, then the task is performed and logged as the logged in user. Typically an attacker will embed malicious HTML or...
JavaScript code into an email or website to request a specific ‘task url’ which executes without the user’s knowledge, either directly or by utilizing a Cross-site Scripting Flaw.

Any browser-based service is susceptible to this kind of an attack. Even some DSL routers and modems are vulnerable.

According to wikipedia, “The attack works by including a link or script in a page that accesses a site to which the user is known (or is supposed) to have authenticated. For example, one user, Bob, might be browsing a chat forum where another user, Mallory, has posted a message. Suppose that Mallory has crafted an HTML image element that references a script on Bob’s bank’s website (rather than an image file), e.g.,

<img src="http://bank.example/withdraw?account=bob&amount=1000000&for=mallory">

If Bob’s bank keeps his authentication information in a cookie, and if the cookie hasn’t expired, then the attempt by Bob’s browser to load the image will submit the withdrawal form with his cookie, thus authorizing a transaction without Bob’s approval.

A cross-site request forgery is a confused deputy attack against a Web browser. The deputy in the bank example is Bob’s Web browser which is confused into misusing Bob’s authority at Mallory’s direction.

The following characteristics are common to CSRF:

• Involve sites that rely on a user’s identity
• Exploit the site’s trust in that identity
• Trick the user’s browser into sending HTTP requests to a target site
• Involve HTTP requests that have side effects

At risk are web applications that perform actions based on input from trusted and authenticated users without requiring the user to authorize the specific action. A user that is authenticated by a cookie saved in his web browser could unknowingly send an HTTP request to a site that trusts him and thereby cause an unwanted action.

CSRF attacks using images are often made from Internet forums, where users are allowed to post images but not JavaScript.”

Needless to say, it takes a very clever criminal to script a CSRF that will work, and then exploit it. However, it can be done.

And there’s not a lot you can do right now to prevent this one, other than to not click on things you aren’t sure that you trust. Wikipedia continues, “Individual Web users can do relatively little to prevent cross-site request forgery. Logging out of sites and avoiding their “remember me” features can mitigate CSRF risk; not displaying external images or clicking links in “spam” or untrusted e-mails may also help.” You may want to think through how your internet browser handles cookies, and when to delete them.

Website creators are scratching their heads on how to protect against this. No surefire solution has been implemented yet. And remember, CSRF is browser based - so it matters not whether you’re a Windows, Mac, or Linux user on this one. Would you like to learn more about CSRF?


Anyway, summer’s here. It’s fun to relax, explore the internet, and browse through things you’ve not been able to all year. But be careful - think before you click. Read up and then protect yourself as best you can.
Some Parting Thoughts...

New Newsletter Design

This newsletter is, in large part, the result of my personal studies in using InDesign. It has resulted in a new newsletter layout that features several different page designs. I hope you enjoy it. My goal was to make the newsletter more visually appealing by using shape, color, and form in some new and exciting ways. I think I’ve achieved that goal. Your feedback would be helpful and invited.

The graphics used in the newsletter comes from three sources.

- Screenshots of the web sites or programs reviewed in the newsletter.

- Photography or artwork I’ve personally created – such as the rose on this page, and the picture of Earth being held in outspread hands on page 3.

- Free stock photography that has been licensed for use in this manner. Many of the images come from http://www.sxc.hu/

How Can You Become Involved?

I would like to see the UCET newsletter and website become more an organizational effort, and less a one-man show. I’ve been writing the newsletter now for about four years. My goal is to entice teachers to use great technology resources so our children benefit by receiving the best education possible.

However, I can’t maintain this by myself indefinitely. Writing newsletter content is very time consuming. So this is your call to become involved in UCET! I would love to publish or post articles you write. I would love to hear about resources that excite you! Any content that would interest UCET members... I’m only an email away.

Nathan.Smith@usu.edu
School’s Out! Welcome to Summer!

You made it! School’s out. Many of you have a month or two now to catch your breath, unwind, get caught up on all those projects that have been sitting on the back burner, and maybe even get some vacation time. Congratulations!

This issue of the UCET newsletter focuses on tutorials. How do I...? (You fill in the ... part.) Have you been wanting to know how to manipulate and create PDF files? ...do a mail merge in Word? ...use Google Forms? This might be your chance to sit down and take the time to learn some new skills! We hope you find the tutorials contained in this issue helpful. As always, we’ll share some interesting web resources that you or your students can use. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

There are also some interesting (and to many, disturbing) trends happening with technology and education. For example, eSchool news reports, “The American Civil Liberties Union and its Tennessee branch sued two Tennessee school districts in federal court May 19, claiming that the districts are unconstitutionally blocking students from accessing online information about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues.” The outcome of this legal action could have profound effect on how we allow access to the internet in schools and public places that traditionally block sensitive topics such as this one. Today, June 8, I’m reading reports that several school districts have unblocked LGBT sites for their students. I predict this will become a very divisive issue.

It might be time to start thinking of alternative strategies to filtering content in the schools. Perhaps we need to look at training our students to access content responsibly (especially in public venues such as our schools), having both parents and students sign an “acceptable use policy contract,” and remove filtering altogether. One benefit would be gaining access to a great deal of educational content and resources that are presently blocked by our filtering systems. There are some sticky issues to be considered that have legal ramifications - some which have not been tested in our court system. This is an important topic worthy of deep thought and critical discussion between all involved parties.

In this issue of the UCET Newsletter...

- Don’t Put All Your Eggs In One Basket!
- The Secret Macintosh Screen Capture Commands
- Capturing Your Windows Screens to Images
- Macintosh - Really Empty That Trash
- NASA - Seeds in Space Kits Still Available to Teachers
- Teacher Workshop: Teaching STEM Through Aerospace
- VirtualBox - Open Source Virtualization Tool
- Print-Bingo.com - A free bingo card generator by Perceptus
- Tutorial - Fixing Printing Problems with Photoshop CS3 and Macintosh OSX Leopard
- Make Your Macintosh Read Aloud to You
- ScreenSteps - Tutorial Creation Software
- Tutorials:
  - Connecting Your Windows PC to another PC Through Remote Desktop
  - iTunes
  - OpenOffice Writer
  - Photoshop CS3
  - PowerPoint 2007
  - Audacity
Don’t Put All Your Eggs In One Basket...
Recently, Google had an outage that lasted several hours. During the outage, those in the United States and several other countries could not access anything Google - GMail, Google Docs and Forms, etc. Google reported that one of their main routers mistakenly rerouted traffic through Asia, causing a huge internet traffic jam. The outage led many to question, “Just how safe is cloud computing?” The outage was probably just an inconvenience for most educators. But for those whose livelihood depend on Google's online data, the outage came as both a shock and a wake-up call.

Whenever and wherever any technology is used, it’s prudent to have a backup strategy. A person making a conference presentation would do well to plan what to do if the conference projector doesn’t connect to his laptop, or if someone accidentally spills their beverage into his keyboard.

Those who allow their data files to be stored in the internet “cloud” need to seriously consider a back-up plan. Many of us have learned through personal experience the pain of losing important files and information. A hard drive crashed. Or a flash drive got left in the pocket of your dirty jeans and didn’t survive the wash cycle. Although it may seem infallible, glitches can and will happen on the internet, too. I’m fairly certain you’ll hear of more outages as greater numbers of people come to depend on SAAS or cloud computing services.

Any technology specialist will tell you that these are guidelines you should live by...

1) Back it up! Then back it up again somewhere else. If it’s important to you - back it up.

2) Migrate your content to new technology as old ones die and are replaced. Otherwise, you might find that you have files stored on media that can no longer be opened on any current equipment.

3) Keep a list of your usernames and passwords, your software serial numbers, and other important data in a safely secured file. Keep a backup of it somewhere else.

4) Just to be safe, keep incremental backups of your most important files and data. I know of some computers that were infected with a virus that spread from file to file, and was allowed to propagate for some time before the owners found out.

The Secret Macintosh Screen Captures
Most Macintosh users have learned that the following keypress combinations will capture all or a part of their screen...

**Command - Shift - 3** - Captures the entire screen and saves it as a file named Picture 1, Picture 2, etc.

**Command - Shift - 4** - Turns the cursor to a cross-hair. You drag a rectangular section of your screen to capture. The file is saved on your desktop as Picture 1, Picture 2, etc.

Have you ever wished you could just capture that screen or selection straight to your clipboard, so you could just paste it into your application (such as Word, or Photoshop)? Well you can! Just add the Control key into the mix above..

**Command - Control - Shift - 3** - Captures the entire screen and saves it to the clipboard.

**Command - Control - Shift - 4** - Turns the cursor to a cross-hair. You drag a rectangular section of your screen to capture, which is then saved to the clipboard.

Using these control key commands produces no file. The image is sitting in the clipboard ready to be pasted into your application.

Here’s another secret. Hold down the Command, Shift, and 4 keys, then press the Spacebar. Instead of a cross-hair cursor, a small camera icon appears. When you move this camera icon over the screen element you’d like to capture (such as a window or menu), that element is highlighted. Click your mouse or trackpad, and you’ve captured a screenshot of just that element.

Capturing Your Windows Screens to Images
Have you ever pressed the PrtScn key on your keyboard and wondered why it doesn’t do anything. Back in the old DOS days - pressing the key would print the text showing on your screen. In Windows, it has another function. It takes a picture of your screen and places that image on the clipboard. Now you can go to any program that will work with graphics - Paint, Photoshop, etc. - and create a new file, then paste what’s on the clipboard. You’ll have a screen shot that you can then edit in your graphics program.

A trick many people don’t know is that if you hold down the ALT key when you press the PrtScn key, only the active window will be captured to the clipboard.

For more control over your screen captures, you’ll need a separate utility, and there are several free ones for Windows XP. Perhaps the best free utility that will do this is JING from TechSmith. Look at our March 2009 newsletter for a tutorial and links to JING.

If you’re using Windows Vista, use the Snipping Tool. The Snipping Tool utility in Windows Vista is a better option than the Windows Print Screen method of screen captures. It saves a few steps compared to Print Screen and offers more options than just capturing the screen or the active window.

Click your Start menu and type “snipping” into the search box. The Snipping tool will show up in programs list.

For a tutorial on using the Snipping Tool, visit this link...

Link: [http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/microsoft/ht/snippingtool.htm](http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/microsoft/ht/snippingtool.htm)
Seeds in Space Kits Still Available to Teachers

The method of distribution of seeds for the Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber experience has changed. Packets of space-flown seeds and packets of seeds not flown in space are now available as part of the Seeds in Space Kit. The kit includes the following items:

- Five packets of seeds. Each packet includes one envelope of space seeds and one envelope of Earth seeds.
- Liftoff to Learning: Plants in Space DVD.
- The Ozone Monitoring Garden Lithograph.
- The Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber Bookmark.

The Seeds in Space Kit may be obtained from the Central Operation of Resources for Educators, or CORE. Seeds are available as long as supplies last.

Link: http://corecatalog.nasa.gov/item.cfm?num=300.0-83B

For more information about the NASA Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber, please visit the Web site:

Link: http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/plantgrowth/home/index.html

Teacher Workshop: Teaching STEM Through Aerospace

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center and the Federal Aviation Administration are sponsoring a teacher workshop for middle and high school teachers. This workshop will focus on using aerospace-based activities to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The workshop is taking place on June 30, 2009, at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, N.H.

Registration is $75 per person and limited to the first 80 participants. To register, call 603-271-7827, and press zero (0) after the recording begins.

For more information, visit

Link: http://www.faa.gov/education/educator_resources/teacher_workshops/

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact the Director of Education David McDonald at 603-271-7827, extension 114.

Macintosh - Really Empty the Trash

You all know how to empty the Macintosh trash of the files you’ve dragged there. (Or used Command-Delete to trash) The Mac’s hard drive churns for just a second and the trash bin turns from a full icon to an empty trash icon.

What really happens though? All computer operating systems that I’m aware of delete the files by removing the reference to them from the file directory, and marks that space on your hard drive as free space to write to again. It doesn’t really go out and erase every bit of the files. They are actually still sitting there on your hard drive. That is, until some other file writes over the top of them.

According to Apple’s web site, “That’s why Mac OS X Leopard provides another option for deleting data: the Secure Empty Trash command. Meant for those occasions when you want to permanently and immediately delete files, Secure Empty Trash overwrites your data with digital gibberish, ensuring that your deleted data is gone for good. It may take a few moments longer, but it’s a good choice for deleting data you’re sure you don’t need — and don’t want anyone else to see.

To delete your Trash securely, go to the Finder menu and select Secure Empty Trash. A pop-up will ask you to confirm that you want to permanently erase the items in the Trash. Click OK, and these files will be gone forever.”
VirtualBox - Open Source Virtualization Tool

Link: http://www.virtualbox.org/

From the VirtualBox Website:

“When we describe VirtualBox as a “virtualization” product, we refer to “full virtualization”, that is, the particular kind of virtualization that allows an unmodified operating system with all of its installed software to run in a special environment, on top of your existing operating system. This environment, called a “virtual machine”, is created by the virtualization software by intercepting access to certain hardware components and certain features. The physical computer is then usually called the “host”, while the virtual machine is often called a “guest”. Most of the guest code runs unmodified, directly on the host computer, and the guest operating system “thinks” it’s running on real machine.

VirtualBox is a powerful x86 virtualization product for enterprise as well as home use. Not only is VirtualBox an extremely feature rich, high performance product for enterprise customers, it is also the only professional solution that is freely available as Open Source Software under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Presently, VirtualBox runs on Windows, Linux, Macintosh and OpenSolaris hosts and supports a large number of guest operating systems including but not limited to Windows (NT 4.0, 2000, XP, Server 2003, Vista, Windows 7), DOS/Windows 3.x, Linux (2.4 and 2.6), Solaris and OpenSolaris, and OpenBSD.

VirtualBox is being actively developed with frequent releases and has an ever growing list of features, supported guest operating systems and platforms it runs on. VirtualBox is a community effort backed by a dedicated company: everyone is encouraged to contribute while Sun ensures the product always meets professional quality criteria.

Some of the features of VirtualBox are:

- Modularity. VirtualBox has an extremely modular design with well-defined internal programming interfaces and a client/server design. This makes it easy to control it from several interfaces at once: for example, you can start a virtual machine in a typical virtual machine GUI and then control that machine from the command line, or possibly remotely. VirtualBox also comes with a full Software Development Kit: even though it is Open Source Software, you don’t have to hack the source to write a new interface for VirtualBox.

- Virtual machine descriptions in XML. The configuration settings of virtual machines are stored entirely in XML and are independent of the local machines. Virtual machine definitions can therefore easily be ported to other computers.

- Guest Additions for Windows and Linux. VirtualBox has special software that can be installed inside Windows and Linux virtual machines to improve performance and make integration much more seamless. Among the features provided by these Guest Additions are mouse pointer integration and arbitrary screen solutions (e.g. by resizing the guest window).

- Shared folders. Like many other virtualization solutions, for easy data exchange between hosts and guests, VirtualBox allows for declaring certain host directories as “shared folders”, which can then be accessed from within virtual machines.”
Print-Bingo.com - A free bingo card generator by Perceptus

Link: http://print-bingo.com/

From their website: "Print-Bingo.com is a completely web based program for printing many types of bingo cards, including those with your own custom word lists. Since there is nothing to install, this site works with any recent computer and printer. Hundreds of people print bingo cards from this site every day, so chances are that it will work for you too!

We offer three sizes of bingo cards, one, two, and four cards per letter sized page. We also have a custom bingo card creation form where you can create unique bingo cards with your own word lists and other customizations. Custom cards are great for teachers, buzzword bingo, or party bingo. Our site has unicode support, for you, this means that many, many, languages are supported, including Chinese, Japanese, and Russian.

If our bingo card creation tools grows more popular, other sizes and customizations for our bingo cards will be added. Feel free to send suggestions or comments to bingo@perceptus.ca or leave a note in the print-bingo.com forum."

About the illustrations: Left) The easy to use online form allows you to create your bingo cards. Top Right) When you click the submit button, the site checks for any problems such as duplicate words, or if you have enough words entered to generate a set of bingo cards. If everything is OK you’ll see this “Click here to get your first set of custom bingo cards.” link. Click the link. Center and Bottom Right: The site then generates a PDF file of your bingo cards!
Tutorial - Fixing Printing Problems with Photoshop CS3 and Macintosh OSX Leopard

If you have tried to print a file from Adobe Photoshop CS3 on a Macintosh OSX Leopard machine, you may have been shocked to see your printer spit out hundreds of pages of garbage print - each a single line at the top of every page. Every other application prints just fine - just not Photoshop.

One work-around is to print the file as a PDF, open it in Preview, and print it from there. However, that is a painful fix, as it adds many more steps to what should be a simple printing process.

After banging my head on this problem for quite some time, I've discovered a simple fix. First, go into the FILE menu and choose Print...

In the Photoshop CS3 dialog box, on the right side, you'll see a drop-down menu. Choose Color Management, and then click the Proof radio button. Now when you print, it will print normally. The nice thing is that Photoshop remembers this setting, so you shouldn't have to click it each time you want to print.

From what I've been able to gather from many forum posts on the internet, Adobe Photoshop CS3 and the Leopard operating system don't speak perfect PostScript language to each other, and the operating system misinterprets a PostScript command. Photoshop sends the faulty PostScript code along to the printer, which causes it to lose its mind and print a single line of garbage at the top of each and every page in your printer tray, until the printer runs out of paper. Neither Adobe or Apple have patched this. Hopefully this work-around will work for you.

Make Your Macintosh Read Aloud to You

Your Macintosh can read aloud to you. Mac OSX Leopard has a text-to-speech function that will, with a keystroke combination you set, read any text you've highlighted in a text-based file. It can read e-mail messages, webpage text, PDFs, calendar entries, spreadsheets, word processor documents, and more.

To set your Macintosh so that it reads text, go to your System Preferences and choose Speech. In the Speech dialog, you can try various reading voices - Alex, Bruce, Victoria, and about 18 others. You can select the speed they read to you. Most importantly, you can choose a key combination to initiate speech. Click the Set Key... button. Then choose the key combination you wish. I would personally avoid common ones like Command-S - which is the save command in most programs. Here I've chosen Control-S as my key combination.

Now, whenever I want to have the computer read to me, I first select (highlight) the text I want, press the key combination, and the Macintosh begins to read the text to me. Be sure your volume is turned up so you can hear it. If I want the speech to stop, I just press the same key combination again. It acts as an on-off switch.

Tired of reading the student's homework? You can have it read to you instead.
ScreenSteps - Tutorial Creation Software

We have a project going on at Utah State University, where we are in the process of creating a database of many step-by-step lessons. Often these are to answer specific questions our students or faculty have about using various software applications. We were looking for Macintosh and Windows software that would do the following:

1) Allow us to create step-by-step tutorials in a consistant format.
2) Allow us to organize these tutorials into manuals with chapters.
3) Allow us to export the tutorials as PDF, HTML, or WORD documents.
4) Easily capture screenshots and annotate them.
5) Be able to export the tutorials as archives that could be shared among other users, be updated, proofread, and exported again.

Link: http://www.bluemangolearning.com/

BlueMango software has a solution called ScreenSteps. From their website: "The ScreenSteps Support Suite allows companies and organizations to transform the way they approach customer support. It is built around a simple philosophy: each step of providing instruction to a customer should be easy. It should be easy to create customer tutorials and guides. It should be easy to publish them. It should be easy to deliver to the customer. And it should be easy for the customer to understand the information they are given. And that is what the ScreenSteps Support Suite does, it makes it easy to turn customer support into customer satisfaction.

The ScreenSteps Support Suite consists of two parts: ScreenSteps 2.5 is the content creation and editing module of the ScreenSteps Support Suite. With ScreenSteps Desktop, users of any ability can quickly create customer tutorials and guides that any customer can follow. ScreenSteps Live is our hosted publishing, distribution and collaboration solution. While ScreenSteps Desktop is designed as a tool to create original content, ScreenSteps Live goes much further, enabling workgroups to create dynamic customer support sites in just a few hours as opposed to a few weeks."

The tutorials linked to below were created by USU student employees in ScreenSteps, and then exported as PDF files.

UCET Special: Software Tutorials

Although they’re not comprehensive manuals to using the software products below, they do answer many questions you may have. As mentioned in the article above, Utah State University students were creating these tutorials to answer questions we’re often asked in our computer labs and at the Help Desk. We hope you find them useful. The PDF files were big enough that we’ll link to each individually, rather than include them in the newsletter.

Connecting Your Windows PC to Another PC Through Remote Desktop (PDF - 1.4 MB)

Link: RemoteDesktop.pdf

iTunes (PDF - 4.8 MB)

Link: iTunes.pdf

OpenOffice Writer (PDF - 2.2 MB)

Link: OpenOffice.pdf

Photoshop CS3 (PDF - 61.2 MB)

Link: PhotoshopCS3Windows.pdf

PowerPoint 2007 (PDF - 24.6 MB)

Link: PowerPoint2007.pdf

Audacity (PDF - 2.3 MB)

Link: Audacity.pdf
It's July! Independence Day, Pioneer Day, summer camps, fishing, camping, vacation. We hope you're having a great summer! There's a lot happening in the technology world, too. New and exciting products, major updates to software and operating systems, new resources that you can use in education, and much more! There are also opportunities to attend workshops, apply for grants, and other professional development activities!

So, let's jump right in and share some of these with you. We hope you find them useful. We'd love to have some feedback from you. Feel free to drop us a note at ucetinfo@ucet.org

**NASA’s Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology Workshop on July 30-31, 2009**

Apollo 11 was the first manned mission to land on the moon in July 1969. Do you remember the excitement you felt hearing and seeing that happen? Now zoom forward to the present and imagine bringing that same excitement to your children or grandchildren. Today’s students will watch humans return to the moon and even be a part of a living and working community on the moon. NASA wants to inspire this generation to be the engineers and scientists that make lunar exploration a reality.

For two days, NASA invites you to be a part of a unique, interactive, hands-on workshop that will teach all generations how NASA plans to return to the moon. Come make lunar maps, build a satellite and program a rover. This promises to be a fun-filled learning experience for all.

This multi-generational, two-day workshop event will take place July 30-31, 2009, in Point Lookout, Maine.

Explore together, learn together and inspire each other.

For more information, please contact Dr. Marci Delaney at marci.delaney@nasa.gov, or phone 301-286-7992.

**Hands-on Astronomy and Earth-science Education Workshops for Grade 4-12 Teachers on Sept. 12-13, 2009**

A weekend of hands-on workshops and informative science talks will be offered as part of the 120th anniversary meeting of the nonprofit Astronomical Society of the Pacific. These workshops will take place Sept. 12-13, 2009, at the
Westin Hotel near the San Francisco Airport in Millbrae, Calif.

The program will include space science and earth science workshops for educators of grades 4 through 12, as well as sessions for educators who work in informal settings (such as museums, nature centers, amateur astronomy clubs, and community organizations.)

No background in astronomy will be assumed or required. Experienced educators from the Society’s staff, from NASA and NSF-sponsored projects, and from educational institutions around the country will be presenting. Only a limited number of spaces will be available, and, thanks to conference supporters, registration for each day of the workshop will be only $39.

Sunday afternoon will feature a special nontechnical lecture series about the search for life among the stars, with some of the leading scientists from the SETI Institute describing the scientific experiments now underway to identify life beyond Earth.

Thanks to the support of the Spitzer Space Telescope Science Center, a limited number of travel-support scholarships (of up to $300 per person) will be made available for educators.

For more information, visit http://www.astrosociety.org/events/2009mtg/workshops.html.

Win a mobile lab for teachers - Digital Wish

In the Digital Wish program teachers are asked to submit technology-based lesson plans, which focus on interesting ways to infuse technology in the classroom. As many as the top 43 lesson plans will be awarded varying grants for hardware and software. Winners are chosen on the 28th day of every month.

Link: http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant_awards

Source: http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding/ongoing-grants/index.cfm?i=58241

Change Your Mac Startup Screen?

The Mac’s startup screen was beautiful when you first saw it, but after several thousand boots, is it starting to get old? Want to change it to another image of your choice? Or perhaps you run a lab of Macs, and want to personalize the startup that your users see.

With a freeware program called Loginox, you can. It’s very simple to use. Once you’ve downloaded the program and run it, you’ll see a very simple interface...

Just drag an image into the “New Login Image” spot, and click the “Set new Login image” button. You’ll be required to type your administrator password at this point. Then when you reboot your computer, your new image will be displayed at login.

Link: http://www.branox.com/Loginox/
MPEG Streamclip - Freeware for Win & Mac

MPEG Streamclip is a powerful high-quality video converter, player, editor for MPEG, QuickTime, transport streams, or iPod. Now it is a DivX editor and encoding machine, and even a movie downloader.

You can use MPEG Streamclip to open and play most movie formats including MPEG files or transport streams; edit them with Cut, Copy, Paste, and Trim; set In/Out points and convert them into muxed or demuxed files, or export them to QuickTime, AVI, DV and MPEG-4 files with more than professional quality, so you can easily import them in a DVD authoring tool, and use them with many other applications or devices.

Supported input formats: MPEG, VOB, PS, M2P, MOD, VRO, DAT, MOV, DV, AVI, MP4, TS, M2T, MMV, REC, VID, AUD, AVR, VDR, PVR, TP0, M2V, M1V, MPV, AIFF, M1A, MP2, MPA, AC3, ...

Link: http://www.squared5.com/
Watch a YouTube Video - Using MPEG Streamclip - Producing Video Podcasts - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q13nSYvDGE

Photoshop Elements Express

Have you ever wanted to edit a picture, but didn’t have the software? I found a website that allows you to download basic picture editing software for free. The software is called Photoshop Elements Express. It is an extension of photoshop, and will allow you to do basic picture editing such as red eye, color tints, resizing, sharpening images, and more.

You can find and download this software for free by going to

Link: http://www.photoshop.com/express

In order to download this software you will have to create an account. It will ask you for your e-mail address, a password, and a unique URL that you create yourself.

Editing pictures isn’t the only thing you can do with this software, when you create your account, you will be asked to create a unique URL. You can use this URL to upload pictures to your own personal website, and then invite other people to view the albums you have uploaded. You can make your pictures available for the public to view, or only allow people in your e-mail list to view them. To upload your pictures you will want to create an album, specify who will be allowed to view your albums, and then add them to your gallery. I think it’s a great way to share pictures with family and friends.

Many other people who use this software like it because it makes uploading pictures to facebook, flickr, photobucket, and picasa very easy. You can connect to these websites directly from the photoshop express website.

The treasures that are available on the internet just never seem to end. This is just one of them. Make sure you check it out!

Contributor: Sarah Zabriskie
Keep that Screensaver From Kicking In During the Show...

Have you ever been presenting a video to the class using your computer and a projector? After about five minutes or so, the operating system’s screensaver kicked in and you had to run back and move the mouse to continue viewing the show? Is there an easy way to keep the screensaver from activating in the middle of a show?

Yes, there is - for both Windows and Macintosh. The freeware program is called Caffeine. Caffeine is a tiny program that puts an icon in the right side of your Macintosh menu bar. Click it to prevent your Mac from automatically going to sleep, dimming the screen or starting screen savers (the icon will turn to a full cup). Click it again to go back (the icon returns to an empty cup). Hold down the Command key while clicking to show the menu.

Link: http://lightheadsw.com/caffeine/

The icon is shown above - it’s the leftmost one in the task tray, and this is all you see. Double-clicking the icon empties the coffee pot (that’s what the icon is) and temporarily disables the program. Double-clicking it again refills the pot, and will keep your machine awake.

By default the app starts enabled, and works every 59 seconds. There are seven command line switches you can use to alter this behaviour:

- xx - where xx is a number which sets the number of seconds between simulated keypresses. This must be the first text on the commandline
- -startoff - application starts disabled.
- -exitafter:xx - application will terminate after xx minutes
- -activefor:xx - application will become inactive after xx minutes
- -appexit - terminates current running instance of application
- -appon - makes the current running instance of the application active
- -appoff - makes the current running instance of the application inactive

Windows 98: Caffeine works by simulating left shift key down and up events every 59 seconds.

Windows 2000/XP: Caffeine works by simulating a left shift key up event every 59 seconds.

Of all the key presses available, shift is probably the least intrusive, and least likely to interfere with your work.

I feel these two freeware programs will solve some headaches that teachers have trying to keep their machine awake during a presentation that lasts longer than the screensaver activation time. It keeps you from having to go to your control panels and change the settings back and forth.

Locate that Mouse!

Have you ever lost your mouse pointer? In frustration you shake your mouse trying to locate the movement on the screen? There are free tools that will help you locate your mouse pointer.

For Macintosh, there is a freeware application called, appropriately, Mouse Locator. It adds a new pane to your System Preferences Panels.

Link: http://www.2point5fish.com/

This nifty piece of freeware surrounds the cursor with a very obvious green double circle when a hotkey is pressed (or permanently, if the user so desires). By default, the software will put the green double circle around your cursor when you press the Control-Spacebar key combination. You can also assign it to one of the function keys.

For XP and Vista users, the operating system has a nifty mouse finder feature built in, that zeros in on its location like a Sonar display when you press the Ctrl Key, it’s also a good way of warning you that you’ve pressed the Ctrl key instead of Shift by mistake. To switch it on go to Start > Control Panel and double click the Mouse Icon. Select the Pointer Options tab and right at the bottom check the item ‘Show location of pointer when I press the CTRL key.”
**TightVNC: Remote Control for Your Personal Computer**

TightVNC is a remote control software tool which allows you to interact with one computer desktop from any computer that can access the Internet. With this tool you can fully control keyboard and mouse as if you were sitting right in front of the remote computer.

So, next time you forget to put an important file on your flash drive and it's on your home computer, you can still have access to it from anywhere in the world!

Other features highlighted on tightvnc.com:

- **File transfers in versions for Windows.** You can upload files from your local machine to the TightVNC Server, and download files from the server to your computer.

- **Support for video mirror driver** (Windows 2000 and above). TightVNC Server can use DFMirage mirror driver to detect screen updates and grab pixel data in a very efficient way, saving processor cycles for other applications.

- **Scaling of the remote desktop** (viewer for Windows and Java viewer). You can view the remote desktop in whole on a screen of smaller size, or you can zoom in the picture to see the remote screen in more details.

- **Efficient “Tight” encoding with optional JPEG compression.** New Tight encoding is optimized for slow and medium-speed connections and thus generates much less traffic as compared to traditional VNC encodings. Unlike other encodings, Tight encoding is configurable via compression levels and JPEG image quality setting.

- **Enhanced Web browser access.** TightVNC includes a greatly improved Java viewer with full support for Tight encoding, 24-bit color mode, and more. The Java viewer applet can be accessed via built-in HTTP server like in the standard VNC. (See Attached Image).

- **Support for two passwords, full-control and read-only.** The server allows or disallows remote keyboard and mouse events depending on which password was used for authentication.

You can download this tool from:

[http://www.tightvnc.com](http://www.tightvnc.com)

*Contributor: Jairo Hernandez Velasquez*

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**Camcorders with Almost No Moving Parts**

I remember reading a science fiction book by Isaac Asimov, “The City and The Stars.” It was set billions of years in Earth's future. One accomplishment mankind had achieved by then was a perfect machine (which Asimov felt were machines that had no moving parts). Thus, they were completely reliable, and nearly indestructible.

Camcorders, MP3 players, and other technology wonders we're seeing today are approaching that point - no moving parts. I think that's a great selling point for purchasing technology to be used by students. You want the equipment to be easy to use, and nearly indestructible! As a technology director, I've had a number of VHS camcorders, tape-based DV camcorders, mini-DVD camcorders, and camcorders with internal hard drives. Loaning these out to students for their assignments was often a headache because they would inevitably break. Tapes jammed in the machine. Hard drives were bumped just a little too hard. Mini-DVDs were scratched. Newer camcorders on the market use SD memory cards, or have built in Flash memory. With so few moving parts, they are remarkably reliable. I've been experimenting with Flip Ultra HD camcorders and have been quite impressed with how easy they are to use, the good quality video for the price, and how easy it is to download, edit, and manage the videos. It's also easy to upload the videos to online sites like YouTube. I saw them for sale at Sam's Club yesterday for $129.99. It's exciting to watch technology move forward!

Of course, if you need high quality video, you'll want to go with some of the more expensive camcorders - you basically get what you pay for. But for student assignment work, these small camcorders are almost the perfect solution.
Study Tips Online

Being a college student can be a daunting task sometimes. Students fail classes simply because they don't know how to study. Knowing how to study, however, can completely change a student's high school or college experience, and can make all the difference when it comes to passing and failing. For students who have yet to learn the best way to study, and feel that all hope is lost, I say don't give up yet. There are many resources on the internet designed to help students improve their study habits. One such website is http://www.studytips.org.

This website is a lot like a search engine. Find the topic or strategy you need to learn and then browse through the articles. There are over 75 articles spanning over 23,000 words and topics all geared to one goal: helping you study more effectively.

This website focuses mostly on general strategies students need to understand in order to be the best student that they can. For example, one of the articles explains what a 5 paragraph essay is, and how to go about writing one.

Another article explains the best way to present a project in front of a class, and there are many articles geared towards test preparation. So check it out. You may see an increase in your grade by the time Fall Semester starts.

Another website that provides study skills training is http://www.studyguidezone.com/resource_tips.htm

Part of gaining a college degree includes passing all the standardized tests that proves you qualify. These tests can be very stressful. This website contains the study guides for many of these standardized tests, such as the Praxis test, GRE test, and FE exam only to name a few.

You can download some, but not all, of these study guides for free from this website. Others you will have to order. Check out this great website, and you may find yourself very calm as your next standardized test approaches.

Contributor - Sarah Zabriskie

Looking for an Older Version of Software? Check OldVersion.com...

Sometimes upgrading to that newest version of software isn't exactly what you wanted to do. The new one's buggy, or some important feature changed. Although we normally recommend that you stay current with the latest version of software - especially for security reasons - sometimes you need that older version. OldVersion.com may be your answer.

With over 2800 previous versions of over 200 software titles, OldVersion.com has just about everything anyone could want. Just select your application in the drop-down menu, and OldVersion.com will display all the previous versions of that application. Click on the application you need, and you'll be redirected to the download page for that version.

Link: http://www.oldversion.com/
Zotero - Collect, Manage, and Cite Your Resources and Bibliographic Information

Zotero [zoh-TAIR-oh] is a free, easy-to-use Firefox extension to help you collect, manage, and cite your research sources. It lives right where you do your work—in the web browser itself.

Link: http://www.zotero.org/

Features

- Automatically capture citations
- Remotely back up and sync your library
- Store PDFs, images, and web pages
- Cite from within Word and OpenOffice
- Take rich-text notes in any language
- Wide variety of import/export options
- Free, open source, and extensible
- Collaborate with group libraries
- Organize with collections and tags
- Access your library from anywhere
- Automatically grab metadata for PDFs
- Use thousands of bibliographic styles
- Instantly search your PDFs and notes
- Advanced search and data mining tools
- Interface available in over 30 languages

This powerful Firefox Add-on is similar in many ways to the commercial application - EndNote. It’s function is to data mine and gather bibliographic and reference information from online resources, and assist you in creating your research bibliography and footnotes.

Zotero is easy to use, and there are handy training materials and videos at the Zotero site...

Link: http://www.zotero.org/support/quick_start_guide#the_zotero_pane

If you are using Acrobat 9 Professional or Acrobat 9 Reader, you can click the video below to view a tour of Zotero.
Ten Free Security Tools that Actually Work

A couple months ago, TechRepublic published an article entitled “10 free security tools that actually work,” by Susan Harkins. I agree with her, these are fine tools that will help secure and protect your PC. A word of caution, though. You need to be very careful about installing similar kinds of security tools - they'll often conflict with each other, slowing down or even crashing your PC.

TechRepublic Site: http://techrepublic.com.com/

Here’s a brief listing of their results:

1. **AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition** - One of the most popular free anti-virus applications.
   
   Link: http://free.avg.com/

2. **Malwarebytes** - fights malware - rated one of the best at detecting and removing malware.
   
   Link: http://www.malwarebytes.org/mbam.php

3. **Spybot - Search and Destroy**: Detects and removes spyware.
   

From the TechRepublic Report: “Note: A combination of #1, #2, and #3 provides adequate protection for most single-user systems. They’re easy to use and don’t require special technical knowledge.”

4. **WOT** - an add-in that adds another layer of security to your web browser.
   
   Link: http://www.mywot.com/

5. **WinPatrol** - Robust security monitor that alerts you to hijackings, malware attacks, and changes made to your system without your permission.
   
   Link: http://www.winpatrol.com/

6. **Secunia Personal Software Inspector** - Scans your PC for insecure applications and keeps you informed of updates and patches.
   
   http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/

7. **Sysinternals Security Utilities** - a free Microsoft utility that performs a number of security functions.
   

8. **Wireshark** - a network protocol analyzer. Particularly useful for system administrators.
   
   Link: http://www.wireshark.org/

9. **Nmap** - a network mapping utility.
   
   Link: http://nmap.org/

10. **Online Scans** - free online scan services. Many of these have been purchased by other companies since the article was written, and are no longer available online. However, F-Secure still has online scanning tools...
   

Be sure to investigate each tool carefully before using them on your own PC. Make sure you understand each tool before experimenting with it. Make sure you have backed up your computer or important files.
The Instructional Architect (Utah State University)

The Instructional Architect allows you to find, use, and share learning resources from the National Science Digital Library (nsdl.org) and the Web in order to create engaging and interactive educational web pages. It’s easy and free.

The IA enables you to:

- create instructional activities using the resources you find
- create a free account to store your collection of resources and instructional projects
- share your resources with your students and other teachers

While using the Instructional Architect, you don’t need to go to the NSDL to find resources. Instead, you can search for resources from the NSDL through the IA. This is a wonderful tool, similar in some ways to SurWeb, which also lets you gather resources into online educational webpages.

Link to Instructional Architect: http://ia.usu.edu/
Link to NSDL: http://nsdl.org
Link to SurWeb: http://www.surweb.org
Hubble Space Telescope’s New Wide Field Camera Captures Jupiter Collision

This Hubble picture, taken on July 23, by the new Wide Field Camera 3, is the sharpest visible-light picture taken of the atmospheric debris from a comet or asteroid that collided with Jupiter on July 19. This is Hubble’s first science observation following its repair and upgrade in May. The size of the impactor is estimated to be as large as several football fields.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, and H. Hammel (Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colo.), and the Jupiter Impact Team

NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope has taken the sharpest visible-light picture yet of atmospheric debris from an object that collided with Jupiter on July 19. NASA scientists decided to interrupt the recently refurbished observatory’s checkout and calibration to take the image of a new, expanding spot on the giant planet on July 23.

Discovered by Australian amateur astronomer Anthony Wesley, the spot was created when a small comet or asteroid plunged into Jupiter’s atmosphere and disintegrated. The only other time such a feature has been seen on Jupiter was 15 years ago after the collision of fragments from comet Shoemaker-Levy 9.

“Because we believe this magnitude of impact is rare, we are very fortunate to see it with Hubble,” said Amy Simon-Miller of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. “Details seen in the Hubble view shows a lumpiness to the debris plume caused by turbulence in Jupiter’s atmosphere.”

The new Hubble images also confirm that a May servicing visit by space shuttle astronauts was a big success.

“This image of the impact on Jupiter is fantastic,” said U.S. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee. “It tells us that our astronauts and the ground crew at the Goddard Space Flight Center successfully repaired the Hubble telescope. I’m so proud of them and I can’t wait to see what’s next from Hubble.”

For the past several days, Earth-based telescopes have been trained on Jupiter. To capture the unfolding drama 360 million miles away, Matt Mountain, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, gave observation time to a team of astronomers led by Heidi Hammel of the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo.

Simon-Miller estimated the diameter of the impacting object was the size of several football fields. The force of the explosion on Jupiter was thousands of times more powerful than the suspected comet or asteroid that exploded over the Siberian Tunguska River Valley in June 1908.

The image was taken with the Wide Field Camera 3. The new camera, installed by the astronauts aboard space shuttle Atlantis in May, is not yet fully calibrated. While it is possible to obtain celestial images, the camera’s full power has yet to be seen.

“This is just one example of what Hubble’s new, state-of-the-art camera can do, thanks to the STS-125 astronauts and the entire Hubble team,” said Ed Weiler, associate administrator of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington. “However, the best is yet to come.”
Create Your Own Comix Strip

A Message From Bill Zimmerman - the site’s creator

“Dear Friend,

I envisioned MakeBeliefsComix.com as a place for you to come to and have fun by creating your own world of comic strips. My hope is that by giving you a choice of characters with different moods and the chance to write words and thoughts for them, you will tap into your creativity and explore new possibilities. After all, there is no greater force in life than the power of the imagination to free us from our immediate problems and to spur our energies to find solutions to our befuddlements.

MakeBeliefsComix is for people of all ages who like to play and explore. They include, for example, those wanting a few minutes of fun; youngsters and their parents; students and teachers; business executives trying to unwind from the stress of work, and activities directors and social workers who try to help people express their deepest thoughts and feelings. My intent is that you will regard this site as a safe place where you feel empowered to create and to test new ideas and ways to communicate through art and writing.

Since launching this site in late 2006, there have been over one million visitors from more than 175 countries using MakeBeliefsComix. Many of them have been educators who use the site with students to encourage writing, reading and literacy and the learning of English. In fact, Google and UNESCO selected MakeBeliefsComix as one of the world’s most innovative web sites in fostering literacy and reading. http://www.google.com/literacy/projects.html

Many of you have encouraged us and made invaluable suggestions. Acting on your feedback, we have added additional fun characters and incorporated a new feature to allow users to write their comics in languages other than English, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Latin and Portuguese. (We’re hoping to offer Chinese, Japanese and Korean language support soon.) And because we have learned how important word-of-mouth is to build a community of users for this resource, we also added a new Tell-A-Friend page which we hope you will use to share the site with friends and colleagues. There is also a Feedback page for you to tell us how to make the site more useful and fun. Please use it - we want to be the best.

Many of you after enjoying this comix site then asked for more writing ideas to help you express yourself. To this end, we have linked MakeBeliefsComix.com to my other website, www.billztreasurechest.com and to my Blog with Bill Zimmerman page on which new writing prompts are regularly added. The WRITER PROMPTS button at the bottom right will take you there. Have a look.

And we have just added another new feature - MAKEBELIEFSCOMIX PRINTABLES - where you can print out comix templates from this site as well as pages from my books and use at home, school and in the office to write on and color - another way to have fun and express all the creativity within you. Just click the PRINTABLES button below!

Enjoy!”
Need to Edit a PDF file in Word? Here’s a PDF converter tool...

I had a professor bring me a complex application form that was a PDF file. She said she needed to do some major editing to the document, but couldn’t figure out how to do the edits in a PDF file. Actually, you can do some editing of a PDF file using Acrobat Professional - there’s a touch up text tool in the advanced editing toolbar. However, it’s quite limited in what it can do. Basically you can only edit a single line of text. It’s good if you’ve misspelled a word, but not for much else. Acrobat Professional also lets you export the text of a PDF file as a Microsoft Word document, but you lose all the formatting. Both these options were unsatisfactory. It was beginning to look like we’d have to create the entire application form from scratch in Microsoft Word.

After doing a little searching for tools on the internet, we found the PDFtoWord site. It converted the entire PDF file into a Microsoft Word document, and left all the formatting intact. Excellent results!

Link: [http://www.pdftoword.com/](http://www.pdftoword.com/)

This site says of itself, “The Most Accurate PDF-to-Word Converter!

Using our PDF-to-Word conversion technology, you can quickly and easily create editable DOC/RTF files, making it a cinch to re-use PDF content in applications like Microsoft Word, Excel, OpenOffice, and WordPerfect.

Best of all, it's entirely free!"

The site is simple to use. First you browse to the PDF file you wish to convert. Second, you choose whether you wish the file to be a .DOC (Microsoft Word) file or an .RTF (Rich Text Format) file. You provide your email address in the required field, and click the convert button. Within a minute or two, you’ll have the converted file emailed to you.

You’ll also want to check out the links to the PDF editor tool and PDF to Excel tools.

Easily Rename MP3 Files Based On iTunes Tag Data

Do you have MP3 files named Track 01, Track 02, Track 03, etc.? However, you’ve taken the time to provide the title, artist, genre, and other data in iTunes for each track. Have you wished for a way to easily rename the filenames to match the iTunes data?

Dukko, a free program (donations requested), can quickly do that for you.

Dukko is a little application that helps you to rename MP3 or AAC files based on iTunes tags. Drag files or folder on Dukko icon, and select Simple or Full mode, and Dukko rename file as “title.mp3” or “artist - title.mp3”. More: Dukko puts every audio file in right subfolders like Apple iTunes You can also add a prefix to the name, so if you type for example “LIVE” and clic “Simple”, Dukko rename file as “LIVE - title.mp3” No more strange name, symbols, and other freaks.

IMPORTANT! Dukko works only with MP3 or AAC files with correct info tag (you can edit tags with iTunes or others tools).

Dukko engine is based on Spotlight, so only Leopard users can work with file on a Network disk.

Link: [http://www.1802.it/dukko.php](http://www.1802.it/dukko.php)
Press Release: REDMOND, Wash. Microsoft Corp. today unveiled Bing, a new Decision Engine and consumer brand, providing customers with a first step in moving beyond search to help make faster, more informed decisions. Bing is specifically designed to build on the benefits of today’s search engines but begins to move beyond this experience with a new approach to user experience and intuitive tools to help customers make better decisions, focusing initially on four key vertical areas: making a purchase decision, planning a trip, researching a health condition or finding a local business. The result of this new approach is an important beginning for a new and more powerful kind of search service, which Microsoft is calling a Decision Engine, designed to empower people to gain insight and knowledge from the Web, moving more quickly to important decisions. The new service, located at http://www.Bing.com, will begin to roll out over the coming days and will be fully deployed worldwide on Wednesday, June 3.

The explosive growth of online content has continued unabated, and Bing was developed as a tool to help people more easily navigate through the information overload that has come to characterize many of today’s search experiences. Results from a custom comScore Inc. study across core search engines show that as many as 30 percent of searches are abandoned without a satisfactory result. The data also showed that approximately two-thirds of the remaining searches required a refinement or query on the search results page.

“Today, search engines do a decent job of helping people navigate the Web and find information, but they don’t do a very good job of enabling people to use the information they find,” said Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO. “When we set out to build Bing, we grounded ourselves in a deep understanding of how people really want to use the Web. Bing is an important first step forward in our long-term effort to deliver innovations in search that enable people to find information quickly and intuitively. Bing includes a number of features that organize search results, including Explore Pane, a dynamically relevant set of navigation and search tools on the left side of the page; Web Groups, which groups results in intuitive ways both on the Explore Pane and in the actual results; and Related Searches on the Explore Pane and in the actual results; and Related Searches includes one-click access to information through Instant Answers, designed to provide the sought-after information within the body of the search results page, minimizing the need for additional clicks.

Organized search experience. More and more customers are regularly spending time with search engines, engaging in complex, multi-query and multi-session searches. Respondents also said an organized search experience would be twice as useful in helping find information and accomplishing tasks faster. Bing includes a number of features that organize search results, including Explore Pane, a dynamically relevant set of navigation and search tools on the left side of the page; Web Groups, which groups results in intuitive ways both on the Explore Pane and in the actual results; and Related Searches and Quick Tabs, which is essentially a table of contents for different categories of search results. Collectively, these and other features in Bing help people navigate their search results, cut through the clutter of search overload and get right down to making important decisions.

Great search results. Relevant search results are still a top priority for people, yet Microsoft studies show that only one in four search queries deliver a satisfactory result. Bing helps identify relevant search results through features such as Best Match, where the best answer is surfaced and called out; Deep Links, allowing more insight into what resources a particular site has to offer; and Quick Preview, a hover-over window that expands over a search result caption to provide a better sense of the related site’s relevancy. Bing also includes one-click access to information through Instant Answers, designed to provide the sought-after information within the body of the search results page, minimizing the need for additional clicks.

Simplify tasks and provide insight. Microsoft’s research identified shopping, travel, local business and information, and health-related research as areas in which people wanted more assistance in making key decisions. The current state of Internet search isn’t optimized for these tasks, but the Bing Decision Engine is optimized for these key customer scenarios. For example, while a consumer is using Bing to shop online, the Sentiment Extraction feature scours the Internet for user opinions and expert reviews to help leverage the community of customers as well as product experts in trying to make a buying decision. In Bing Travel, the Rate Key compares the location, price and amenities of multiple hotels and provides a color-coded key of the best values, and the Price Predictor actually helps consumers decide when to buy an airline ticket in order to get the lowest prices.

The new brand portfolio will include the following changes to existing Microsoft programs:

- Microsoft’s mapping platform, Virtual Earth, will now be branded as Bing Maps for Enterprise.
- Technology from Microsoft’s April 2008 acquisition of Farecast is now a central part of Bing Travel.
- Microsoft’s popular cashback program, now dubbed Bing cashback, with more than 850 merchants and more than 17 million products available, will be fully integrated into the Bing Shopping experience.

Microsoft is committed to building better tools to help people find the shortest distance from their initial search query to the point of making an informed decision. Bing is an important first step toward this long-term vision and a strong indicator of Microsoft’s commitment to move search technology forward for customers.

A New Approach to Internet Search

Based on the customer insight that 66 percent of people are using Internet search more frequently to make complex decisions, Microsoft identified three design goals to guide the development of Bing: deliver great results; deliver a more organized experience; and simplify tasks and provide insight, leading to faster, more confident decisions. The new service, built to go beyond today’s search experience, includes deep innovation on core search areas including entity extraction and expansion, query intent recognition and document summarization technology as well as a new user experience model that dynamically adapts to the type of query to provide relevant and intuitive decision-making tools.
Compare BING Results with Google Results

Link: [http://bvsg.org/](http://bvsg.org/)

Wondering how good the new BING search engine is? You’re so used to using Google that you’re reluctant to make a switch? What if you could type in a search and easily compare the results from the two? You can compare the two side-by-side by using BvsG.org. Type in a search here, and you’ll get two side-by-side windows that show Bing’s results and Google’s results. Essentially a meta-search site that uses both engines.

This is a fun way to explore how search engines work. And it will give you a good idea how relevant the results from each are. Competition is great, isn’t it?

An Interactive Exploration of the Relationship Between Music and Math Formulas

Link: [http://www.musicalgorithms.ewu.edu/](http://www.musicalgorithms.ewu.edu/)


The Web-based application found on this site has been designed for exploring algorithms in an interdisciplinary environment. The Web site contains interactive tools, which provide a unique learning experience for users, regardless of their musical training. Students of music composition can explore algorithmic composition, while others can create musical representations of models for the purpose of aural interpretation and analysis. Here, the algorithmic process is used in a creative context so that users can convert sequences of numbers into sounds. For example, the Web-based application at this site can provide aural representations of PI, DNA sequences, or Dow Jones Industrial averages. This learning environment allows users a hands-on approach to creating music by means of conceptualization.

This Web site was created at the direction of Dr. Jonathan Middleton with assistance from a superb team of programmers: Andrew Cobb, Michael Henry, Robert Lyon, and Ian Siemer.

This project was funded by the generous support of the Northwest Academic Computing Consortium (NWACC).

USING THE COMPOSITION PROGRAM

To use the composition function of this site you should begin at the Compose page. Begin with a simple algorithm such as Powers. Here, you can create a series of squared numbers and hear the music they can create. You will need to normalize the sequence of numbers so that each number is associated with pitches and durations. The normalization decisions you make will influence the musical results. For more details, follow the step by step instructions and “learn more” links with each algorithm page.
Customize Your Macintosh OS X Spotlight Searches

Macintosh users have a very powerful means of searching for something on their computer. It’s called Spotlight. Spotlight is the lightning-fast search technology built into Mac OS X that makes it easy to find what you’re looking for, even if you don’t know where to look. Conveniently available in the Mac OS X menu bar, the Spotlight search field gives you instant results as you start typing, encompassing not only files, folders, and documents but also messages in Mail, contacts in Address Book, iCal calendars, items in System Preferences, applications, and even dictionary definitions. Spotlight searches aren’t confined to your computer — you can also search other computers on the network.

To make this feature even more helpful, you can organize the order of the search results. This is quite useful if you are consistently looking for particular types of data. For example, if you search for email contacts more frequently than you search for applications, wouldn’t it be nice to have the contact information appear first in Spotlight? Well, you can. Here’s how.

Go to your System Preferences and click on Spotlight.

In the Spotlight preference pane, you can drag any of the spotlight search criteria up or down the list. If there are certain kinds of data you never need, you can uncheck that item and it won’t appear in your Spotlight searches any more.

By default, the shortcut key for Spotlight is Command-Spacebar. You can also change that in this preference pane. If you haven’t used Spotlight before, you should!

How Can I Find Out What My TCP/IP Address is in Windows?

Go to your START menu. One of the options you’ll see there is the RUN... command. Click that.

When the RUN... dialog box appears, type cmd and click the OK button. This will bring up a DOS window.

At the prompt in the DOS window, type the following...

ipconfig /all

The list that appears will contain all your ip configuration data. Your IP address, subnet mask, and other information will be displayed for you.
UEN Tutorials On YouTube!

Link: http://www.youtube.com/UENVideo

The Utah Education Network has a great set of online tutorials that they’ve posted on the UEN channel in YouTube. Here’s a short list of some you’ll find there...

- Adobe DreamWeaver
- Adobe Photoshop
- Google Tools
- PowerPoint 2007
- Internet Safety
- Windows MovieMaker2 Basics
- Adobe Fireworks CS4
- NetSafe Utah Public Service Announcements
- ZOHO
- Audacity
- Camtasia
- and more!

UEN is now on Twitter!

Hey there! UEN News is using Twitter.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Join today to start receiving uennews's tweets.

Link: http://twitter.com/uennews

Teachers Domain

Link: http://www.teachersdomain.org/

Teachers' Domain is an online library of more than 1,000 free media resources from the best in public television. These classroom resources, featuring media from NOVA, Frontline, Design Squad, American Experience, and other public broadcasting and content partners are easy to use and correlate to state and national standards.

Teachers' Domain resources include video and audio segments, Flash interactives, images, documents, lesson plans for teachers, and student-oriented activities. Once you register, you can personalize the site using “My Folders” and “My Groups” to save your favorite resources into a folder and share them with your colleagues or students.

Teachers' Domain strives to strengthen teacher knowledge by providing innovative teaching methods that incorporate technology in the classroom and inspire students to learn.
The Internet Scout Project reports, “The power of the spoken word, especially when well-delivered and articulated, is immense; and this archive of speeches and rhetoric, developed and maintained by Michael E. Eidenmuller, (an assistant professor of communications at the University of Texas at Tyler) is an excellent way to delve into this subject. The core of the site is a truly comprehensive online speech bank that contains over 5000 speeches (in a host of formats), along with other recorded media events. The links in the speech bank are arranged alphabetically by first name and are checked for errors at least once every two weeks. One particularly compelling feature of the site is an area devoted to the rhetoric of 9/11, which contains over 150 active links to speeches dealing with the events on and around that date. Here visitors can listen to a 1998 interview with Osama Bin Laden or listen to President Bush's address to the United States on that tragic day. Overall, this site will be both useful to students and teachers alike, along with the Web-browsing public.”

Visit sections such as the top 100 speeches. The Rhetorical Figures in Sound section contains 200+ short audio and video clips illustrating stylistic figures of speech ranging from alliteration to synecdoche. The Movie Speeches section contains 210 Hollywood movie speeches. Included are military movie speeches, sports-oriented movie speeches, forensic movie speeches, and social-political movie speeches, among others. You’ll enjoy this great Social Sciences site.

Video at PBS.org!

PBS is now streaming its most popular video series online. If you’ve enjoyed watching any of these...

- American Experience
- American Masters
- Antiques Roadshow
- Bill Moyers
- Blueprint America
- Carrier
- e2
- Frontline or Frontline World
- Great Performances
- History Detectives
- Julia Child
- Made in Spain
- Masterpiece
- Nature
- Nightly Business Reprot
- NOVA and NOVASCienciaNOW
- and even more!

...now you can watch entire episodes online!

Link: http://video.pbs.org/

One of my favorite series is NOVA. As entertaining as it is informative, NOVA explores headline-grabbing innovations and discoveries from our past, present and future, demystifying the science and technology along the way while highlighting the human side of the people “who make science happen.”

A great teaching resource! Be sure to visit UEN’s eMedia site as well - http://pioneer-library.org/
Free Readability Assessment Tool

From their website: “Our READABILITY ASSESSMENT takes a sample of your writing and calculates the number of sentences, words, syllables, and characters in your sample. Our program takes the output of these numbers and plugs them into a reading formula to give you the results for Flesch Reading Ease, Fog Scale Level, and Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. These three popular formulas will help you find out the reading level and grade level of your materials and help you to determine if your audience can read your materials.

Directions: Paste in a sample of text and click “ANALYZE.” A sufficient sample size consists of 4-5 full sentences; approximately 100 - 250 words total. For larger texts, such as books, pull 1-2 sample sizes from each chapter.

The Analysis ...

1. The Flesch Reading Ease formula will output a number from 0 to 100 - a higher score indicates easier reading. An average document has a Flesch Reading Ease score between 6 – 70. As a rule of thumb, scores of 90-100 can be understood by an average 5th grader. 8th and 9th grade students can understand documents with a score of 60-70; and college graduates can understand documents with a score of 0-30.

2. The Fog Scale is similar to the Flesch scale in that it compares syllables and sentence lengths. A fog score of 5 is readable, 10 is hard, 15 is difficult, and 20 is very difficult. Based on its name, ‘Foggy’ words are words that contain 3 or more syllables.

3. The Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level outputs a U.S. school grade level; this indicates the average student in that grade level can read the text. For example, a score of 7.4 indicates that the text is understood by an average student in 7th grade.

Free Readability Software

Flesh is a cross-platform (Windows, Macintosh, and Linux), open source Java application designed to quickly analyze a document and display the difficulty associated with comprehending it. It is available for all platforms that support Java. Flesh has been released under the GPL (license for use).

After processing a document, Flesh produces two scores: the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and the Flesch Reading Ease Score. Each of these scores is calculated after determining the number of sentences, words and syllables a document contains. Using those numbers, the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and Flesch Reading Ease Score can then be calculated.

New in Flesh 2.0

Flesh, now at version 2.0, has some cool new features:

- Support for more types of files - Flesh 2.0 now processes Microsoft Word files (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) as well as Rich Text (.rtf) and Plain Text (.txt).
- Faster! Flesh 2.0 is now over twice as fast on long text files.
- Better interface - Flesh 2.0 sports a totally re-written interface that should integrate better in your choice of OS (Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, etc.).
- More accurate processing.
- In application help, in case you need it.

What Does Flesh Tell Me?

In brief, it tells you how difficult documents will be to comprehend by calculating a document’s Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and Flesch Reading Ease Score. Like all readability indices, the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and the Flesch Reading Ease score only provide estimations and are only meant to be used as such.

The Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level is an index that gives the years of education required to comprehend a document. For example, a document with a Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level score of 10 would require that a reader have about 10 years (or a 10th grade level) of education to comprehend the document. It can be calculated using the following equation:

\[ \text{Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level} = \frac{(0.39 \times \text{Average Sentence Length}) + (11.8 \times \text{Average Syllables per Word}) - 15.59}{12} \]

The Flesch Reading Ease Score indicates on a scale of 0 to 100 the difficulty of comprehending a document. A score of 100 indicates an extremely simple document, while a score of 0 would describe a very complex document. A Flesch Reading Ease Score in the range of 40–50 would correspond to a relatively complex document that might score a 12 as its Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. The Flesch Reading Ease Score can be calculated by using the following equation:

\[ \text{Flesch Reading Ease Score} = (206.835 - (1.015 \times \text{Average Sentence Length}) - 84.6 \times \text{Average Syllables per Word}) \]
Edit Central’s Readability Calculator

Link: http://www.editcentral.com/gwt1/EditCentral.html

One other online readability calculator is Edit Central’s free utility. It has an interactive section for checking a sample of writing. It is modeled after the ancient Unix utilities style and diction. Enter or copy text into the first box. The scores to the right give the readability of the text according to various formulas.

The Flesch reading ease score is based on a range of 0-100, with lower values for harder text and higher values for easier text; the other scores show the approximate (US) school grade of the text. Grades 13-16 correspond to college level; grades higher than 16 correspond to graduate school level.

Click the “Submit” button to look for possible problems in the text. (This feature is limited to about 50,000 characters of text.) Words of three or more syllables are underlined.

You should check the words or phrases in red to see if they should be re-written according to the suggestion in the brackets.

Click the “Demo” button one, two, or three times to see different samples of text. Check the scores for each sample; do you think the scores match the abilities of students in those grades? The different formulas give different estimates of grade level. Which formula is the most accurate? Click the “Submit” button to look for problems and to see the more complex words underlined.

Parting Shot...

Summer is quickly winding down. Before you know it, school will once again be in session. We sincerely hope you find this month’s tools and resources to be useful in an educational setting.

The photographs shown here is Cache Valley on a July evening. Enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation! Photography by Nathan Smith, ©2009.
Debate Over Brick & Mortar Schools

An interesting debate took place at NECC this year. The argument was over whether brick and mortar schools are necessary in an age with pervasive and powerful internet. ISTE summarizes that debate as follows...

Link: http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=23932

“Thousands of attendees at the International Society of Technology in Education’s (ISTE) National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) and thousands more online participated in an Oxford-style debate June 30, 2009. Moderated by Robert Siegel of NPR, the debate tackled the proposition, “Bricks and mortar schools are detrimental to the future of education.”

Debate panelists included two high school students from the National Forensics League as well as four industry experts. Summing up the argument for the proposition, high school senior Marshall Thompson from Bethesda, Maryland asserted that, “We have the capacity to live internationally … [and]… we need education to be an integral part of our lives at all times…not just in [bricks and mortar] schools eight hours a day.”

Summing up the argument against the proposition, Erik Hakke, high school senior from Springfield, Virginia, stated, “We all have one need we share and that’s to work in a group setting and to work as a team. It’s through the excitement and enthusiasm of teachers and faculty that we’re introduced to our loves and skills.”

...The keynote included an audience vote before and after the debate and questions from conference attendees and participants online via ISTEConnects (http://www.isteconnects.org).

Apparently persuaded by Hakke and his team’s argument that we need both physical schools as well as a re-imagined integration of technology in the classroom, the concluding vote showed 74 percent of the audience agreed that bricks and mortar schools are NOT detrimental to the future of education.”

Debates such as these bring up very basic beliefs of mine concerning technology and teaching, both with which I’ve been
heavily involved almost thirty years now. I’d like to share them with you as this new school year begins.

Even with all the hype about technology, and the push from the Obama administration to get our schools up-to-date and successfully incorporating technology into classroom teaching, we must put technology in its proper place - that of a tool. That’s all it is, a tool chest that allows us to do things easily that we could not accomplish before. Using the right tool makes a task easier to do, and gives us more functionality. That’s what technology can do for a teacher. Many worry that it may replace the teacher. I think not.

The art of teaching is not just about helping students learn. It is also about radiating genuine enthusiasm for a topic or task at hand. It is about being able to inspire and motivate. It is about being able to help students construct a scaffolding for new ideas and concepts, and sometimes about rebuilding mental scaffolding that is incorrect. It is being a sounding board for the students’ ideas and thoughts. It is about learning proper people and team skills. It is about role modeling values, attitudes, and civil and business ethics.

These kinds of things are difficult to do in an online environment. People have a basic need for face-to-face interactions. They need to feel a part of a group, a community, a society. Many online resources and tools can assist teachers in achieving these goals, but I argue that they cannot adequately replace them. In fact, some studies indicate that too much online experience can be harmful to social skills and abilities of some students. (one example: http://crx.sagepub.com/cgi/content/refs/30/6/625)

That said, I believe technology offers teachers many wonderful and marvelous tools and resources to assist them in accomplishing their teaching goals. I think it’s most unfortunate that testing, and closely-tied teacher evaluations, are based primarily on how much the students learn (if they meet standards and objectives put in place by administrators and government that have little to do with frontline teaching). Along with most other people, I will tell you we don’t remember much about content we actually learned in class five to fifty years ago. We can always look that up again when we need it. What we do remember is the teacher’s love and enthusiasm for the topic, the exposure to new ideas and belief structures, the inspiration and motivation that occurred in that setting. Those teachers effectively used every tool they had to get us from point A to point B. They became critical, life-changing influences for us. For me, they were indispensable!

The 2009 UCET Grant winners are:

Diane Holland, Daybreak Elementary, South Jordan, UT for Audio-visual equipment to use in historical project about Kennecott Copper Mine.

Mary Janice Richmond, Hurricane High School: Hurricane, UT for Student Response System.

Shauna Bagley, Grant Elementary, Murray, UT for iPod Touch: Library Media Check Out

Congratulations!

RightThumb - Make Image Thumbnails

Link: http://www.snapfiles.com/get/rightthumb.html

RightThumb enables you to quickly create thumbnails from your images via the Windows Explorer right-click menu. You can set default conversion options that allow you to specify the thumbnail dimensions, format and file name postfix or prefix as well as compression setting and algorithm to use. Then simply select one or more images and click on the newly added menu option to generate the thumbnail images. RightThumb supports Bitmap, JPEG, GIF and PNG formats and can also copy the thumbnail to the clipboard.

FREEWARE - 2000/XP/2003/Vista x64

Earth Album - Google Maps + Flickr

Link: http://www.earthalbum.com/

Earth album is a simpler, slicker Flickr mash-up that allows you to explore some of the most stunning photos in the world courtesy of Google maps and Flickr. To begin your journey, just click somewhere on the map, e.g. “India”. Note - since the top Flickr images are used, the images change every few weeks; bookmark this site and check back for a different experience in a month! See image below...

Warning: Flickr is a social networking photo site. Some Flickr images may not be suitable for children.
ISTE Vision - ISTE/NECC Videos Online

Link: http://www.istevision.org/

Want to find out what happened at NECC? ISTE Vision is the video feed site for all things relating to the International Society for Technology Education.

For example, Malcolm Gladwell kicks off NECC 2009 with the first of a three-keynote series on digital citizenship. The best-selling author of The Tipping Point (2000), Blink (2005), and Outliers (2008) will share his unique perspective on the ways that intentional practice today influences expert development of the future.

ISTE Vision News is a little weird as it is hosted by an Avatar. The news is interesting, though, so I just listen mostly rather than watch. Overall, the site is a good addition to the regular site...

Link: http://www.iste.org/

Spotify - a new internet radio...

Link: http://www.spotify.com

Many of you are familiar with the popular Pandora Internet Radio. Pandora uses the music genome project to classify music by over 400 variables. When you join Pandora, you choose an artist or song, and Pandora creates a personalized radio station that plays similar music. It’s a great way to discover new artists and songs that are musically similar to your favorites.

Spotify, on the other hand, is more like a radio station that plays a playlist you pick and choose. There are two levels, free and premium (synonym for paid...). As of this writing, the free version is by invitation only - it’s still in beta. But when it becomes public - I think music teachers will have a great tool for creating playlists of songs they’d like to have students listen to. Watch the introductory movie on their website.

Spezify challenges traditional web search

Link: http://spezify.com

Spezify says of itself, “Spezify is a search tool presenting results from a large number of websites in different visual ways.

We take web search further, away from endless lists of blue text links and towards a more intuitive experience.

We want you to get a good overview of a subject, find useful information and be inspired with Spezify.

We mix all media types and make no difference between blogs, videos, microblogs and images. Everything communicates and helps building the bigger picture.

We collect websites and are aiming to use as many relevant, free and open APIs as possible to generate extensive and diverse search results.”

Needs Flash to work. The results scroll off the screen in every direction so just drag in any direction to see more results.
Push Learning Up the Taxonomy Pyramid with Technology!

Link: http://www.odu.edu/educ/roverbau/Bloom/blooms_taxonomy.htm

Teachers often ask, “How can I use technology in such a way that it will enhance my students’ education and learning?” One answer is to use technology to push learning up the Bloom’s taxonomy pyramid. Each level on the pyramid is a higher order learning process than the ones underneath. For example, students could read text about the Civil War, and then answer questions on a multiple choice quiz. That puts them on the remembering level of the pyramid. How would that learning process differ from playing a Civil War simulation on a computer, where computerized civil war generals are fighting against you? You have to make decisions about movements, supplies, ammunition, terrain, and a host of other variables? This might move the activity up to the understanding, applying, analyzing, and evaluating levels.

An important thing to keep in mind is that there are non-technology ways of doing this as well. I know of one teacher, Joe Ryan, a middle school teacher in New York, who had students learn everything they could about the Civil War in class, and then the culminating activity was a two day Civil War simulation, where the students were in costume, and role-played what they had learned. It included keeping written diaries. I’m sure it’s something they’ll never forget.

There are many creative ways to move learning up the pyramid. And in many of these, technology can provide a tool that will help you to do so. Think how a camera could be used to take a geometry pretest. Or how Phun could be used to experience Newton’s laws of motion. If you aren’t sure what Phun is, Phun is a free game like 2D physics sandbox where you can play with physics like never before. The playful synergy of science and art is novel, and makes Phun as educational as it is entertaining.

Link: http://www.phunland.com/wiki/Home

One of our UCET members, Kurt Johnson, a teacher at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School on Utah State University’s campus, divided his students into small groups. Each group had a digital camera. They were going to take a pretest on Geometry by going on a walk around the campus and taking photos of objects that they thought illustrated concepts in geometry. Back in the classroom, they pulled the photos into the computer, and used iPhoto’s books feature to create an illustrated book about geometry. Needless to say, the vocabulary used by the children in their books showed they had a lot to learn about geometry. A week or two later, after learning geometry concepts, the post test was given. Guess what? It was the very same activity as the pretest. However, there was a marked difference in vocabulary in the post test books. This time you saw illustrations of rays, lines, parallel lines, vertices, and more.

The students learned a number of skills beyond the math as they went through this process. They learned team skills. They learned technology skills. They learned about the art of laying out pages in a book with illustrations.

Images below-left are of Joe Ryan and his class, from “The Truth About Teachers,” a video narrated by Whoopi Goldberg. Video Cassette - 47 minutes - Color - 1989

![Bloom's Taxonomy Diagram](image_url)

In 1956, Benjamin Bloom headed a group of educational psychologists who developed a classification of levels of intellectual behavior important in learning. During the 1990’s a new group of cognitive psychologist, led by Lorin Anderson (a former student of Bloom’s), updated the taxonomy reflecting relevance to 21st century work. The graphic is a representation of the NEW verbiage associated with the long familiar Bloom’s Taxonomy. Note the change from Nouns to Verbs to describe the different levels of the taxonomy.

Note that the top two levels are essentially exchanged from the Old to the New version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Version</th>
<th>Old Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remembering</strong>: can the student recall or remember the information?</td>
<td>define, duplicate, list, memorize, recall, repeat, reproduce state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding</strong>: can the student explain ideas or concepts?</td>
<td>classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate, paraphrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applying</strong>: can the student use the information in a new way?</td>
<td>choose, demonstrate, dramatize, employ, illustrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch, solve, use, write.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing</strong>: can the student distinguish between the different parts?</td>
<td>appraise, compare, contrast, criticize, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluating</strong>: can the student justify a stand or decision?</td>
<td>appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, evaluate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creating</strong>: can the student create new product or point of view?</td>
<td>assemble, construct, create, design, develop, formulate, write.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jolicloud - An Internet OS

From their website: “Jolicloud is a new operating system for netbooks. The OS provides a beautiful interface, an application directory and a set of social features that make it easy and fun to use.

At Jolicloud we believe a movement has started. A movement that will change the computer industry forever: a world where computers are inexpensive, where operating systems are free and software is online. This is the world we dreamed of when we first discovered computers and the Internet. And this is why we wanted to build an operating system (OS) around a platform that gives everyone the opportunity to be part of this movement and access a whole new range of possibilities.

Jolicloud is an Internet operating system. It combines the two driving forces of the modern computing industry: the open source and the open web.

Jolicloud transforms your netbook into a sophisticated web device that taps into the cloud to expand your computing possibilities. The web already hosts a significant part of our lives: mails, photos, videos, and friends are already somewhere online. Jolicloud was built to make the computer and web part of the same experience.

The online world is taking processing power away from our computers, so we won’t need expensive machines in the future. The web improves itself, so we don’t need to replace machines all the time to be able to run newer versions of operating systems or office suites.

But the real catalyst of change has been the arrival of the netbooks: they started as an experimental low cost laptop for kids and they now radically change our views on how much we are willing to pay for personal computers. Think about it: computers are now becoming cheaper than mobile phones and MP3 players.

We feel privileged to witness this rebirth of the computer culture and are very excited about the world changes it can foster: More affordable means more people around the world connecting with knowledge, more communication between people and more balanced access to computing power with less cost, format or geographical limitations.

We come from the web, so we built our user interface mostly using its core technologies (HTML, JavaScript, CSS). We have integrated our web DNA into the OS to make it modular, social and personal. Our developer platform relies on the web and will let anyone or any service join in no time. With our API, developers will have the ability to let their website communicate with the computer directly with no need to code specific native applications.

Of course it’s just the beginning. Netbooks are very new. They are still bulky, but they are making progress with better keyboards, better screens and battery time.

No one has yet entirely switched his or her life online, but everyday larger parts of our personal and business lives are relayed and stored via the web. Online connectivity is still expensive but prices are dropping as operators can’t resist the global needs of the “always on” generation.

Legendary computer inventor Alan Kay once said, the best way to predict the future is to invent it. This is why we created Jolicloud. Like every project we can’t do it by ourselves. We need your help and support to make this project a success. Together let’s change the status quo and build the coolest OS for netbooks.”

Link: http://www.jolicloud.com/

AbiWord - A Free Word Processor

Link: http://www.abisource.com/

This free, open-source word-processor is a worthy alternative to pricey, big-name products. AbiWord has a quick learning curve, since the interface is very similar to those in Word and WordPerfect.

You’ll find just about all the features you need, including the ability to cut and paste, highlight, and a bevy of common formatting tools. Multi-platform, too!
State Farm Youth Advisory Board Service-Learning Grants - Up to $100,000

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is a diverse group of 30 students aged 17-20 selected from nearly 650 applicants across the United States and Canada. The Board plays a leadership role in creating and overseeing a $5 million-a-year State Farm® funded service-learning initiative. The Youth Advisory Board grants funds for student-led service-learning projects in the United States and in the Alberta, New Brunswick and Ontario provinces of Canada. These grants address, in a structural way, the issues of environmental responsibility, natural and societal disaster preparedness, driver safety, financial education, and accessing higher education/closing the achievement gap. The number of grants to be awarded will depend on the number and quality of requests received. Grant amounts will vary according to the nature of the proposal and availability of funds. However, at least one service-learning project will be funded in each of the thirteen State Farm zones which include the three provinces in Canada.

The minimum grant amount is $25,000 and the maximum grant amount is $100,000. Applicants may request any amount within this range based on the required budget, outlining project expenses.

Link: http://www.statefarmyab.com/apply.php

Primary applicant should be either an educator who currently teaches in a public K-12, public charter, or higher education institution, or a school-based service-learning coordinator whose primary role is to coordinate service-learning projects in a public, charter, or higher education institution. Non-profit organizations are also eligible if they are able to demonstrate how they plan to actively interact with students in public K-12 schools.

Applicants must also have 501(c) 3 federal tax status and a demonstrated capacity to effectively manage grant funds. Organizations may also serve as the site’s designated lead partner with primary responsibility for program implementation.

By giving grants at a minimum amount of $25,000 and a maximum amount of $100,000, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board expects grantees to develop and carry-out their proposals with a structural approach addressing one of the main issue areas. By “structural” we mean that the issue is addressed at the root cause to achieve lasting change. Each grantee site should create the power and leverage, likely through the leverage of key partners, needed to impact systemic change throughout the surrounding area. Ideally, the funded approach should be replicable in surrounding communities.

Propelling innovation and change involving students, service-learning practice, and school and community institutions is admittedly ambitious, but we believe it is achievable and not unprecedented.

Increasing student participation is good for young people as well as our schools, communities, and countries. Through well-structured ways to serve and lead alongside adults or to create innovative solutions to public problems, young people will learn civic skills and enhance their sense of connection to larger purposes.
New Education Materials Available at NASA
The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

Space Thrills Poster -- Grades K-4: The Space Thrills poster uses the excitement of a roller coaster traveling through the solar system to capture students’ imaginations. The back of the poster includes five activities, teaching tips, fun facts and short narratives in which the sun and each planet introduce themselves.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listby-type/Space_Thrills_Poster.html

X-15 To the Edge of Space Poster -- All Grades: Between June 1959 and October 1968, NASA’s X-15 hypersonic research flights rewrote the rulebook of conventional flight. This poster presents facts, history, achievements and a labeled diagram of the experimental airplane that flew higher and faster than any other winged vehicle besides the space shuttle. The poster also contains mini biographies of the 12 X-15 test pilots, including Neil Armstrong.


Comet on a Stick! -- Grades 3-5: In this activity, students build a model of a comet to study the way the sun affects it. Students then simulate the sun’s solar wind as it interacts with the comet, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their comet model. The student pages explain the activity, define “comet,” list facts about comets for students to model, and prompt students to improve their models by asking them questions about their creations.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listby-type/Comet_on_a_Stick.html

Black Hole Math -- Grades 10-12: Many aspects of black holes can be understood by using simple algebra and pre-algebra skills. Use Black Hole Math as a classroom challenge activity, an assessment tool or an enrichment activity. The problems in this booklet investigate black hole science and mathematics concepts including parts of a simple black hole and calculating gravitational potential energy. Each word problem has background information providing insight into black holes. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listby-type/Black_Hole_Math.html

Solar Math -- Grades 6-11: Hinode is an international mission to study the sun. By studying the sun’s magnetic field, scientists hope to learn if they can identify the magnetic field configurations that lead to explosive energy releases and then to predict when these events may occur. The variety of problems includes proportions, decimals, geometry and scientific notation. The problems call for students to apply mathematics and science concepts to understand the sun and the work of the Hinode satellite. Each word problem has background information providing insight into the sun and Hinode. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys.


Image Scale Math -- Grades 6-8: Image Scaling is an important first step that all astronomers perform in understanding image-type data produced by satellites and telescopes. Each activity in this booklet has an image with the physical size of the image given. Students measure the size of the image and divide the physical size by the image size to determine the scale factor. They can then use the scale factor to investigate sizes of objects within the image. Each word problem has background information about the image. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys. The “Extras for Experts” section is a set of problems for students who want a challenge.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listby-type/Image_Scale_Math.html

Lunar Math -- Grades 6-12: Apply mathematics to help understand Earth’s natural satellite and future missions to the moon. Problems in Lunar Math use mathematical applications to explain concepts such as the physical features of the moon; the probability of a meteorite impact on the lunar surface; and how oxygen might be extracted from moon rocks. The problems in this guide include basic mathematics, algebra, geometry and some trigonometric functions. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys.


Radiation Math -- Grades 6-12: Radiation can be mysterious. Help students understand that they are surrounded by radiation. Problems in Radiation Math use mathematical applications to explain concepts such as background radiation; radiation effects on humans and technology; radon gas, sun spot cycles; and the Van Allen Belts. The problems in this guide include basic math, geometry, unit conversions, analyzing graphs, and graphical and function integrations. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys.

Registration Open for NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition

NASA is challenging undergraduate and graduate student teams to design and build an excavator that could be used on the moon.

Design teams must include one faculty or industry advisor with a college or university affiliation. Teams must also include two or more undergraduate or graduate students. A group of universities may work in collaboration, and multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

A university faculty advisor or student team may propose to receive up to $5,000 to support a student team. The team can use these funds to design and build a lunar regolith excavator. They may also use the money for travel expenses to compete in the Lunabotics Mining Competition at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 25-28, 2010.

Approved proposals will be funded on a first come, first served basis. Proposals must be received no later than Feb. 28, 2010.

For more information about the competition, visit http://www.nasa.gov/lunabotics.

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Susan Sawyer at Susan.G.Sawyer@nasa.gov.

KidZui - The Internet For Kids - Over a Million Websites, Games, & Videos Reviewed By Parents

Link: http://www.kidzui.com/

From their website: “Fun for Kids! KidZui is a free Web browser, search engine and online playground for kids 3-12.

Kids have the freedom to learn, play, search and discover over 2 million games, websites, videos and photos on their own. KidZui has the largest number of games, websites, videos and photos reviewed by parents and teachers anywhere. Kids can find what they need to help with schoolwork, by themselves.

KidZui Search is tailored to the needs of kids. KidZui Search provides:

- Suggestions and spelling correction
- Search results with content relevant to kids
- Graphical presentation that is easy for kids to understand

Your kids can search any topic from Aardvarks to Zebras, Art to Science and everything in between. KidZui has over 2 million games, websites and videos reviewed by parents and teachers.
Celebrate World Space Week -- Oct. 4-10, 2009

Join educators and space enthusiasts around the world to celebrate World Space Week, Oct. 4-10, 2009. This international event commemorates the beginning of the Space Age with the launch of Sputnik 1 on Oct. 4, 1957.

During World Space Week, teachers are encouraged to use space-themed activities in the classroom to promote student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Also this year, $500 teacher grants will be awarded for the most creative use of space in the classroom during World Space Week.

World Space Week is the largest public space event in the world, with celebrations in more than 50 nations. To learn more about World Space Week, search for events in your area and find educational materials related to the event, visit ...

Link: http://www.worldspaceweek.org/index.html

Earth Science Week 2009 Contests Announced

Take part in the following contests to celebrate Earth Science Week. This year’s celebration takes place Oct. 11-17, 2009.

Earth Science Week 2009 Photography Contest -- Open to All Ages: The American Geological Society is sponsoring a photography contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2009. Photographs should focus on the topic “How Climate Shapes My World.” The contest is open to any resident of the United States. Participants should submit a picture that best represents the climate in their area. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. Only one entry will be accepted per person. The deadline for submitting photos is Oct. 16, 2009.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography/index.html

Earth Science Week 2009 Visual Arts Contest -- Open to Students in Grades K-5: The American Geological Society is sponsoring a visual arts contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2009. Artwork should focus on the topic “The Climate Where I Live.” The contest is open to students in grades K-5 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original two-dimensional visual arts project that best represents the climate in their area. Entries must be submitted by mail. The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 16, 2009.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visualarts/index.html

Earth Science Week 2009 Essay Contest -- Open to Students in Grades 6-9: The American Geological Society is sponsoring an essay contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2009. Essays should focus on the theme “Climate Connects.” The contest is open to students in grades 6-9 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original essay no more than 300 words in length, typed, and formatted to fit on one page. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 16, 2009.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay/index.html

International Year of Planet Earth & Earth Science Week 2009 Photography Contest -- Open to All Ages: To celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth and Earth Science Week 2009, the American Geological Institute is sponsoring a major international photography contest. Photographs should focus on the topic “Exploring Earth Science Around the World.” The contest is open to anyone of any age from anywhere around the world. Entries must be submitted electronically. The deadline for submitting photos is Oct. 16, 2009.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/iypephotocntest/index.html

If you have any questions about any of these contests, please e-mail the Earth Science Week staff at info@earthsciweek.org.
DimDim: Online Conferencing for Free - A New Way to Parent-Teacher Conference???

Link: http://www.dimdim.com/

From DimDim’s Website: Dimdim’s founders realized that their frustrations with other web meeting software presented them with a compelling market opportunity. Here was a chance to make the world a smaller place - by creating a simple, free service that lets everyone everywhere communicate using rich media in real time. And not only would Dimdim be easy to use, it would also be free so web meetings could be democratized and made available to everyone. Dimdim started in Feb 2006, and is backed by Nexus India Capital, Index Ventures and Draper Richards.

**No downloads needed!**

Hard work to “Just works.” Enabling people around the world to show pictures, PPTs, PDFs, screens, even video as part of their conversations with no desktop client (like Skype or Outlook) is technically very complicated and often at the mercy of the internet connection speed or the power of the CPU. Undaunted, Dimdim invested more than 15 man-years of engineering development into making complex web meetings simply work. We think you’ll enjoy the fruits of their labors and would love to learn from you how we can improve further.

Open for Business. And after three rounds of private beta testing, we’re now open for business. Today anyone can signup and hold their own web meetings using Dimdim Free. Customers who want to customize or brand their own web meetings can purchase Dimdim Pro for only $99 per year. And institutions who need much larger meetings can purchase Dimdim Enterprise (available in both hosted and onsite versions) for less than 1/2 the cost of existing solutions.

So simple anyone can use it. Unlike other web conference products, Dimdim does not require users to install software on their computers to attend web meetings. Users can start or join meetings with just a few clicks. Dimdim is available for free so everyone - not just big companies with big budgets - can use it. And Dimdim is available as open source software so you can extend and improve it freely. Dimdim already integrates with CRM and LMS software and can be extended easily. And Dimdim is extremely flexible, available in hosted and onsite configurations and easily customizable.
September 2009 UEN Content Highlights

Link: http://www.uen.org

Themes/Events

• National Library Card Month
• 9/8/2009: International Literacy Day
• 9/15/2009: Mexico Independence Day/Hispanic American Heritage Month
• 9/17 to 9/23: Constitution Week
• 9/22/2009: First Day of Fall/Autumn Equinox

UEN-TV 9.1

9/4/2009 at 8 pm: The Healthy Teacher: Like most professionals, teachers need to find a balance between teaching and lifestyle. This program explores the areas that affect a teacher’s physical, emotional and social wellbeing in reducing stress and anxiety. Highlights include the importance of a healthy diet, physical activity, wellness and “mind matters”.

9/10/2009 at 9 pm: Where do the Children Play?: examines the dramatic disappearance of play and nature from the daily lives of children. Told largely through the voices of children the film also combines research of urban planners, health experts, educators and environmentalists to explain the realities children face living in three distinct environments: urban centers, suburbs and rural areas.

9/14/2009 at 9 pm: Gearing Up: Every year, 35,000 high-school students from around the United States participate in an engineering contest sponsored by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). GEARING UP documents the four-month-long national competition, one in which students must combine quick wits, hard work and strategic thinking in order to succeed.

MHz Worldview 9.2

Network Premiere (TVPG) great for students learning Chinese - I Not Stupid is an 18-episode story of three young children and their families from different social backgrounds touching on issues such as the focus on academic excellence in a highly competitive Chinese society. Broadcast in Mandarin with English subtitles. Thursdays at 9 pm and 12 midnight.

New programs for building 21st Century Skills, global and critical thinking - Beginning September 1, UEN’s digital channel MHz Worldview 9.2 will air new international news programs including IBA (Israel) at 5:30 pm daily, Al Jazeera English (AJE) news at 7 pm daily, and euronews at 7:30 pm daily, followed by France 24 news at 8 pm. You can learn more at UEN.org/tv

KUED-7

New Series! 9/7/2009 at 7 am. - Dinosaur Train is a great new animated preschool series from The Jim Henson Company. Start your Labor Day right with four back-to-back episodes beginning at 7:00 am. The web site is quite engaging http://pbskids.org/dinosaurtrain/index.html

9/9/2009 at 7 pm Financial Info from Elmo and the gang - Families Stand Together: Feeling Secure in Tough Times. This family special features brief documentaries about real-life families and the story of a Muppet family coping with the ups and downs of these uncertain economic times. Hosted by Al Roker, Deborrah Roberts, and Elmo and his friends, the special will offer help, hope and strategies for families and will encourage children to express their feelings and ideas as their families adjust to new economic realities.

http://www.sesameworkshop.org/toughtimes

9/15/2002 at 11 pm: The Principal Story is a dramatic portrait of the challenges facing public schools and the different a dedicated principal can make in the lives of students. Two principals are profiled, with interview segments by Arne Duncan.

UEN Staff Picks for September

New PD schedule: The fall professional development schedule goes online September 1st.

http://www.uen.org/development/

Autumnal Equinox: a reason for the season: Learn about the Autumnal Equinox in this lesson plan from Thinkfinity called The Sun and The Earth http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/07/g35/seasons.html

Watch the Ken Burns series beginning Sept 27 on KUED: Utah’s National Parks

http://www.uen.org/utahnationalparks/

Free Professional Development Videos

Download resources for teaching using your interactive whiteboard: Teachers.tv: Whiteboard Tips and Techniques. Get help in making the most of this versatile teaching aid. Get links to resources, advice from other teachers, and suggestion for material or software to use.

http://www.teachers.tv/group/6/content
eMedia/CollegeMedia
(for the eMedia/CollegeMedia “featured this month” catalogs)

Labor Day...
- Joe Hill.
- For the Juniors. The Sun.

Equinox...
- NOVA. Galileo’s Battle for the Heavens.
- Draw Me a Story. The Sun and the Moon.
- A Spin Around the Solar System. The Sun - Our Star Attraction.
- Bill Nye the Science Guy. The Sun.
- Draw Me a Story. The Sun and Moon. Black line master - Sun and Moon.

New and good...
- In Search of Myths and Heroes. Part 01.
- In Search of Myths and Heroes. Part 02.
- Jean-Michel Cousteau. Ocean Adventures: America’s Underwater Treasures
- Secrets of the Dead. Death at Jamestown.
- Ball State University Electronic Field Trips. Exploring Natures Plumbing System: Caves of the National Park System.

Hispanic American Month...
- Hispanic Culture in Utah. Fortunato Marrufo’s palm weavings.
- Hispanic Culture in Utah. Hecho en Utah (Made in Utah). Cuando decidas volver.
- Hispanic Culture in Utah. Accordionist Dionicio Gonzalez.
- Hispanic Culture in Utah. Ballet Folklorico de las Americas.
- The West. Episode 01-The People.
- The West. Episode 02-Empire Upon the Trails.

Virtual Desktop Manager for Windows

Link: http://vdm.codeplex.com/

Have you seen Apple’s “Spaces” or Linux Virtual Desktops? Would you like to be able to do this in Windows, too? You can...

One of Vista’s most talked-about new features is the Desktop Window Manager (DWM). A new set of thumbnail API’s can be used to access thumbnails of open windows. This virtual desktop program takes advantage of this new API and uses some tricks of its own to provide a powerful virtual desktop manager with a full screen thumbnail based preview. You can have as many desktops as you want and can seamlessly switch between them.

But wait! What if you still are using XP? Don’t worry, Vista/XP Virtual Desktops provides support for XP as well, although window previews are not live since XP doesn’t have DWM.

Vista Virtual Desktops is managed by Z-Systems, which also manages a few other fine open-source projects.
Driving two computers with one keyboard and mouse!

Have you ever tired of switching keyboards, going between your Mac & PC, two different PC's or your desktop and laptop? Why not use one keyboard and mouse? You can with free software. One of the computers becomes the host and they connect through the network LAN. Here are two pieces of software that can do this for you, Teleport and Synergy.

Teleport (shareware) is found at:
http://abysssoft.com/software/teleport/

Teleport (shareware) is found at:
http://abysssoft.com/software/teleport/

Synergy (open source) works between OS X, Lynx, and Windows. The easiest is to set up the Windows machine as the host, then set up the other machine as a client. See Molly Wood's explanation at...


The software itself is at http://synergy2.sf.net

Synergy lets you easily share a single mouse and keyboard between multiple computers with different operating systems, each with its own display, without special hardware. It is intended for users with multiple computers on their desk since each system uses its own monitor(s).

If you want to learn more about Synergy and how to install it on your system, check out this engaget article:


Neither is perfect, but both are very workable. We hope this can make you more productive in your daily workflow.

Robert Gordon, UCET Board

Mac OSX-like Window Switcher for Windows

Switcher puts you in control of your windows. See all your windows on one screen, quickly search through them, even decorate them with your favorite colors and fonts.

The free application for Windows Vista with Aero. You can download Switcher at...

Link: http://insentient.net/Switcher/

After you've installed Switcher, run Switcher from the Start menu. After running Switcher for the first time, it will automatically start when you log on.

Once Switcher is running, make sure you have 2 or more windows open. Press Windows+~ to begin switching between windows. The ~ key is next to the Esc key. If you're using a non-US keyboard layout or find the ~ key difficult to press, you can change the shortcut to something else. You can also configure hot corners to switch between windows.

Use the arrow keys, Windows+~, Windows+Shift+~, or the mouse to navigate between the windows. Press Page Up and Page Down to switch between views. There are three available views: Dock view places all windows except the active one to the side; Grid view arranges the windows into a grid; Tile view shrinks the windows until you can see all of them. (The illustration at left is the tile view.)

You activate a window by clicking it, pressing Enter, or pressing the number that appears on the window. Got a billion windows open? Here’s how to find the window you need: 1. Begin switching between windows. 2. Start typing the text of the window you’re trying to find. A search box will automatically appear, and the windows will move and hide themselves until only the ones matching your text appear.

Switcher is a handy tool to add to Windows Vista. I think you’ll enjoy it.
Utah Education Network - Professional Development Opportunities for Fall 2009!

Link: http://profdev.uen.org/pdms/register/view_course_by_month

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Grant Opportunity for Middle & High Schools: $1200 - $15000 for Encouraging Kindness and Civility

What is U-ACT?

U-ACT which stands for Unbridled Acts, or random acts of kindness, is a character-building initiative specifically for middle and junior high schools with grades 6-8, which aims to inspire and energize students about the value of being kind to others. Throughout the school year, participating schools are asked to share Red Robin’s Unbridled culture with their students by participating in program that promote kindness. At the end of the year, schools are asked to submit a program binder outlining their efforts during the school year for a chance to earn a grant anywhere from $1,200-$15,000!

Goal

The goal of the Red Robin Foundation U-ACT Champion Program is to help foster and create a sense of neighborliness inside and outside of the school.

Program History

Unbridled Acts are a core fundamental for Red Robin Team Members, who are recognized and celebrated for kind acts they bestow upon restaurant Guests and other Team Members. Red Robin Gourmet Burgers first launched the U-ACT Champion Program with the Colorado PTA in 2005 as a statewide program for Colorado middle and junior high school students. Seeing the tremendous value it had in Colorado schools, the program grew to include schools across the country.

Link:  http://www.redrobin.com/rrfoundation/uactprogram.aspx

By October 1, 2009 – Register your school (grades 6-8 are eligible) to participate in the U-ACT Program for the 2009-2010 school year.

October 2009 – Red Robin Foundation to contact participating schools to check-in and answer any questions. Please announce and explain the U-ACT® Program to students, staff and parents.

October 2009 – April 2010 – Implement U-ACT® at your school using the program criteria.

December 2009 and February 2010 – Red Robin Foundation to follow-up with participating schools to check-in and answer any questions. Please continue to provide updates on the U-ACT® Program to students, staff and parents. Remember dated examples of ongoing communication must be included in your entry at the end of the school year!

March 2010 – Red Robin Foundation to follow-up via email to remind schools about entry deadline. Also, this is a great time to begin putting together your program binder and writing the essay for your final program entry. Please follow this outline for writing your essay:

• How your school became involved in the U-ACT® program.

• List 2 new in-school programs that promoted Unbridled Acts among students and rewarded unbridled behavior at your school this year.

• List 1 new community-oriented fundraiser or outreach program that benefited an organization in your community.

• Briefly describe other fundraisers or community outreach programs that were in place prior to participating in U-ACT® if applicable.

• Describe the impact U-ACT® had on your school and community. April 9, 2010 – All U-ACT® entries must be postmarked by this date to be considered. May 2010 – Red Robin Foundation to announce and notify winners.
NASA’s INSPIRE Program for Students

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about the NASA’s Interdisciplinary National Science Program Incorporating Research and Education Experience, or INSPIRE, will encourage the next generation of explorers from the 9th through 12th grades to pursue an education and career in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The centerpiece of INSPIRE is an Online Learning Community, or OLC, where students can interact with their peers, NASA experts and education specialists. It also provides grade-level educational activities, chats and a discussion board, allowing students and their families to explore the many careers and opportunities at NASA. The OLC also provides parents resources to help them champion their student’s education and career goals.

Each May NASA accepts applications from students to join the OLC. Once a member, students may compete for the following year’s summer STEM experiences:

- A one-day VIP tour and workshops at a NASA facility
- A two-week learning experience on the campus of a participating university
- Paid internships working with NASA scientists and engineers

INTERESTED? For the latest information about this exciting program, visit our website at: www.nasa.gov/education/INSPIRE

Students must be accepted into the INSPIRE Online Learning Community before they can be considered for any of the summer experiences. To apply for the Online Learning Community students should visit: https://inspire.okstate.edu. I am hoping that you will pass this information onto any high school teachers in your school, who could pass this onto high school students who are interested in STEM careers. The INSPIRE Program is lacking participation from high school students in your state, and thus we have opened up the Online Learning Community to additional applications for two weeks beginning on Thursday August 27, 2009. The last day for applications to be submitted for the 2009-2010 school year is Thursday September 10, 2009 at midnight Central Standard Time.

Attached is a flyer you can pass along to science teachers, career counselors, as well as students. Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at...

Julie Gonzalez, NASA INSPIRE Program
Ames Research Center
650-604-6958 or julie.m.gonzalez@gmail.com
System Recovery Tools for Macintosh

SuperDuper - From the website: “Have no fear. SuperDuper v2.6.1 is here, and it’s compatible with Snow Leopard!

SuperDuper is the wildly acclaimed program that makes recovery painless, because it makes creating a fully bootable backup painless. Its incredibly clear, friendly interface is understandable, easy to use, and SuperDuper’s built-in scheduler makes it trivial to back up automatically. It’s the perfect complement to Time Machine under Leopard and Snow Leopard, allowing you to store a bootable backup alongside your Time Machine volume—and it runs beautifully on both Intel and Power PC Macs!

SuperDuper’s interface confirms all your actions in simple, clear language to ensure that the end result is exactly what you intended.”


Carbon Copy Cloner - From the website: “Clone, synchronize, backup. Schedule and forget it. Try it ‘til you trust it.

The key to a successful backup plan is to actually do the backups regularly. When left to a human, the task often gets tacked on to the end of a very long list of other things to do. When you eventually have a catastrophe, the data is simply gone. You know that feeling — you just lost six years of family photos. Your kids being born, their first birthdays, their first everything. The answer to this is consistent and regular backups, placed on a schedule and handled automatically by your computer.

CCC 3 features an interface designed to make the cloning and backup procedure very intuitive. In addition to general backup, CCC can also clone one hard drive to another, copying every single block or file to create an exact replica of your source hard drive. CCC’s block-level copy offers the absolute best fidelity in the industry!

CCC Features

- Complete, bootable backups
- Simple interface for indicating exactly what you want to back up
- Restore using the same process used for backup
- Backups are non-proprietary, so you can browse them or use them with Migration Assistant
- Fast, incremental backups copy only the items that have changed since the last backup
- Archival backup archives items that have been deleted from the source
- Support for block-level disk-to-disk clones
- Support for backing up across the network to another Macintosh
- Back up to hard drives or to disk images
- Schedule backup tasks on an hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly basis, or you can indicate that a backup task should run when the backup device is attached (e.g. an iPod). You don’t even need to be logged in for your backups to occur!
- CCC recognizes iPods specifically, allowing time for the iPod:iTunes synchronization to complete
- Built-in software update feature notifies you when updates are available”

Link: [http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html](http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html)
System Recovery Tools for Windows

**EASEUS Todo Backup** - From the website: “EASEUS Todo Backup is a completely free solution for your operating system and data backup to protect them away from unexpected damage or loss. It provides backup, restore, disk-clone functions based on Windows operating systems with ease and reliability.

Features:
- Backup and Restore System/Data: Backup system, partition or disk to an image and restore it safely and quickly.
- Clone Disk: Migrate all data (including system) to another disk.
- Check Image File: Check images to ensure restoration.
- Mount backup image files as virtual drives and Unmount it if needed.

User comment: “I used your free EASEUS Todo Backup software yesterday to backup all the files on the old hard drive, and then restored them to the new disk seamlessly. It did do an excellent job only with a few clicks and works like a charm. BRILLIANT!! Many many thanks.”

“I am writing to thank your organization for producing and supplying such a functional and free utility. The software is wonderful and so easy to use. It enables me to backup my partitions or whole disk to transfer data from one partition or disk to another. I manage many computers with the same configuration at school and I need to backup the operating system and restore it to others. It works flawlessly. I have recommended the software to many of my business colleagues and associates.”


**GFI Backup Home Edition** - From the website: “When was the last time you backed up all the important files on your hard disk? Do you have a backup copy of those precious photos taken on your last holiday, of your resume and other important documents you have created, or of your favorite music and movies? While most computer users admit backups are important, few people actually do so… until it is too late and the damage has been done.

By minimizing the risk of loss, backing up your files is similar to taking out an insurance policy on your data. Now, with GFI Backup™ 2009 - Home Edition, you will never have to worry if your hard disk fails or a virus wipes out your data.

GFI Backup 2009 allows you to back up all your important documents, photos, music, emails and program settings using a simple but smart wizard-driven interface to nearly every storage device (including local and external disk drives, LAN, CD/DVD, removable devices, remote FTP servers, etc.). Download and use GFI Backup 2009 today – a FREE easy-to-use backup software solution, designed for secure backups of all your important data. Because we care!

Link: [http://www.gfi.com/backup-hm](http://www.gfi.com/backup-hm)

**Clonezilla** - from the website: “You’re probably familiar with the popular proprietary commercial package Norton Ghost®, and its OpenSource counterpart, Partition Image. The problem with these software packages is that it takes a lot of time to massively clone systems to many computers. You’ve probably also heard of Symantec’s solution to this problem, Symantec Ghost Corporate Edition® with multicasting. Well, now there is an OpenSource clone system (OCS) solution called Clonezilla with unicasting and multicasting!

Clonezilla, based on DRBL, Partition Image, ntsfsclone, partclone, and udpcast, allows you to do bare metal backup and recovery. Two types of Clonezilla are available, Clonezilla live and Clonezilla SE (server edition). Clonezilla live is suitable for single machine backup and restore. While Clonezilla SE is for massive deployment, it can clone many (40 plus!) computers simultaneously. Clonezilla saves and restores only used blocks in the harddisk. This increases the clone efficiency. At the NCHC’s Classroom C, Clonezilla SE was used to clone 41 computers simultaneously. It took only about 10 minutes to clone a 5.6 GBytes system image to all 41 computers via multicasting!

Link: [http://clonezilla.org/](http://clonezilla.org/)
Snow Leopard for Macintosh Released!

The new Snow Leopard (Mac OSX 10.6) hit the market about a week ago. Of all the system software I've installed over the years, Snow Leopard was one of the simplest and error free installs I've ever done. Typically, when I install a new system, I do a clean install - that is - erase my hard drive completely, install the system software, and then re-install my applications and bring my backed-up files across. Snow Leopard's upgrade process was clean and efficient, and caused no troubles at all. If you have software that is incompatible with Snow Leopard, the system will inform you. I had a couple of printer drivers that would no longer work.

Setting up mail for an Exchange Server was just about one-click easy. And not only did it set up my Exchange email, but set up Contacts and Calendar at the same time.

Although Snow Leopard will feel a lot like the previous OS release, Leopard, there are some pleasant changes. For example, in the image above, you'll notice that when you are in the icon view for a window, now you have a slider that allows you to change the icon size from extremely small to very large. Now QuickLook also works in this view. Hover over an icon and a play button will appear on audio and video files. Click the play button to watch or listen without having to open the file. PDF files have a right and left arrow button appear - allowing you to browse through the pages without opening the file.

Scanners and printers have support built right in to Snow Leopard. I have an HP all-in-one scanner, printer, and photocopier. When I installed that in Snow Leopard, everything worked but the HP Scan Pro software. I was pleasantly surprised that I could go to Apple's Preview program and from the file menu, select “Import from Scanner.” My HP scanner worked perfectly.

Safari has a full history search. QuickTime X is the equivalent of QuickTime Pro in earlier versions - you can record audio or video using the built-in camera and microphone on your Mac. Then you can easily trim your recording, then save to your hard drive, to mobileMe, Youtube, etc.

Overall, I very impressed. Windows 7, you've got some tough competition!
Keynote:

UCET is pleased to announce our 2010 Conference Keynote: Anne Collier!


Anne founded the nonprofit Net Family News in 1999 on the premise that information empowers parents at a time when tech literacy has become an important part of parenting and key to youth safety on the fixed and mobile Web. NetFamilyNews.org (“kid-tech news for parents”) is a blog, RSS feed, and email newsletter with subscribers in more than 50 countries. Anne worked on print, radio, TV, and Web versions of the Christian Science Monitor, served as an editor in consumer magazines, and has written for Microsoft’s Staysafe.org, GetNetWise.org, Children’s Technology Review, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s NetSmartz.org.

Anne currently serves as co-chair (with Hemanshu Nigam of News Corp.) of the Obama administration’s Online Safety & Technology Working Group and on the advisory boards of the London- and Washington-based Family Online Safety Institute, the National Crime Prevention Council’s Circle of Respect Initiative, and GetNetWise.org, a project of the Washington-based Internet Education Foundation. In 2008, she served on the Internet Safety Technical Task Force, formed by 49 state attorneys general and Fox Interactive/MySpace and based at Harvard University’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society. She also works in close association with London-based Childnet International.

A Massachusetts native, Anne holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Principia College and the University of Chicago, respectively, and now lives and skis with her husband and two sons in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah.

UCET 2010 Call for Presenters:

Theme: UCET 2010 - A Clear Vision for Digital Citizenship

Keynote Speaker: Anne Collier

Dates: February 26 & 27, 2010

Location: Murray High School
5440 S. State Street
Murray, UT

Things are gearing up for the UCET 2010 conference.

We would like to invite you to present a session at the next UCET conference. “UCET 2010 - A Clear Vision for Digital Citizenship” is our conference theme. We are now accepting presentation proposals for our spring conference. Presenting at UCET is an excellent opportunity for you to share your exceptional work in the classroom and with technology. UCET needs people like you!

As a “thank you” for presenting your registration fee will be waived. You do not need to register as a participant if you submit a presentation proposal online. You may submit your proposal at

Link: Presenter Registration

In preparation for your proposal, please consider the following:

• Preference will be given to topics that match our needs (see below).
• Presentations must be submitted by December 15, 2009.
• No late submissions will be accepted.
• Presentation proposals must be completed online
• Please contact, presenters@ucet.org, with any questions.

Conference Presentation Ideas:

Listed below are some ideas of topics that could be presented - however, you certainly are not limited to just these suggestions.

• Digital Citizenship
• Using technology strategies that elevate student learning and retention.
• Software, hardware, web tools that enhance teaching in your curriculum area.
• Software tools for teachers.
• Technology strand - managing workstations, servers, firewalls, port monitoring/blocking, backup and imaging, etc.
• Preparing students for life in a technology-based workforce.

We also invite you, if you’ve not already done so, to download and read the UCET newsletters. We think you’ll find them relevant and useful to educators. And they’ve been published just for you as a UCET member. To download any of the UCET newsletters, go to www.ucet.org

http://www.ucet.org

and click on the newsletter link in the heading.

Sincerely,
Jared Covili, UCET Board, Presenters’ Liaison
Welcome to the October UCET Newsletter!

The UCET Board has been busy hammering out the UCET 2010 conference for February 26-27, 2010 at the Murray High School! A number of sponsors and vendors have already signed on for the conference. Details for theme, program covers, posters, and strands are almost in place. A call for presenters is currently active - and we encourage you to consider presenting at the conference. We're looking at all aspects of technology being used in education - digital citizenship, elevating learning through the use of technology, even the nuts and bolts of using networks, software, and hardware in educational settings. Join us as we prepare and deliver Utah's premiere technology and education conference!

You can register to become a presenter at the UCET website. Registration for participants will be coming very soon.

In this newsletter, you find some great educational treasures! Here are the highlights this month...

- Zilladog.com - A Safe, Interactive Website for Children
- Dropbox: Sync Your Files Across Computers
- Digital Pens - From Paper to Your Computer
- Turn Your Mac into an eBook Reader with Read Right
- OpenEducationDisc - Free Software Package for Educators and Students!
- They Can Run But They Cannot Hide! (Prey - Theft Protection)
- NASA Education Launches New Careers Web Page
- 2009-2010 NASA Education Resource Showcase Series
- 2010 Team America Rocketry Challenge Accepting Applications
- Engineer Girl
- Online Training for Teaching Hands-On Engineering Activities with NASA & DESIGN SQUAD
- National Engineers Week Future City Competition for 7th & 8th Grades
- Web 2.0: Cool Tools for Schools
- Malware affiliate bounty: Infect a Mac, earn 43 cents - They’re Out to Get You!
- Google Wonder Wheel
- New Tab Tricks in Mozilla Firefox 3.5
- PageZipper - Life’s too short to Spend Clicking “Next”
- Print What You Like
- CitySounds.fm
- Halloween Resources
- 2009 UEA Convention & Education Exposition

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Feedback is welcome!
Zilladog.com- A Safe, Interactive Website for Children
by Kasidy Stafford
Link: http://zilladog.com/
Is your child quickly becoming a technology wizard, but is too young for their own email account? Check out Zilladog.com, a website created by parents for kids. This fun interactive website offers a free and safe email service called ZillaMail. ZillaMail is spam free, parent password protected, and it eliminates the risk of chat rooms, instant messages, and blogs while still allowing kids to keep in touch with friends and family. Parents have control over their child's buddy list, and can control who their child receives email from. There is also a profanity and personal information filter that removes any offensive words or phrases from incoming and outgoing email. The personal information filter also allows you to add additional words and phrases such as your child's phone number, address, or other information you consider inappropriate, or private.

Zilladog.com also offers free online games from your child's favorite websites like Club Penguin, Neopets, Cartoon Network, Disney, and Sonic the Hedgehog. They can also log on to and access their Webkinz pet. If movies and music are more their style, Zilladog.com offers age appropriate movie trailers for up-coming features like Warner Brothers' Where the Wild Things Are, and Disney's The Princess and the Frog as well as free music from Radio Disney, and Kidz Bop.

Teachers can also use Zilladog.com as a teaching tool for web use. The ZillaMail service is a fun way for students to learn about email, to keep in touch with their classmates, and receive important updates from their teachers. Zilladog.com and ZillaMail comply completely with the COPPA law (Child Online Privacy Protection Act).

Dropbox: Sync Your Files Across Computers
by Jairo Hernandez Valesquez
Link: http://www.getdropbox.com
Are you tired of losing your USB drive, e-mailing yourself file attachments, or how about logging into that “old FTP server”? Well, I have found a great solution for you. It’s called “Dropbox”. Downloading this neat tool will install an active sync folder in your hard drive. When you put your files into your Dropbox on one computer, they’ll be available on any of your other computers that you’ve installed Dropbox (supports Windows, Mac, and Linux). This tool also offers a web site where you can access the files that are in your Dropbox—anytime, anywhere.

What is the best thing about Dropbox?
It’s free! (That is, for the first 2GB of space. Somewhat affordable monthly plans are available for extra storage up to 100GB)

Other Features that are highlighted by the website:
“With Dropbox, your files are always in sync.
Let’s say you’re editing a document at home. As soon as you click ‘Save’, Dropbox will sync this same file to all your other computers instantly and automatically. It’s as if you saved the document to all of your computers. This gives you the freedom to work on any of your computers and always have the files you need.

Dropbox lets you share files easily.
You can easily share entire folders or photo albums with Dropbox. Simply put the folders you want to share in your Dropbox, and invite people to them. You can also send people links to specific files within your Dropbox. This makes Dropbox perfect for team projects.

With Dropbox, online backup is automatic.
Every time you put a file in your Dropbox folder it is automatically backed up to our secure servers. If your computer has a melt-down your files are safe on Dropbox and can be restored at any time. Our free 2GB account is perfect for backing up your documents. We offer larger accounts (up to 100GB) for backing up your music and video collections.

Dropbox lets you go back in time to undelete or undo changes to files.
Every time you save a file in Dropbox, Dropbox syncs it to our secure servers. Dropbox keeps a history of every change made so that you can undo any mistakes and even undelete files. By default, we keep the last 30 days of undo history for all your files. We also have an unlimited undo option called “Pack-rat”.

I almost forgot to mention that it includes a free iPhone App to access your files!
Digital Pens - From Paper to Your Computer

by Kim Purcell

Are digital pens finally going to be the pen of the future? For decades companies have been trying to produce them, but it just hasn’t worked out. Now, with newer and better technologies, the digital pen’s future may have come.

The basic digital pen is used for writing or drawing, just as you would with any pen or pencil, but then it transfers your creation to your computer. The pens also have the ability to transcribe your writing into text. You can find digital pens with voice recognition, audio recording, and other add-ons.

How do they work? Some have a special paper use must use (with little microdots on it). It uses these dots to track where you are on the paper. The paper can be bought, or you can print it yourself from your home computer. The other way some digital pens work is to have a small receiver you clip at the top of your paper. This provides pen orientation and records everything you’re writing. When finished the receiver can be plugged into your computer, and your work transferred to digital copy.

Overall, digital pens work fairly well. While some have a few glitches with letter recognition when converting your writing to text, digital pens are still great for note taking and other activities. Instead of lugging around a laptop you can have your regular old paper notebook and digital pen. It may still take a while to get the digital pen idea perfected, but companies aren’t giving up. Some consumers are already pleased and excited to use the digital pen. They find it a lot of fun and very useful. Ultimately, it’s up to you. Should you jump on the idea now? Or are digital pens still something to be left for the future?

For more reading, visit...

Link: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/technology/personaltech/03pogue.html

Read Right for Mac OS X

From the website: “Read Right is a sideways PDF reader for small laptops & netbooks: it is a free, lightweight PDF viewer for small portables. Documents are automatically rotated and scaled to fullscreen, so they can be read with the laptop held sideways like a book.

Features:
- Navigation with mouse buttons, arrow keys, or trackpad
- Precise zoom controls
- Inverted-colors option for white text on black background
- Remembers each document’s current page & settings

Read Right is free software, distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPL).”

For smaller laptops like the 13” white, black, and MacBook Pro models, this feels just right - like having a large eBook reader. Pages are displayed fullscreen and are as easy-to-read as a book. Turning pages is an easy key-press or mouse button click with your thumb. The image can be rotated either direction so the reading screen is on the right (as pictured here) or rotated 180 degrees so it’s on the left as you hold your computer.

Larger 15” and 17” laptops felt a little unwieldy to me, but that’s just my personal opinion. You may find it works well for you. Why buy an eBook reader when you have Read Right?

Link: http://www.twilightedge.com/mac/readright/index.html
Internet

Office and Design

- **OpenOffice.org** – Fully compatible office software for your school work
- **Dia** – Make technical diagrams and flowcharts
- **Scrubus** – Create professional looking posters and magazines
- **GanttProject** – Plan your school projects with this project management software
- **FreeMind** – Collect your ideas with this mind mapping Software
- **PDF Creator** – Make PDF documents from any program
- **Sumatra PDF** – Read PDF files quickly and easily

Art and Graphics

- **GIMP** – Edit digital photos and create graphics
- **GIMP animation** – Create animations
- **Inkscape** – Make professional looking vector graphics
- **Pencil** – Animate your own cartoons
- **Blender** – 3D graphic modeling, animation, rendering and playback
- **Tuxpaint** – Drawing program for children ages 3 to 12

Multimedia

- **VLC** – Play music, videos and DVDs
- **Audacity** – Record, edit and mix music
- **TuxGuitar** – Compose your own music
- **Piano Booster** – Teach yourself the piano
- **Avidemux** – Edit movies and add special effects
- **Infra Recorder** – Burn your own CDs and DVDs
- **CamStudio** – Record your actions on a computer
- **Really Slick Screensavers** – Great looking screensavers

Science and Mathematics

- **Nasa Worldwind** – Discover the earth and other planets
- **Greenfoot** – Teach yourself how to program
- **GraphCalc** – A graphical calculator
- **Guido Van Robot** – Learn how computer programs work
- **CarMetal** – Cool mathematical modelling tool
- **Maxima** – University standard computer algebra system
- **Celestia** – Explore the universe in three dimensions
- **Stellarium** – A planetarium on your PC

Games

- **FreeCiv** – Control the world through diplomacy and conquest
- **FreeCol** – Discover the ‘New World’ and build an empire
- **Numpty Physics** – Solve puzzles using physics
- **TuxTyping 2** – Learn to type like a pro
- **Tux of Math Command** – Test your mathematical skills
- **Winboard Chess** – The classic game of chess

Utilities

- **GTK+** – toolkit for creating graphical user interfaces
- **7zip** – utility for manipulating archives
- **Abakt** – backup software
- **Clamwin** – Open Source Antivirus for Windows
- **HealthMonitor** – system monitoring tool for Windows
- **Workrave** – assists in the recovery and prevention of Repetitive Strain Injury

Advanced Internet

- **Httrack**
- **Tight VNC**
- **Filezilla**
- **Azureus**
- **WinSCP**
They Can Run But They Cannot Hide!

Resource submission by Jairo Hernandez Valesquez

From the website: “Prey is a lightweight application that will help you track and find your laptop if it ever gets stolen. It works in all operating systems and not only is it Open Source but also completely free.

Recover what is rightfully yours

Prey helps you locate your missing laptop by sending timed reports with a bunch of information of its whereabouts. This includes the general status of the computer, a list of running programs and active connections, fully-detailed network and wifi information, a screenshot of the running desktop and — in case your laptop has an integrated webcam — a picture of the thief.

Silent but deadly

Prey uses a remote activation system which means the program sits silently in your computer until you actually want it to run. If so, it gathers all the information and sends it to your Prey web control panel or directly to your mailbox. The thief will never know his movements are being watched.

And because there’s always hope

You may be thinking “but what’s the point of this program if the guy will probably just format the thing right away?’ and you’re completely right. However, experience shows that thieves tend to look in stolen computers for valuable information, so there’s actually a chance you can catch the guy (and there’s even some succesful cases!).

Besides, if by using Prey you can keep alive a tiny bit of hope that you’ll recover your computer, isn’t it already worth it?”

Link: http://preyproject.com/

NASA Education Launches New Careers Web Page

NASA Education has launched a new Web page that serves as a starting point to learn about jobs at NASA. Visit the site to learn more about scientists, technical experts, engineers, mathematicians, physicists, accountants, attorneys, astronauts, educators, pilots, astronomers and experts in many other fields.

Career information on the site includes the following:

- Opportunities for students to intern at NASA
- Programs for visiting faculty
- Profiles of NASA employees
- Descriptions of jobs at NASA
- Posters and resources with career information
- Descriptions of NASA education programs
- Career pages with content sorted by grade levels.

Visit the new NASA Education Careers Web page at http://www.nasa.gov/education/careers
2009-2010 NASA Education Resource Showcase Series

NASA’s Digital Learning Network presents a series of videoconferences to assist educators in staying current on NASA education resources and related products.

During each event, product producers, authors and experts will demonstrate their materials designed to optimize awareness and understanding of science concepts. Instructional objectives, accessing the materials and primary contacts for the materials will also be discussed. During the videoconferences, participants will be able to submit questions to the presenter that will be addressed during the presentation.

In the coming months, the following topics will be covered:

- **Earth Science Week Products**: Sept. 30, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EDT
- **Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge**: Oct. 28, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EDT
- **NASImages.org & eClips**: Nov. 18, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EST
- **Exploring Space Through Math**: Dec. 16, 2009, 4-5 p.m. EST
- **STS-131 Robotics**: Jan. 27, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EST
- **NASA Fit Explorers**: Feb. 24, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EST
- **NASA eProfessional Development Network -- Robotics Course**: March 31, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EDT
- **MoonWorld**: April 28, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EDT
- **On the Moon**: May 26, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EDT

For more information about these videoconferences and to sign up online, visit [http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/webcast/](http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/webcast/)

Questions about these events should be directed to Caryn Long at caryn.long@nasa.gov

2010 Team America Rocketry Challenge

Accepting Applications

Registration is open for the Team America Rocketry Challenge 2010, a national model rocket competition for U.S. students in grades 7 through 12. Thousands of students compete each year in the Team America Rocketry Challenge, the world’s largest model rocket contest.

Teams of 3 to 10 students are challenged to design, build and fly a model rocket that will climb to 825 feet with a raw egg payload and stay aloft for 40 to 45 seconds. The payload must then return to earth unbroken. Cash prizes are awarded to the top finishers. NASA invites top teams to participate in their Student Launch Initiative, an advanced rocketry program.

Participation is limited to the first 750 teams who register by Nov. 30, 2009. For more information, visit [http://www.rocketcontest.org/](http://www.rocketcontest.org/)

Questions about this contest should be sent to rocketcontest@aia-aerospace.org
Engineer Girl

Link: http://www.engineergirl.org/

Here’s a great site that encourages girls to look into a career in engineering. Filled with opportunities, contests, essays, role models, and more, this site is definitely worth looking through.

From the website: “You’ll have the power to make a difference! By becoming an engineer, you can help solve problems that are important to society. You could be controlling and preventing pollution, developing new medicines, creating advanced technologies, even exploring new worlds.

You’ll have money and job security! Engineers have significantly higher starting salaries than do college graduates.

You’ll be working with other talented people! Engineering is a team effort. As an engineer you may be working on projects with experts in many different fields and people from different backgrounds - even different countries.

You’ll have lots of options! Engineers work everywhere: in big and small cities, rural communities, even remote wilderness areas. Some work business offices or classrooms, others in factories or research labs; some work outdoors or even in outer space! Some engineers go into medicine, law, business management, or policy. An engineering education will prepare you for many different careers.

You’ll get to do cool stuff! Be the first to develop or try out a new technology, like a flying car or an undersea house. Design and build virtual reality amusement parks. Discover and patent a new material that can mend broken bones or cure arthritis. Engineers will be involved in making all the wonders of the future a reality.”

Online Training for Teaching Hands-On Engineering Activities with NASA & DESIGN SQUAD

NASA and DESIGN SQUAD® have developed an online workshop for educators and afterschool leaders to build their skills and confidence in guiding kids through engineering activities like those found in the On the Moon Educator Guide.

Completing this self-guided online workshop will allow educators to gain insight and strategies for strengthening critical-thinking skills and exciting their students about using the design process to arrive at solutions.

In this self-guided workshop, participants will

• Experience the design process in action. Learn and reflect on ways to use the design process to tap into students' problem-solving skills and creativity.
• Watch an engineering activity. See how easy it is to integrate the design process into hands-on activities in the classroom.
• Get resources. Discover a variety of engineering activities from NASA and DESIGN SQUAD® for students in grades K-12.

For more information about the online workshop, visit

http://pbskids.org/designsquad/parentsschools/workshop/welcome.html

To download the On the Moon Educator Guide, visit

National Engineers Week
Future City Competition for 7th & 8th Grade

Link: http://futurecity.org/

From the website: “Welcome to Future City, a national competition you’ll find as fulfilling as it is fun for your students. Now in its 18th year, the National Engineers Week Future City Competition is a program developed for seventh and eighth grade students to help them discover and foster interests in math, science and engineering. As you’ll soon discover, it’s a program that’s both challenging and stimulating for everyone involved.

You’ll find three useful tools to help you prepare for this competition. Your handbook is the most comprehensive source for rules, instructions, general information and useful preparation tips and techniques. The website is also a good source for timely updates about the competition, and contains information not found in the handbook. For instance, it features instructions for using the SIMCITY 4 Deluxe software, and a section that allows you to print all the necessary forms for entering the competition. There’s also a CD-ROM which provides video overviews of the competition’s categories. (If you don’t have it already, contact your Regional Coordinator for a copy.)

What is the Future City?
The National Engineers Week Future® City Competition (www.futurecity.org) is an example of problem based learning with computer simulation. It is an integrated, multidisciplinary, holistic approach to relevant issues and is a strong example of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) education that addresses national and state academic content standards. The program asks 7th and 8th grade students from around the nation to team with engineer-volunteer mentors to create — first on computer and then in large, three-dimensional models — their visions of the city of tomorrow. To truly affect the ways students and general public perceive engineering it is important for engineers to use the right messages. Too often engineers focus their messages to young students on the process of becoming an engineer and overlook messages on the value of an engineering career. The National Engineers Week Foundation has been engaged with two projects specifically to research and develop messages around messages to convey that engineering is a helping profession. These messages also convey the value of teamwork and creativity. Learn more from ‘Engineer Your Life’ and ‘Changing the Conversation’ at www.eweek.org

The National Engineers Week Foundation, a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies, is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers’ contributions to society. Founded in 1951, it is among the oldest of America’s professional outreach efforts.”

Link: http://www.eweek.org
Web 2.0: Cool Tools for Schools

Link: http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/

Web 2.0: Cool Tools for Schools is a wonderful WikiSpaces site filled with excellent educational tools links. Tools for presentations, collaboration, research, video, slideshows, audio, image, drawing, writing, music, organizing, converting, mapping, quizzing, taking polls, graphing, creating, and more are presented here! Most the tools are free web 2.0 resources.

For example, in the second illustration, I’ve clicked on the presentation tools link. You’ll find a rather extensive collection of links, along with brief descriptions of what the tool does. Having presented many teacher resources to you in the UCET newsletter over the years, I’m impressed with the quality and quantity of resources listed here. I’m also excited to learn of many new resources I wasn’t aware of. I think you will be, too.

This is a treasure chest of resources for teachers and students. It’s one you’ll want to take time and explore. As I was teaching a group of Elementary Education pre-service teachers the other day, one of them raised their hand and said, “Mr. Smith, this is like a candy store for teachers!” That’s a fairly accurate description.

Malware affiliate bounty: Infect a Mac, earn 43 cents

Link: http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=4451&tag=nl.e539

“GENEVA — In a sign that cyber-criminals are investing more time and resources into attacks against Apple’s Mac users, a new malware affiliate program has been discovered offering 43¢ for every infected Mac machine.

During an eye-opening presentation at the VB Conference 2009 conference here, Sophos Labs researcher Dmitry Samosseiko provided a glimpse into the “Partnerka,” a Russian network of spam and malware affiliates that have turned their attention to the Mac platform — using social engineering tricks to load fake codecs and scareware programs.

Samosseiko discussed the “codec-partnerka,” which is dedicated solely to the sale and promotion of fake Mac software.

He pointed to a site called Mac-codec.com (now offline) which was offering $0.43 for each malicious install, a price tag that suggests the Mac platform is becoming more and more lucrative to online crime gangs.” Read the complete article at the link above.

Mac users, beware. Increasingly, your favorite operating system is being targeted for malware attacks, phishing, and other malicious or criminal activities.


Be sure to read the warning before trying these on your computer!
New Tab Tricks in Mozilla FireFox 3.5

When Mozilla released the new 3.5 version of FireFox, they incorporated some tab tricks that Chrome and some other browsers recently implemented. These make using tabs even more productive. Here are a few new tab features I think you’ll like...

Create a New Tab

If you hold down your CTRL key (PC) or Command Key (Mac) when you click on a link, it will open in a new tab. Also, you can click on the “+” symbol in the tabs to open a new blank tab, with your cursor in the URL field waiting for you to type your new destination. CTRL-T (PC) or Command-T (Mac) will open a new tab. Double clicking in a blank space on the tab bar will also open a new tab. You can also drag-n-drop links onto an empty space in the tab bar to open that link in a new tab.

Rearrange Your Tabs

You can now drag your tabs into any order you desire on the tab bar. When you drag a tab to the left or right, you’ll see a blue drop prompt appear indicating that you can drop the tab into that position on the bar.

Make a Tab Become its own Window

Would you like the tab to be a window instead? Just drag it off the tab bar and drop it. That tab will then open as a new window.

Drag Tabs Between Windows

If you have two FireFox windows open, each with multiple tabs, you can drag any tab from one window and drop it into the tab bar on the other.

Want to learn more about using tabs in Firefox? Go to FireFox Help in the menu, and look for “Tabbed Browsing.” Here you are...

Google Wonder Wheel

Here’s an interesting way to search on Google. Do a Google search for a keyword. Then, you’ll see a link that says, “Show Options.” Click on that. A list of options will appear on the left side of the page.

Among those options, you’ll see “Wonder Wheel.” When in wonder wheel mode, searches take on a mind map appearance - with a web of choices branching from your keyword in the center. Click on any of those choices and a new web appears. It’s an interesting way to navigate the web. See the illustration below for an example, where we started searching UCET, then clicked on UEN...

Wonder Wheel provides a way to illustrate mind maps and how they work in a familiar setting such as doing a search on the internet. It could also be used to help students create their own mind maps in preparation for a writing assignment. If they’ve been assigned a main topic, they could type that into a Wonder Wheel search, and have a look at the links, which could be used as possible subtopics in their writing assignment.

As educators, I’m sure you could think of other creative uses for this option in Google!
PageZipper - Life’s too short to Spend Clicking “Next”
by Kasidy Stafford

http://printwhatyoulike.com/pagezipper/

On days when I venture onto the internet for no other reason then sheer boredom, I more often then not find myself looking at the day’s most recent top ten list, or photo gallery. The only problem is that each item is on a different page and I then spend the next twenty minutes clicking next. After a while I begin wishing there was some way to paste all of this together onto one page and eliminate the next button altogether. Then I was introduced to PageZipper, a bookmarklet from printwhatyoulike.com. It’s easy to install, and absolutely free.

Once installed you don’t have to do a thing. PageZipper automatically searches the page for a “next” link and then merges all the “next” pages into one so you can skip straight to what you want. Occasionally, the “next” link is too cryptic and can’t be accessed by PageZipper, but by simply visiting printwhatyoulike.com you can add the url and PageZipper can then access that page. The only limitation to this great resource is that it doesn’t work on sites that use javascript.

When you stop by printwhatyoulike.com to check out PageZipper, why not browse through their other bookmarklets like the PrintWhatYouLike tool. Also free and easy to install, this tool allows you to modify a document and print only what you want.

For more information, privacy policy, and installation instructions visit the website.

Print What You Like

Link: http://www.printwhatyoulike.com/

PrintWhatYouLike is a website that allows you to enter a URL, then select just the portions of a webpage that you want to print, and leave what you don’t want out.

How To Make Any Page Printer Friendly:

1. Enter a URL
2. Edit the Page
3. Print It!

- Enter a URL and click Start. There is nothing to download – everything runs in your browser
- Make the page more readable by changing the font size and type and removing the background
- Combine multiple web pages – edit & print them as one document!
- Save your modified page as a PDF or HTML document
- Remove ads and other junk you don’t want

Be sure to watch the video demonstrations on the site for PrintWhatYouLike and PageZipper. PrintWhatYouLike used to be a paid subscription service, but now they’ve offered it for free. It’s supported by ads now.

CitySounds.fm

Hello and welcome to CitySounds.fm! Here you can listen to the latest music from your favorite cities around the world. It’s easy: (http://citysounds.fm)

- The Board is where you find the most musically active cities right now. It’s constantly changing as new music is being created.
- Check out the individual city pages for more tracks, genres and stats.
- We also have a popular chart, where we list the 32 most popular cities on Twitter. If you like a city, tweet its link, and we pick you up as a listener and you help it climb the chart.
- If you’re an artist or label and want your tracks up on the site, sign up at SoundCloud, make sure you entered a location in your profile, and upload your stuff. In a few moments your tracks will end up on the page of your location.
Halloween Resources!

Halloween Fonts - Looking for a good selection of free Halloween fonts for both Windows or Macintosh? Here are some great resources...

- http://www.halloweenfonts.com/

Halloween History - The History Channel has a wonderful page filled with everything about the history of Halloween...

- http://www.history.com/content/halloween

Halloween Food - Looking for recipes for Halloween? Ever tried “Kitty Litter Cake?”

- http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/special/specialfeature/halloween_ms_food/

Halloween Crafts - Here's some great project ideas...

- http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/halloween/
- http://www.craftown.com/hallow.htm

Halloween Stories - Here's some spooky reading...


Halloween Games for Kids - You might want to try these out...


2009 UEA Convention & Education Exposition

The 2009 UEA Convention & Education Exposition will take place Thursday, October 1, and Friday, October 2, 2009 at the South Towne Exposition Center (9575 S. State Street, Sandy, Utah). This year’s convention, UEA: Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future, will launch UEA’s 100th anniversary celebration. The convention will feature dozens of professional development workshops, hundreds of vendor booths, popular events like the Idea Fair and Get a Kick Out of Reading, and keynote speaker and best-selling author Harry K. Wong.
Presenters Needed!

There are lot’s of reasons to go to the annual conference of the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology. My first time was back in the 80’s when I was an elementary teacher at the Santa Clara Elementary School. It was a long trip from St. George, but it was well worth it. There were many great presentations that inspired me to use more interactive teaching strategies with my students. There were many new, fresh ideas to take back to my classroom. UCET provided a venue to connect with other teachers, administrators, and technology staff, and talk with them about great things they were doing in their classrooms and districts. Many became close friends as we continued our UCET association over the years.

One main reason UCET has become the premiere technology conference for Utah is that wonderful educators, administrators, and technology support folks like you are willing to share ideas and expertise with the rest of the group. Most importantly, it benefits our children. Teachers return to the classroom energized with new ideas and enthusiasm, which translates into better learning environments for our students. That’s what UCET is really about.

You are the key to the success of every UCET conference! May we invite you to present at UCET? The theme changed slightly from what we announced a couple months ago. It’s now “A Clear Vision for Teaching and Learning in a Digital World.” We changed the theme because we didn’t want to give the impression that the entire conference focused on digital citizenship. It’s certainly one theme that will run through the conference, but we want you to know that the spectrum of topics you can choose to present is much broader than that. It essentially boils down to what I talked about earlier - anything that incorporates technology to improve the teaching or learning environment is fair game. I also want to send a clear message to our Technology support people in education: We need you, too! You are the critical component that keeps everything working and secure. Here’s a great opportunity to share your expertise with other technology support staff, and an opportunity to train teachers and administrators how to assist you. It’s also an opportunity to really listen to educators needs, desires, and ideas for using technology to improve their teaching. These conversations can become an agent for change - good change.

Have I been able to convince you to consider presenting at the UCET conference in 2010? I hope so. To sweeten the deal, UCET will waive your registration fee for the conference! You get to help and inspire others with your great ideas. You’ll certainly be inspired and motivated as you attend other sessions. It’s a great learning opportunity, a chance to connect with your peers, get fed, and have great conversations. If you’d like to become a UCET presenter, please go to the conference section of the UCET website. Read the “Call for Presenters.” Then register online. And thank you! You make UCET a great conference! http://www.ucet.org
Life and Work on the Moon - NASA 2009-2010 Art & Design Student Contest

Link:  http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/

2009-2010 Contest at a Glance:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration invites high school and college students from all areas of study to enter, including the arts, industrial design, architecture, computer design, and the fine arts. Students are asked to submit their work on the theme: Life and Work on the Moon. Artists are encouraged to collaborate with science and engineering students. Such collaboration is not required, but would help to ensure that the art is valid for the Moon’s harsh environment. Any full time student can enter, regardless of major or area of study.

Entries will be accepted in three categories: two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and digital, including music and video. For the first time, we will also accept entries in literature (poetry and short stories). Entries will be evaluated on creativity, artistic qualities, but also on whether they depict a valid scenario for the moon’s harsh conditions. Prizes include awards and exhibit opportunities. Entries are due no later than April 15, 2010.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.B.Ward@nasa.gov

Entries will be accepted in three major categories: two-dimensional, three dimensional and digital. Each category will have predetermined size limits.

- All entries are due no later than April 15, 2010 for College entries and April 15, 2010 for High School entries.
- Cash prizes, certificates of achievement, and exhibit opportunities are planned.
- We expect that winners will be announced in May of 2010.
- All entries will initially be submitted digitally as 300 dpi jpeg images.
- An on-line gallery is planned for public viewing of the artwork.
- Winners will be asked to ship their work to NASA for exhibit purposes.

Why is NASA sponsoring this contest?

Once humans establish a presence on the Moon, the arts will be a desired facet of life there, as they are here on Earth. It is our intention to provoke non-science and engineering students to think about the science and engineering required to achieve the conditions suitable for humans to live and work on the moon. It is also our intention to help the science and engineering communities appreciate valuable contributions from other communities, particularly the arts. We hope to see outstanding student art work that will inspire this and future generations of explorers.
Soil Science for the Classroom

Soil is the reservoir on which most life on earth depends, as the primary source of food, feed, forage, fiber, and pharmaceuticals.

Soil plays a vital role in sustaining human welfare and assuring future agricultural productivity and environmental stability. The study of soil as a science has provided us with a basic understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological properties and processes essential to such a complex ecosystem.

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is a professional scientific society, made up of soil scientists, educators, and consultants focused on promoting soil science, including enhancing soils topics in schools. SSSA is pleased to provide teachers with these Soil Essentials:

Link: https://www.soils.org/lessons

Also, you'll want to have a look at some great interactive online activities at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History:

Link: http://forces.si.edu/soils

Here you'll find a Greenhouse Gas Calculator, State Soil Interactive, The Big Picture Game, as well as videos, activity sheets and more. Explore the importance of good soil management practices to global climate and human health. Discover how soils form, develop and change in surprising ways. Meet the critters that call soil home and learn about their cycles that create and sustain soils.

The Earth Science Literacy Initiative

Link: http://www.earthscienceliteracy.org/

The Earth Science Literacy Initiative (ESLI), funded by the National Science Foundation, has gathered and codified the underlying understandings of earth sciences into a succinct document that will have broad-reaching applications in both public and private arenas. It establishes the “Big Ideas” and supporting concepts that all Americans should know about Earth sciences. The resulting Earth Science Literacy framework will also become part of the foundation, along with similar documents from the Oceans, Atmospheres and Climate communities, of a larger geoscience Earth Systems Literacy effort.

The primary outcome of the Earth Science Literacy Initiative is a community-based document that clearly and succinctly states the underlying principles and ideas of Earth science across a wide variety of research fields that are funded through the NSF-EAR program, including Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry, Geomorphology and Land-Use Dynamics, Geophysics, Hydrologic Sciences, Petrology and Geochemistry, Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology, and Tectonics.

The Earth Science Literacy framework document of Big Ideas and supporting concepts is a community effort representing the current state-of-the-art research in Earth sciences. It has been written, evaluated, shaped, and revised by the top scientists working in Earth science. Because of its validity, authority, and succinct format, the ESL framework will be influential in a wide variety of scientific, educational, and political settings. Future governmental legislation will be guided by it, and future national and state educational standards will be based upon it.
Over the past 50 years, NASA satellites and sensors have monitored Earth from space. This global perspective greatly improves scientists' ability to understand our global Earth system. NASA also pioneers the development of tools needed to analyze, model and predict climate change.

Join NASA during Earth Science Week and beyond to learn more about our changing planet.

Visit climate.nasa.gov where you'll find amazing visualizations, 3-D interactives and resources for all ages.

FRONT IMAGES

These color-coded maps display a long-term progression of global surface temperature anomalies. Dark blue areas show regions where the temperature was cooler than the average; and red areas show regions where the temperature was warmer than the average.

Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio (http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov), data provided by Robert B. Schmunk (NASA/GSFC GISS).
Free PDF Download - Ecological Impacts of Climate Change

Link: http://dels.nas.edu/climatechange/ecological-impacts.shtml

This 28-page booklet is based on Ecological Impacts of Climate Change (2009), a report by an independent panel of experts convened by the National Research Council. It explains general themes about the ecological consequences of climate change and identifies examples of ecological changes across the United States.

The Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Link: http://www.oceanleadership.org/

The Consortium for Ocean Leadership is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that represents 94 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy.

The organization also manages ocean research and education programs in areas of scientific ocean drilling, ocean observing, ocean exploration, and ocean partnerships.

There is a great collection of educational information, video podcasts, opportunities for educators and students to participate, and more.

Free PDF Download - Understanding & Responding to Climate Change

Link: http://dels.nas.edu/climatechange/understanding-climate-change.shtml

At a time when responding to our changing climate is one of the nation’s most complex endeavors, reports from the National Academies provide thoughtful analysis and helpful direction to policymakers and stakeholders.

Understanding and Responding to Climate Change This booklet presents recommendations from the National Academies’ many expert reports on climate change in an easy-to-read format. Now in its third edition (2008), the booklet includes an expanded section on impacts and updated figures and graphics.
Monitor seasonal changes in plants and help reveal how climate change is impacting our environment!

Changes in patterns of plant and animal behavior caused by climate change and other factors are significantly affecting human economies and welfare, as well as already imperiled species and other natural resources.

We need your help!

USA-NPN is recruiting tens of thousands of volunteers across North America to gather data for:
- predicting wildfires and pollen production
- detecting and controlling invasive species
- monitoring drought conditions
- assisting agricultural decision-making
- evaluating impacts of climate change

Become a citizen scientist in 4 easy steps!

1. Register yourself at www.USANPN.org to sign up.
2. Select a site, such as your backyard or a nearby park, choose plants from a list of nearly 200, and register them online.
3. Learn the phenophases (blooming, leaf out, fruit ripening) for your plants and record observations on our printable data forms.
4. Report your observations online.

USA-NPN is a partnership of federal and state agencies, NGOs, academic researchers, and the public.

Climate Literacy: The Essential Principles of Climate Sciences

A Guide for Individuals and Communities

About this Climate Literacy Guide:

“The Essential Principles of Climate Science” presents important information for individuals and communities to understand Earth’s climate, impacts of climate change, and approaches for adapting and mitigating change. Principles in the guide can serve as discussion starters or launching points for scientific inquiry. The guide can also serve educators who teach climate science as part of their science curricula.

Development of the guide began at a workshop sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Multiple science agencies, non-governmental organizations, and numerous individuals also contributed through extensive review and comment periods. Discussion at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NOAA-sponsored Atmospheric Sciences and Climate Literacy workshop contributed substantially to the refinement of the document.

Link: [http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/climate-literacy](http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/climate-literacy)

Also, take time to explore the United States Global Change Research Program website. There are great resources for Earth Science and Climate education. The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society.
NASA Education Opportunities

NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project Spring and Summer 2010 Sessions

NASA’s Undergraduate Student Research Project is currently accepting applications for 15-week spring internships and 10-week summer 2009 internships. These internships offer students the opportunity to work alongside NASA scientists and engineers at NASA’s field centers, laboratories and test facilities.

Applicants must be sophomores, juniors or seniors with a 3.0 GPA. They must have an academic major or course work concentration in engineering, math, computer science, or physical or life sciences. Participants work on practical problems that will be applied in aerospace or on future NASA missions. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.


For more information and to apply online, visit http://usrp.usra.edu.

2009 NASA Postdoctoral Program Accepting Applications

The NASA Postdoctoral Program provides talented postdoctoral scientists and engineers with valuable opportunities to engage in ongoing NASA research projects. The Postdoctoral Program serves as a source of talent to ensure the continued quality of the NASA research workforce. These one- to three-year fellowship appointments are competitive and are designed to advance NASA’s missions in space science, Earth science, aeronautics, space operations, exploration systems and astrobiology.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or an equivalent doctorate degree before beginning the fellowship. Applicants must have U.S. citizenship, Lawful Permanent Resident status, Employment Authorization Document with pending LPR status, or J-1 Visa status as a Research Scholar before beginning the fellowship. An H-1B Visa status is not acceptable because the NPP is not an employment program.

Stipend rates for Postdoctoral Fellows start at $50,000 per year. Moderate supplements are given for Ph.D. degrees in certain specialized fields, such as engineering, computer science, clinical space-biomedical science, etc., and for high cost-of-living areas. Funds are available for relocation expenses. Fellows also receive $8,000 per appointment year to support travel to conferences, meetings and other activities (i.e., travel to field sites or observatories to collect data or for required training) that directly support their research projects.

Applications for this opportunity are due on Nov. 1, 2009.

For further information about this opportunity and to apply online, visit http://nasa.orau.org/postdoc.description/index.htm. Questions regarding this opportunity may be submitted by e-mail to nasapostdoc@orau.org.

2010 RASC-AL Competition for College Students

NASA and the National Institute of Aerospace announce the 2010 Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts Academic Linkage Competition. RASC-AL is a design project competition aimed at university-level engineering students.

The RASC-AL contest challenges participants to design projects based on real NASA projects. These design projects could then potentially be implemented by NASA.

Student teams must submit an abstract for their proposed project by Feb. 5, 2010. Their work must be based on one of four themes: lunar outpost to settlement, technology-enabled human Mars mission, bringing the world along with participatory exploration, and common lunar sortie / near-Earth object mission design. The RASC-AL Steering Committee of NASA and industry experts will evaluate the proposals and select as many as ten undergraduate and five graduate teams to compete against each other at a forum in June 2010 in Florida.

The RASC-AL Program is open to full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in engineering or science at an accredited university. University design teams must include one faculty or industry advisor with a university affiliation and two or more undergraduate or graduate students. A group of universities may also work in collaboration on a design project entry. Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

For more information about this competition, visit http://www.nianet.org/rascal/index.html.

If you have questions about this competition, please contact Audrey Staples at Audrey.Staples@nianet.org.

National Space Biomedical Research Institute Announces Opportunities for College Students

The National Space Biomedical Research Institute seeks solutions to health concerns facing astronauts on long missions. This research also benefits patients on Earth. The NSBRI has two exciting opportunities for college students on several levels.

Graduate Education Program in Space Life Sciences

The NSBRI-sponsored training program in space life sciences enables students to work toward a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. at Texas A&M University and focus their research on space life sciences and fields related to the space initiative. Texas A&M is currently recruiting participants for fall 2010. Students will pursue doctoral degrees in kinesiology, nuclear engineering (health physics) or nutrition, or a M.D./Ph.D. or Ph.D. in medical sciences.

Application packages are due Feb. 15, 2010.

For more information, visit http://SLSGraduateProgram.tamu.edu.

National Space Biomedical Research Institute Summer Internship Program

The NSBRI’s summer program is for graduate or medical students and undergraduate students who have completed their second year of undergraduate studies. Applicants are asked to send a curriculum vitae or resume, a letter of interest indicating available dates during the summer, and two letters of recommendation. The program is open to U.S. citizens.

The deadline to apply for the 2010 program is Jan. 31, 2010.

For more information, visit http://www.nsbri.org/Education/SummerInternship.html. Questions about this opportunity should be directed to info@www.nsbri.org.
Moon Work College Student Challenge

Design tools and instruments for human and robotic exploration on the moon. Student projects will tackle real problems required for successful lunar missions. All entries are due in May of 2010. Teams are encouraged, within departments, within institutions and across institutions. Prizes will be subject to available funds but may include cash awards, paid student internships at a NASA center, and travel stipends to attend NASA's Desert Research and Technology Studies Program field tests in the fall of 2010. Only US citizens are eligible for cash awards, paid internships, or travel stipends. Check website for details:

http://moontasks.larc.nasa.gov/

Calling All Space Enthusiasts: Applications Available for NASA Solar System Ambassadors Program

Do you love space? Are you adept at sharing your love of the stars with the public? If so, here’s a chance to join a growing network of space enthusiasts who have volunteered as NASA Solar System Ambassadors. Ambassadors from the states of Delaware and North Dakota especially are needed to represent those states.

The application period is being extended through Oct. 16, 2009. Ambassadors are U.S. citizens selected from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, or U.S. citizens serving U.S. audiences abroad. The program is one of the longest-running NASA volunteer outreach projects.

Each ambassador receives online training from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and educational materials supplied by various space missions, such as the next Mars rover — Curiosity. Curiosity will check to see whether Mars has been favorable for supporting microbial life and preserving evidence of life. The rover is scheduled to launch in October 2011.

To apply as a NASA Solar System Ambassador, visit http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/ssa.cfm.

For more information about the Solar System Ambassador Program, visit http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/index.html.

A calendar of events hosted by ambassadors is available at http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/events.html.

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to Kay Ferrari at ambassadors@jpl.nasa.gov or at 818-354-7581.
Contest: High School Division - 2009-2010 Challenge

Amphibious Tiltrotor for Rescue Operations
Subsonic Rotary Wing Project

Link: http://aero.larc.nasa.gov/competitions_high.htm

Background

The role of rotorcraft in relief operations of man-made and natural disasters cannot be understated. Whether fighting fires in California, providing relief after the 2004 tsunami, or rescuing people after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the utility of rotorcraft in saving lives and property has been demonstrated over and over. When roads, runways, railways, and harbors are damaged, rotorcraft are the only lifeline for stranded survivors. In addition, distressed ships at sea are limited to rotorcraft or other ships for assistance.

How can rotorcraft be even more effective in rescue operations? Responding more quickly, rescuing more people per mission, and landing on water and land should be characteristics of future rotorcraft designed for rescue operations. With greater speed and range than a helicopter and the added capability of water landings, an amphibious tiltrotor is a promising candidate as a rescue rotorcraft of the future.

The Subsonic Rotary Wing (SRW) project of the Fundamental Aeronautics Program aims to radically improve the capabilities and civil benefits of rotorcraft. To this end, the SRW project offers the challenge of designing an amphibious tiltrotor for a wide range of rescue operations, including fire fighting.

Amphibious Tiltrotor Design Goals

• Cruise speed: 300 kts
• Design range: 800 nm

Capabilities

• Take-off from water or ground; land on water or ground. Water includes lakes and oceans.
• Carry up to 50 passengers
• Siphon water into an internal tank and expel water while airborne

Challenge for High School Students

Using multiple historical events, assess the impact that an amphibious tiltrotor (with the above capabilities) could have made on rescue operations. Include the 2004 tsunami disaster as one example. Include estimated productivity (lives saved, amount of supplies delivered) of the amphibious tiltrotor compared with other rescue vehicles that were involved in the actual rescue operations. Describe other civil applications of the amphibious tiltrotor that you can imagine. Include your references and proper citation of all sources. Plagiarism is not tolerated will automatically disqualify an entry.

How can we use future rotorcraft to save lives?

Imagine the next generation of rescue vehicles. If we had an amphibious tiltrotor vehicle that could land on water, take off in water, and also land and take off on land or other non-water surfaces, what civilian operations would it make possible? If we had such a vehicle that could carry up to 50 passengers, cruise at 300 kts, travel up to 800nm, how could we use it to rescue people from disaster situations? Write an informed essay about your ideas. Entry due by December 15, 2009

Entries due by March 15, 2010
A Handful of Helpful Sites for Education or Personal Use!

ShopLocal
Link: http://Shoplocal.com
This site lets you shop the most popular items in your locale by category. Most items have a “buy now” feature, but they also inform you where you can get it, and the best price. It is a free service.

Mommysavers
Link: http://mommysavers.com
MommySavers.com offers forums, blogs, and a YouTube channel that focuses on how to budget your income and live within your means. The site also offers coupons, coupon codes, freebies, and special offers. Also a free service.

Bargainlist
Link: http://bargainlist.com
Bargainlist offers deals, coupons, tips, and freebies. The site updates several times daily, so they always have the most current deals. They were featured in Time Magazine’s top ten websites, and PC Magazine’s top ten blog and coupon sites. I believe this is a free service.

Freecycle.org
Link: http://freecycle.org
Freecycle is a nonprofit network made up of thousands of groups who give and receive in their towns and in turn are recycling and reusing things that would normally be dumped into our landfills. Membership is free.

Paperbackswap.com
Link: http://paperbackswap.com
This is a website devoted to book swapping, trading, and exchanging books online with other readers. The website is completely free except for shipping charges involved in the exchange.

USA.gov
Link: http://USA.gov
USA.gov is a website devoted to making government related things easier. Things such as government auctions, applying for government jobs, and student aid will be found there. You can also replace vital records, contact elected officials, and renew your drivers’ license. There are also services for businesses and non-profit organizations, for government employees, and for visitors to the United States. It is a free service.

Findhow.com
Link: http://findhow.com
Findhow is a website devoted to answering all your “how-to” questions. From “How to Make Halloween Cookies” to “How to Replace a Showerhead,” this website will have the answer to an array of your “how-to” needs. It is a free service.

Starfall.com
Link: http://starfall.com
Starfall is a website for teachers and parents with preschool through 2nd grade children. It offers interactive videos and games to help inspire a love of reading and writing in children. It also has interactive programs to teach kids about calendars. There are fun videos pertaining to holidays throughout the year. It is a free service.

FixItClub.com
Link: http://fixitclub.com
The Fix It Club is a website designed by the authors of “If It’s Broke, Fix It!” It offers hundreds of tips to fix any of your household items. It’s a free service that’s updated often.

BudgetSimple.com
Link: http://budgetsimple.com
BudgetSimple is a free, easy to use online budget system for you and your family. It will help you find out where your money is going, and the best way to cut unnecessary expenses.

BigHugeLabs.com
Link: http://BigHugeLabs.com
This free website allows you to create fun things with your digital photos. You can create motivational posters, magazine covers, jigsaw puzzles and much much more. Then save your creations to your computer to share with family, students, and friends.

Dinkytown.net
Link: http://dinkytown.net
Dinkytown has over 350 financial calculators. There are mortgage calculators, retirement savings calculators, investment, business, auto calculators, and much more. Dinkytown is a free service.

Discover America
Link: http://discoveramerica.com
This is the official travel and tourist website for the United States. It has information on great destinations in the United States. It offers an interactive map so you can learn about destinations based on region, state, or city. You can view the estimated distance between two locations on the map. The site also has lists of activities that may interest you, and the best places they’re offered. There are also stories from previous visitors, official links to location websites, attractions offered by category, as well as help with booking flights, hotels, and rental cars.
Students can win a video or digital camera - Pitsco Education Project

Pitsco Network is asking for students who participate in their education curriculum to submit their group projects to the Pitsco Education Project contest. Any student creation designed and built as a required project in a Pitsco lab is eligible.

Non-video entries should provide brief written summary with photos. The students who created the project must do the writing and be pictured in the photos. A summary of no more than one page of information (unless project documents are included) and up to five photos may be included. Video entries should be no longer than three minutes in length.

A $100 Pitsco Education gift certificate will be awarded to the teacher of the students who create the winning entry in each category. Top prize in the non-video category is a digital camera for the classroom, and top prize in the video category is a video camera for the classroom. (Source - eSchoolNews)


Fund for Teachers Provides Global Learning Adventures for America’s Top Teachers

Now Accepting Applications for 2010 Summer Education Grants

HOUSTON (October 1, 2009) – Fund for Teachers invites educators from across the country to dream big and submit proposals for their own do-it-yourself learning odysseys next summer. Destinations and disciplines are limitless as the itineraries of 3,500 teachers over the past nine years include tours, conferences and independent studies on every continent. An online application for these education grants goes live October 1 at www.fundforteachers.org, starting the journey toward individual grants of $5,000 and team grants of up to $10,000 for summer 2010. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 29, 2010.

“Teachers have the power to transform the world through their direct daily contact with our future generations,” said Karen Kovach Webb, executive director for Fund for Teachers. “Thanks to our partnerships and generous donors, we offer educators the opportunity to pursue areas of personal and professional interest and bring their experiences and energy back to the classroom.”

This summer, 400 teachers closed their classroom doors to embark on their own personal and professional development experiences around the world. Some examples include:

• A New York high school science teacher explored human impact on water sources in Southeast Asia through hands-on scientific research to develop a water quality curriculum;
• Two elementary school teachers from Los Angeles researched the effects of global climate change and pollution on the local population of Kenya and Tanzania while immersed in their cultures;
• A Utah middle school teacher revisited the Holocaust across Europe to create materials for middle school studies of WWII, Civil Rights, and issues of justice in historical studies; and
• Two Houston elementary school teachers embarked on a bike and barge tour through historic Holland to explore and better understand the origins of some of the famous children’s literature created in that part of the world.

Unlike other educational grants, Fund for Teachers gives teachers the freedom to design an experience that will most impact their lives, their profession, and their community. Applicants document their vision in a proposal detailing how their summer fellowship will make them a better teacher, in addition to ways their experience will impact their curricula. These proposals are then evaluated by a diverse selection committee comprised of community members, donors, local educators and past Fellows.


Examples of past Fellows’ expeditions can be accessed at http://www.fundforteachers.org/fellows.html

Fellows’ stories and photos are also available on Facebook and Flickr.

Fund for Teachers is a national, donor-supported organization celebrating its tenth year of awarding fellowships for self-designed professional growth to teachers who recognize the value of inquiry, the power of knowledge and their ability to make a difference. To date, approximately 3,500 of America’s top teachers received more than $12.5 million in FFT grants, empowering them to pursue opportunities that transform learning for themselves, their students and their school communities.

Link: http://www.fundforteachers.org/
ISTE 2010 Conference Keynote Project
We Need Your Input!

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing today to ask your help in selecting one of our keynote speakers for ISTE 2010 in Denver next June.

We are turning to our incredible network of members, past conference attendees, and educational leaders (you!) to help choose a keynote speaker in ISTE's first fully crowdsourced keynote project. Our goal is to identify what you would most like to learn from a keynote speaker at ISTE 2010 while also providing an exciting, debate-filled, mind-stretching opportunity for you to engage with colleagues you've never met from around the world to meet this challenge.

Starting today, you can log on to
http://ISTE2010.uservoice.com

to nominate topics for Denver. Once nominations for topics have been collected in Phase 1, you can suggest and vote for your favorite presenters in Phase 2.

Here's the process and timeline we envision:

Phase 1 (October 15-November 15): Topic input (submit your ideas for keynote topics and vote on others’ ideas)

Phase 2 (November 16-December 15): Speaker nomination (submit your ideas for keynote speakers in the top 5 topic categories and vote for others’ submissions)

Late December: ISTE staff reviews top speaker nominations to ensure speakers are available and fit within budget, then creates short list of top 5 names for Phase 3 voting

Phase 3 (January 4-15): Speaker Finalist Voting

February 2010: Offer made to top speaker, final announcement made

We’ve posted full details about the contest, rules, and all phases at
http://www.iste.org/iste2010-keynote

I invite you to take a look and join the conversation!

Thanks in advance for your comments, suggestions, and ideas! Your energies and expertise drive the field.

Be sure to visit ISTE’s official blog-ISTE Connects for blog postings as well as updates about this exciting event!

Respectfully,

Leslie Conery, PhD, Deputy CEO of ISTE and ISTE 2010 Conference Chair

HyperStudio 5 Released...

HyperStudio 5 is the first new edition of this award-winning program that has been designed by creator Roger Wagner in a decade. True to the original, but updated for the latest requirements, HyperStudio 5 offers video narration, iLife® integration, podcasting support, webcams and much more.

Tell your story with flair!

Design your presentation with audio and video elements from nearly any source. Incorporate music from iTunes, movies from iMovie and even feeds from webcams around the world.

Features

- Export presentations to iPod video format
- Teacher-approved webcams from around the world
- “Live” object mode to allow editing down to individual brush strokes
- Bring in music from iTunes playlists
- Additional import sources, including Keynote, YouTube and old HyperStudio stacks
- Easily navigate between cards from the main screen
- Text options, including kerning, outlines and shadows
- Advanced graphic effects such as antique, crystallize, zoom blur
- Tool settings drawer with setting for each tool
- Set the toolbar to display the most frequently used tools
- Dozens of new brushes, including 3D paint styles

Includes:

- 1300+ clip art graphics
- 500+ background images
- 200+ animations
- 280+ sounds
- 30+ movies, including semi-3D QTVR objects

Link: http://www.mackiev.com/hyperstudio/index.html
Register for UCET 2010!

You can now register for the UCET 2010 Conference! UCET has a NEW online registration and payment system. When you register you will also need to pay with an e-check or credit card.

Pre-register now for a $10.00 discount! Pre-registration price is only $45 ($20 for students) until February 5, 2010! After February 5, registration will be $55 ($30 for students). Registration price for those who want attend only the Saturday sessions is $35.00.

What a fantastic deal! Registration price includes UCET membership for one year, entry to the 2010 conference, including meals. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors and exhibitors, we can bring you a premiere educational technology conference at a exceptionally low price.

If your school or organization is paying for your registration, then let your school/organization register for you, unless you want to pay now and get reimbursed by your school/organization later.

For schools or organizations that would like to register multiple participants and pay with a check or credit card online, you just need to click on “Add Another Participant” after registering each person. When you have completed registering all of the participants for your school/organization, then continue onto the “Payment Method” section of the online form.

Register online at  http://ucet.org/inUCETnew/conference/

Welcome to the December UCET Newsletter

This month’s newsletter is filled with interactive, educational sites that make kids think. In November, I sent a letter to all UCET members asking, “What online game(s) or simulation(s) have you found to be of great educational value? I’m especially interested in those that really make students think and stretch - not your typical “drill and kill” types.”

I received over a hundred responses from our UCET members, enough to fill a book! I’ll be sharing these with you over the next few months. Thank you for responding! Pulling these together will make a great resource. We appreciate you for sharing these with us.

In our November UCET Board meeting, we were privileged to participate in a presentation given by our 2010 Keynote Speaker, Anne Collier! The presentation was extremely interesting and thought provoking. I believe that you’ll be impressed and motivated when you hear her keynote address!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors at UCET wish to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for Utah’s education system. We know it’s hard work, but well worth it! May you have a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!
EnergyQuest

Winn Porter, Intern Principal at the Willow Elementary reports, “This has always been one of my favorite websites when talking about energy with my students. I liked reading with my class “Devoured by the Dark,” in this story three students travel through time meeting scientists and discovering how people lived without the comforts of today. Fifth grade Students can read this on their own without help. I enjoyed interacting with my class as we discussed our vocabulary words and definitions. The students enjoyed it best when I used different voices while reading.”

From the website: “Energy is an integral part of our daily lives. Without energy our society would decay into pre-historic savagery. Teaching an “energy ethic” to conserve finite resources is essential to our energy future, which is currently dependent on fossil fuels. We also must rely on our youth to help us create new ways to harness the elemental forces of our planet and the universe. They are tomorrow’s scientists and inventors. They will discover new means of energy production and innovative ways to use less energy. We hope Energy Quest will answer their questions and spur creativity and imagination.

Energy Quest is the award-winning energy education website of the California Energy Commission.”

Link: http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/

Puzzled States

Practice learning the 50 states with Puzzled States, a drag-n-drop puzzle from Scholastic. Students drag state puzzle pieces into the correct location on the map. When put in the right location, the state pops into place and gives you fun facts about each as you go. Wendy Smith, Summit Academy Charter Schools, shared this one with us.

Link: http://www.scholastic.com/play/prestates.htm

Also, check out these other interactive games: Gem-O-Matic, Buggin’ Out, Time Travelin’, Volcano Lab, Rockin’ Rock Grower, Stuck on Junk, and Planet Pop-up.

Link: http://www.scholastic.com/play/aboutUs.htm

Play Kids Games

From their website: “Play Kids Games provides free online kids games that are both fun and educational. Aimed at ages pre-K through middle school, Play Kids Games offers kids a safe environment to discover their abilities and learn new skills with interactive and fun computer games. Our games build skills in math, logic, memory, vocabulary, alphabet, spelling, geography, computer skills, color identification, shape identification and other various problem solving. Our commitment to parents, teachers, and kids, is to connect learning and skill building with a sense of challenge, fun, and self esteem. From the fun of “Alphabet Whack-a-Mole” to the skill building “Math Fact Practice”, our hope is that PlayKidsGames.com will be a part of our future generation’s ongoing experience and development.”

Link: http://www.playkidsgames.com/
Welcome to the death defying Funderstanding Roller Coaster!

This simulator is designed for people who want to design their own thrilling coaster and educators who want to use a cool activity to simulate the application of physics by using an exciting interactive tool and access to a wonderful reference source.

It is your mission to design the coaster so that you can achieve maximum thrills and chills without crashing or flying off the track (unless that’s how you like your coaster to work!).

If you accept this mission you must decide on a number of factors. You are responsible for setting the controls for the height of hill #1, hill #2, the size of the loop, the initial speed of the coaster, its mass, the gravity at work and the amount of friction on the track.

This tool offers a great way to play a roller coaster game, and learn while doing it. Hopefully you'll enjoy this simulation and it will encourage you to think about how simulations can help you improve the way you teach.

Stephanie Wood, Science Specialist K-12 in the Granite School District says, “This one helps the students understand that if they don’t develop a coaster with enough potential energy at the beginning of the coaster (or too much) that the coaster will not work.”

Periodic Table, Cells Alive, and Biology-4-Kids

Kay Willoughby, Canyons District, shared this: “While not a game, I have found this website a great way to discuss the periodic table...

Link: http://www.ptable.com/

It also helps with demonstrating what phase various elements are with different temperatures. It also links to Wikipedia so you can learn about each element. It is good for 7th grade and up.

I also like Cells Alive...

Link: http://www.cellsalive.com

and Biology4Kids...

Link: http://www.biology4kids.com/files/cell_main.html

when doing my unit on cells. They are both informative and interactive.
Art from the Getty, Read-Write-Think, and Kerpoof!

Melody Watson, Willow Springs Elementary, shared the following: “I really like the Getty Games site for many reasons. It exposes the students to art, from the Getty Art Museum, that they may not get to see otherwise (in a fun game form). I especially like the Detail Detective and Switch games. I use these when I teach my lesson on details - we look for details in art, then tie that to finding and using details in our writing (and of course in our own art).

Link: http://www.getty.edu/gettygames/

The following interactives from ReadWriteThink are good resources for either group or individual work to help teach figurative language - onomatopoeia and idioms. I have the students work on it during lab time, write down their answers, then bring it back to the classroom for sharing and discussion.

Link: http://interactives.mped.org/preview_mg.aspx?id=736&title=
Link: http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/idioms/

They can use this site without signing up. Students are able to practice designing/creating movies and lining up tracks (motions. sounds, etc). This will help get them ready for when we make our own class stop motion animation movies and other movies.”

Link: http://www.kerpoof.com/

Walter’s Favorite Math Sites

Walter Lewis shared some great sites with us. He says, “One of the two best sites to work from are the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives...

Link: http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html

which, as I am sure you know, there are numerous virtual manipulatives which teachers can lead students through learning activities. The second is NCTM’s Illuminations site. It has numerous simulations and activities that are used as parts of lessons. Here are a couple of examples:

Transformations and Frieze Patterns: http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L732


Illuminations Main Page: http://illuminations.nctm.org/

For some great individual programs that I like you might look at these that are good to use with Math 7 and Pre-Algebra students:

Weigh the Wangdoodles - an intro to a system of equations: http://www.mathplayground.com/wangdoodles.html

Algebraic Reasoning - an intro to solving equation: http://www.mathplayground.com/algebraic_reasoning.html

Math at the Mall - a simulation involving computation with rational numbers and percentages: http://www.mathplayground.com/mathatthemall1.html

The X Detectives - Fun game involving system of equations, translations, reflections, rotations, integers, functions and graphs: http://www.mathplayground.com/XDetectives_Test/XDetectives.html

Moneyville - economics simulations: http://www.moneyville.org/activities.cfm#lemonade
Add Like Mad and Bloxorz

Jen Buttars wrote, “My favorite number sense kind of game is Add Like Mad.

Link: http://www.addictinggames.com/addlikemad.html

The reason I like it is because you can use as many addends as you want, so you really have to be able to break apart (decompose) a number. You also get more points the more quickly you are able to work, so that is helpful for fluency.

For visual spatial reasoning I really like Bloxors.


You really have to be able to visually problem solve to complete the levels. There is also an element of patience and persistence that come into play.

Interactive Fiction

Terry Jensen, Jordan School District, writes, “I like to use interactive fiction. I teach reading and interactive fiction (IF) forces the player to read. There are no graphics so the player must “picture” the plot in their mind. I often have students draw out the map of the adventure they are having. They may need it to keep track of where they are and where they are going in the game. It also allows me to monitor their progress to see if they are working on the game or if they are lost in cyberspace.

I started using Interactive Fiction after attending a UCET conference a few years back. Students from the Utah State put together an IF which used the text from Spoon River Anthology.

Link: http://cle.usu.edu/CLE_IF_VOSR.html

Interactive Fiction is the old DOS based games in which the player is introduced to a situation, a plot line, or problem. They must respond to the game by typing in commands usually a verb / noun combination like “open door” or give a directional command like “right” “left” and so forth. As the player advances through the game they must read about and often collect various articles with which to interact with the environment.

Students often complain about IF because it takes more thought than tactile talent, but through all the complaining they are still trying to solve the puzzle. When using Spoon River I have put the students in groups of two. This cut down on the number of computers needed and it gave the students someone to talk with about what the next move should be. One student can draw the map while the other types in the directions. I have even given the students a basic map to get them started.

IF is free for download on many websites and there are games for every grade level. I would suggest teacher play the game first to check of appropriateness. For those new to IF look at http://www.ifarchive.org to find basic instructions for how to download and play many games. There are also contests for those who wish to write interactive fiction.

The Interactive Fiction Archive

“Three parts of man are in a dimtering of light: In the center of the room is a large stone table, about two feet wide. Engrossed in the glory of the idol is a stone盆地.”

—Booz

If you wish to download one or more of these islands to your diskette or hard drive, you will need the following software:

- MS-DOS with access to the directory where the islands are located.
- A diskette or CD-ROM drive.
- A text editor or word processor that can read and write ASCII text.
- A program that can copy the islands to a floppy diskette.
Mail Merge for Microsoft Office 2007
by Bridger Burt, Student, Utah State University

Have you ever had to write a letter to multiple people, but didn’t have the time to individually insert each address, each name into your letter, one at a time? One great solution to this is to use the Mail Merge option in Microsoft Word. This tool takes information about each of your recipients and automatically inserts it into your letter. Here are some quick, easy steps to using this great tool:

Set up your letter. Go ahead and type out your letter. Later, we’ll add places for each name and address of your recipients.

Create or import a source for your recipients. This will create and organize a list of your chosen recipients.

Click on the “Mailings” Tab.

Click on “Select Recipients.” A drop-down menu will appear. For those who use Microsoft Outlook, you may wish to choose “Select from Outlook Contacts…” This will automatically import contact information from your Outlook Contacts. Otherwise, click on “Type New List…” A new window will appear, allowing you to enter your recipients’ contact information.

Enter contact information. You may click on any field to enter information, or you may use the tab key to move from field to field. To start a new entry, click on the “New Entry” button.

When you are finished, go ahead and click on the “OK” button, which will then ask you to save your contacts list. This does not save your actual letter, but all of the information you just imported. After entering a name, click “Save.” This will then bring you back to your original letter.

Insert places in your letter for your contacts’ information.

Click on the “Mailings” Tab if you are not already there.

To insert an address into your document:

Click on the document where you want the address to appear.

Click on the “Address Block” button. This will bring up another window.

This window allows you to change the format, or look, of your address as it is imported. The box on the right provides an example of how your address will look. When you are satisfied, press “OK.” A tag is then automatically inserted into your document.

To insert a greeting, such as “Dear Mr. Bob Smith:” just simply:

Click on the document where you want the greeting.

Click on the “Greeting Line” button. Again, another window will appear.

Again, there are options where you can change the format of your greeting line, and a preview is also provided. When you are done, click “OK” and a tag will be inserted.

If you wish to insert something other than an address or greeting, just simply click on the “Insert Merge Field” button and a list of options will appear for you to choose from.

Review your letter. Make sure your tags are in place where you want them to be.

Preview your results. If you want to preview results, just click on the “Preview Results” button.

Finish and Print. Click the “Finish & Merge” button to prepare and print your letters. The information for each of your recipients will be automatically inserted and printed.
Lure of the Labyrinth

Justin Brooksby, Brianne London, and Robert Bentley suggested Lure of the Labyrinth. This is a “product of the Learning Games to Go (LG2G) project, funded by a Star Schools grant from the U.S. Department of Education, spearheaded by Maryland Public Television (MPT). You can find out more about the LG2G project on our Got Game? site.

LG2G concentrates on creating essential resources for pre-algebra students and the teachers and families working with them, as well as aggregating other manipulatives, web sites, and teacher tools that can help students think like mathematicians.

The development of Lure of the Labyrinth involved a group of educational and game experts working in concert:

- The Education Arcade at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was responsible for game design, under the leadership of Project Manager Scot Osterweil.
- The multimedia studio and educational publisher FableVision was responsible for executing the game design, including story line development, programming, art work, and narrative voice work.
- The research firm ORC-Macro was responsible for providing formative and summative evaluation that helped shape the development of the game.

Brianne says, “I like Lure of the Labyrinth for middle school pre-algebra students. The state office of Education in Maryland has approved this as well as the Jordan School District. It is easy for the administrator to set up and monitor the students. KEY! The teacher MUST play the games first so that the students can access the teachers knowledge when needed. Part of the game play is figuring out how the puzzles work, (which is sometimes frustrating) but there are lesson plans for all of the concepts used in the game and how the puzzles relate to the math skills. The reason I like this game is that my students are engaged.

Connect With the Ares Projects Office Through Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and TeacherTube

Are you looking for the latest information on the Ares rockets that will return humans to the moon? Do you want to find videos of the successful Ares I-X test flight to show in your classroom? Find all of this and more on the Ares social media sites.

NASA’s Ares Project is developing America’s next generation of launch vehicles to replace the space shuttle and send people to explore the moon and beyond.

Stay up-to-date on developments with the Ares rockets by checking the following sites:

Ares on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NASA.Ares
Ares TV on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/AresTV

NASA Ares on Twitter: http://twitter.com/NASA_Ares

Kids in Micro-g! Challenges Students to Design an Experiment for the Space Station

“Kids in Micro-g! is a student experiment design challenge geared toward grades 5-8. Its purpose is to give students a hands-on opportunity to design an experiment or simple demonstration that could be performed both in the classroom and aboard the International Space Station.

The winning experiments will have observably different results when the experiments are performed in the “1-gravity” or “1-g” environment of the classroom, compared to when the experiments are performed by astronauts in the “Micro-g” (one-millionth of 1-g) environment of the space station. The apparatus for the demonstration must be constructed using materials from a materials tool kit provided to the astronauts on board the space station. The tool kit consists of materials commonly found in the classroom and used for science demonstrations.

The experiment demonstration must take no more than 30 minutes to set up, run and take down. Experiment challenge winners and runners-up will be selected regionally and nationally by the Education offices of the ten NASA centers. The ten regional winners, one national winner and one national runner-up winner will have their experiments conducted by the astronauts on board the space station in the April-May 2010 timeframe. The experiments will be recorded in HD video and the winners supplied with copies of their video before the end of their school year.

Experiment proposals may be submitted by educators on behalf of their student groups. Proposals may be submitted via e-mail or postal mail during the period from Jan. 4, 2010, through Feb. 19, 2010.

The winning experiment proposals will be announced on April 2, 2010.

For more information about the challenge, including a scoring rubric, proposal requirements and a list of materials available to the astronauts, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/nlab/experimentchallenge.html. Questions about this challenge should be directed to jsc-iss-payloads-helpline@mail.nasa.gov.
National Geographic Games

Link: http://games.nationalgeographic.com/

National Geographic hosts numerous interactive educational games on their website. One game, a free download for Windows at the moment, is Eco Rescue Rivers. Restore rivers around the world as an elite volunteer with National Geographic’s Eco Rescue team! From bays to rivers, cities to jungles, visit compromised sites to save species large and small and preserve the future of humanity!

There are hundreds more, for all ages. This is a great site. Thanks to Terri McGuire for the leads on this page!

Mysteries of the Ancient World

Link: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/ancient/

Not so much a game, but an interactive learning unit that focuses on ancient world history. Explore Egypt’s Valley of the Kings, home to Tut’s tomb. Find out who has fallen to the “Curse of the Mummy.” What’s hidden in the catacombs of Rome? Get new insights into Tut’s life—and death. Learn about China’s ancient treasures and how they are rising to life. and much more...

2010 Census For Kids

Link: http://www.scholastic.com/census/global/for-kids.htm

Learn about the United State Census, participate in activities, games, and more. A section for teachers with lesson plans and activities, strategies, printables, and more.

Physics Games

Link: http://www.physicsgames.net/

More Interactive Educational Games Sites to Check Out!
Even More Interactive Educational Games Sites to Check Out!

MathFrog Games
Link: http://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog/
MathFrog is a website of free mathematics fun resources and online games for grades 4, 5, and 6 students, teachers, and parents. Thanks to Tamra Singleton for the lead. She says, “It is a Canadian website, so you can view it in English or French. It gives students grade level options and then lots of games and activities that I use to concentrate student efforts to what we are specifically learning. My students love it!”

Mr. Nussbaum - 1000 Sites in 1
Link: http://www.mrnussbaum.com/
Thanks to Paula Jo Steele for the lead! She says, “Mr. Nussbaum’s site is incredible! His games ALL rock and are great for the kids!!”

Welcome to: MrNussbaum.com

UEN Student Interactives for Grades K-2
Link: http://www.uen.org/k-2interactives/

UEN Student Interactives for Grades 3-6
Link: http://www.uen.org/3-6interactives/
UEN Student Interactives for Grades 7-12

Link: http://www.uen.org/7-12interactives/index.shtml

Giggle Poetry & Yahoo Kids Jokes

Link: http://www.gigglepoetry.com/

Link: http://kids.yahoo.com/jokes

Sonja Jensen says, “It is proven that repeated reading, and laughter build fluency. My class and I read a humorous poem and joke daily and rate the poem using the clickers.

Learning Clips

Link: http://www.learningclip.co.uk/

Thank you, Sonja Jensen, for the lead! From the website: “Learning Clip is an online project to create resources for teaching primary math. During the initial development phase of the project all the clips have been freely available to anyone interested in teaching and learning mathematics. From the 16th January 2010 some of the resources will only be available by subscription. The rest will continue to be free to registered users.

There are hundreds of interactive activities, video clips and worksheets covering a huge range of mathematical topics, concepts and methods. Learning Clip is an ongoing project and we have a strong commitment to continually develop new resources and enhance the content already available.”

Math Magician & Create Your Own Games

Link: http://resources.oswego.org/games/mathmagician/cathymath.html

Link: http://resources.oswego.org/games/

Thanks to Sherri Madsen for this lead! She says, “My favorite drill and kill (and the kids love it!)”
Cosmeo's Virtual Volcano Explorer


A Discovery Channel product, this interactive lesson allows students to explore how and why volcanoes are formed. It lets them play with two variables, the viscosity of the lava, and the amount of gases produced. After they set the variables, they click the "Start Eruption" button and watch the results. The program shows the various types of volcanoes and the eruptions they produce based on the variable settings.

Some of you may remember a Dorling Kindersly's CD-ROM product that had a similar activity some years ago. It was quite a hit with students back then. It's nice to find an online version of the same activity. Stratovolcanoes, Cinder Cones, and Shield Volcanoes are all taught within this unit. It's definitely worth having a look at.

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Starfall - Phonics and Reading

Starfall.com opened in September of 2002 as a free public service to motivate children to read with phonics. Our systematic phonics approach, in conjunction with phonemic awareness practice is perfect for preschool, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, special education, homeschool, and English language development (ELD, ELL, ESL). Starfall is an educational alternative to other entertainment choices for children.

In May of 2009, we released our Starfall Kindergarten Reading and Language Arts Curriculum. The lesson plans motivate kindergarten children by creating an atmosphere of fun and enthusiasm, providing opportunities for child-directed instruction, and facilitating the needs of English language learners and struggling readers learning alongside their peers.

Link: http://www.starfall.com/
Shauna Griffen says, “The Spy’s Dilemma - I use this site as we discuss the Cold War to help students understand the time period better. I also send students to a site that explores tenements of the late 19th century. It’s not a game, but the virtual aspect makes it interesting.” Thanks, Shauna!

Free Rice

Many of our UCET members mentioned Free Rice as a great site for children to visit. It’s a game site that asks questions. From the website: “Click on the right answer in the middle of this page. If you get it right, you get a harder question. If you get it wrong, you get an easier question. For each answer you get right, we donate 10 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program. WARNING: This game may make you smarter. It may improve your speaking, writing, thinking, grades, job performance...

Do I really make a difference by playing FreeRice?

The rice you donate makes a huge difference to the person who receives it. According to the United Nations, a child dies every 6 seconds from hunger related causes. Though 10 grains of rice may seem like a small amount, it is important to remember that while you are playing, so are thousands of other people at the same time. It is everyone together that makes the difference. Thanks to you, FreeRice has generated enough rice to feed millions of people since it started in October 2007.”

IXL

From their website: “The Web’s #1 Math Practice Site! Practice makes perfect, and IXL makes math practice fun. With unlimited math questions in more than 1,000 topics, students improve their skills and confidence and always have new challenges to meet. Click a grade level to get started!”

Primary Games

“This site was created by Susan Shuey Beasley. Prior to working for PrimaryGames.com full time, I was a Technology Support Specialist at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. TJHSST is located in Alexandria, VA and is part of Fairfax County Public Schools. I graduated from Virginia Tech in 1995 with a B.S. in Family and Child Development and in 1997 with a M.A.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction.

I originally designed the educational games in this site for my own students. However, once I saw their growing popularity among children around the world, I decided to expand this site and create games for students everywhere. I hope you enjoy the games at PrimaryGames.com!”
Free Application Quick Reference Cards

Recently, I received a postcard advertising CustomGuide Training that offered access to many Quick Reference Cards for common computer applications. I downloaded many, but not all, of them, and then wrote to the company to see if I could share them with you. Here’s the reply...

“Hi Nathan,

Yes, you can distribute them to anyone you want.

Regards,
Chad Moe
CustomGuide
Account Executive
888-903-2432 x 7001
612-871-5004
Fax:651-846-4429
www.customguide.com”

Here’s a link to them all on the CustomGuide site...

Link: [http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm](http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm)

They are 2 page PDF files, and are nicely designed and implemented. You’ll find quick reference cards for all the Microsoft Office products (both Mac and Windows), for Adobe products up through CS3, and more. There are also Quick Reference Cards for older software products as well.

If you or your school would find these useful, I suggest you download them while you can.

I have zipped all the more recent application reference cards into a single download which you can get here...

[http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/nmsmithpages/Personal/QuickReferences/](http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/nmsmithpages/Personal/QuickReferences/)

The file is 52 MB in size. We wish to express our appreciation to CustomGuide for making these freely available. Quick reference cards are available for...

- Microsoft Access
- Computer Basics
- Entourage
- Fireworks
- Internet Explorer
- Mac OSX Panther
- Mac OSX Tiger
- Photoshop
- Quickbooks
- SharePoint
- Windows 7
- MS Word
- Acrobat
- DreamWeaver
- Excel
- Lotus Notes
- Mac OSX Tiger
- Photoshop
- SharePoint
- Windows Vista
- InfoPath
- Appleworks
- ECDL
- Firefox
- FrontPage
- MS Office
- OneNote
- Photoshop Elements
- MS Publisher
- Visio
- Windows XP

If you’ve ever wished you could have a quick summary of most of the commands, toolbars, and procedures for an application - you may find these to be helpful.
Parting Thoughts...

Well, we’ve covered a lot of territory in this newsletter. Again my thanks to the many UCET members who so freely shared their favorite interactive websites. I’ve run out of time and need to get this newsletter out the door to all of you. I still have nearly a hundred emails that I need to go through - each with their own list of favorite sites. So, they’ll be shared with you in future newsletters. I’ve been really pleased with the resources that you have contributed. I sincerely hope you find them useful, too.

I’ve been thinking about themed newsletters for the year 2010. Along with grants, contests, opportunities, holiday resources, and tools, I’d like to have each newsletter focus on a particular curriculum area - arts, language arts, social sciences, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), physical education and health, etc. I'd welcome any suggestions.

I would also welcome articles from you that would be of interest to the UCET membership. Between all of us, there is a wealth of information dealing in the area of educational technology. If you’re aware of grants and other funding resources that educators can apply for, please share those with me as well! I’d love to see our readers personally benefit from these!

Sincerely, Nathan Smith
UCET Board
Nathan.Smith@usu.edu

UEN Highlights for December 2009

Welcome to December! - Events include Pearl Harbor Day, Emily Dickinson’s Birthday, Human Rights Day, Hanukkah, Bill of Rights Day, Boston Tea Party Anniversary, Wright Brothers’ Flight Anniversary, First Day of Winter, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Broadcast highlights include:

Dec 4 - Rick Steve’s Iran Yesterday and Today - KUED
Dec 5 - From Pictures to Words - UEN-TV
Dec 13, 17, 19, 24 - Faraday Christmas Lecture - UEN-TV
Dec 19 - Weber State University Commencement - UEN-TV
Dec 22 - Independent Lens: Helvetica - KUED
Dec 28 - American Masters: Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women - KUED

more December broadcasts including holiday specials...

UE Professional Development opportunities for December - May are now online...

Link: http://profdev.uen.org/pdms/register/view_course_by_month