Technologies Educators Should Watch in 2010

**Jing:** This screen capture software lets users record still images or video from the desktop. Files can be saved to a hard drive or hosted on Jing’s servers. Great for sharing lesson plans, recording classroom activities, and creating interactive curricula.

**Photo Booth:** Apple’s tool for recording videos and stills from the iSight camera, Photo Booth has several stock effects, including the ability to use a custom backdrop (from either an image or video file) to put teachers and students anywhere in the world—or anywhere in history.

**Poll Everywhere:** A Web-based polling tool that allows users to create polls and receive results from participants via SMS (text), as well as Twitter and the Web. Results are displayed in real-time, and the service is free for up to 30 participants. Polls can be embedded into other media, including PowerPoint presentations.

**Prezi:** A free presentation tool that lets users create presentations from a single slide that can be zoomed in and out to show a variety of content. Paid versions of the tool are also available that provide additional functionality.

**Etherpad:** A real-time collaboration tool that can create living documents with up to 15 users at a time. Currently a pay-per-user service, Etherpad was recently acquired by Google, with plans to integrate it into the Google Wave platform.

**Orbicule Undercover:** A $50 theft-recovery app for Mac users afraid of having their laptop lost or stolen. When a computer is stolen, this software uses WiFi to determine the thief’s location, contact local police, send screen shots of their activity, and even turn on the computer’s iSight camera to take still images of the perpetrator and send them via e-mail.

**TripIt:** A free service that lets users forward e-mail-based event reservation confirmations, flight plans, event details, and more to build an interactive itinerary that can be accessed from any computer, cell phone, or smart phone. TripIt also provides supplemental information (weather, driving directions, maps) based on specific travel plans.

**Evernote:** Evernote is designed to help take, track, and sync notes from just about anywhere. It’s Web-based, works on many mobile devices, and has a text recognition tool that uses a Webcam or scanner to import notes and then turn them into text files.

Netbooks: For around $300, these small, lightweight, WiFi-enabled computers make a lot of sense.

Flip Cameras: These small USB video cameras come with built-in memory, a rechargeable battery, and software for editing and compression. A great option for creating inexpensive videos for sharing in the classroom and on your webpage.

“This generation of student is expert in using new media to entertain themselves but knows very little about how to use it as a tool for learning.”

~ Michael Wesch, Cultural Anthropologist
Microsoft Word tip:
Here’s an easy way to move paragraphs around in your MS Word documents.

1. Click anywhere in your paragraph.
2. Depress the **SHIFT** and **ALT** keys simultaneously and use the up and down arrows on your keyboard to move it.
3. Your paragraph will magically jump to the precise location where you want it!

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“I found the problem, Phil... your spell checker had a nervous breakdown.”

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“Technology is like a fish. The longer it stays on the shelf, the less desirable it becomes.”

~ Andrew Heller, writer

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Got an iTouch? These are just a few of the hundreds of educational apps available:

AP Biology, Descriptive Writing Center, Egyptian Mythology, Sight Words, Spanish, Physics To Go, The American Revolution, 11th Grade Vocabulary, Greek Mythology, World History, No Fear Shakespeare, Math Dungeon, Democracy Study Guide.

Check them out at:

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http://www.scienccenetlinks.com/
Quick Publisher Tips:

* Working with the Objects Toolbar ... At the very left of the main Publisher window, you will find the Objects Toolbar. Most of what you do will begin by clicking one of these buttons. There are two basic object types. Text boxes, where you can type text, and Picture boxes. When working with Objects, it is as simple as choosing (clicking) the one you want, then drawing it on your page. Then it is up to you to fill it with what you want. Here is a brief rundown on the top 6 object tools and how to use them.

* If you paste or insert more text into a text box than it can hold, a message is displayed that asks if you want to use autoflow (autoflow: The automatic flowing of text from one frame to another). If you choose Yes, Publisher will create a new text box for the overflow. The text is hidden until it can be flowed into a new text box, or until the text box it overflows is resized to include it) text, and automatically connect this text box to the first text box.

* You manually connect text boxes by clicking the first text box to select it, and then clicking the Create Text Box Link button. The pointer changes to a pitcher, and then you click the text box you want to connect to. Text boxes that are connected will display the Go to Next Text Box and Go to Previous Text Box buttons in the corner of each box. You break the link between two text boxes using the Break Forward Link button on the Connect Text Boxes toolbar.

TrackStar is your starting point for online lessons and activities. Simply collect Web sites, enter them into TrackStar, add annotations for your students, and you have an interactive, online lesson called a Track. Create your own Track or use one of the hundreds of thousands already made by other educators. Search the database by subject, grade, or theme and standard for a quick and easy activity. There is a fun Track already made for each day of the year, too!

http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar

Are you using Firefox as your browser? If so, here’s an add on you should try:

http://firefox.afterthedeadline.com/

After the Deadline checks spelling, misused words, style, and grammar using artificial intelligence and natural language processing.

Now you can use it in your browser. Write better blog comments, tweet with correct grammar, and compose professional messages.
**This Month’s Technology Buzzwords**

**Web 2.0** - Web 2.0 is the term given to describe a second generation of the World Wide Web which is focused on the ability for users to collaborate and share information online.

**Social Bookmarking** - Similar to web browser bookmarks, social bookmarking stores individual pages online and allows you to ‘tag’ them. For people who like to frequently bookmark web pages, this can provide an easier way to organize them.

**Mobile 2.0** - This refers to the trend of websites recognizing mobile devices and utilizing their special features, such as Facebook or Twitter, knowing that you have signed on with your smartphone and using the GPS to tell where you are located.

**Geotagging** - The process of including location information, such as providing the location a photo was taken or using the GPS of a cell phone to ‘geotag’ where you were when making an update to your blog or a social networking site.

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**GroupWise Tip:**

When you need to quickly find a message you’re sure is in a particular folder, try using a quick filter. Here’s how:

1. Select the folder or Home View panel where you know the message you’re searching for resides.

2. Type the information you know about the message (sender’s name, subject, etc.) in the Quick Filter field on the right side of your status bar.

3. The filter will automatically hide any items that don’t match the criteria, displaying only the items with the criteria you’re searching for.

4. Open the message and perform the actions you need to do.

To clear the filter, press ESC or click the two colored circles and select Clear Filter.

**http://blabberize.com/**

Blabberize your photo! Use it to enhance listening skills and/or demonstrate knowledge in any subject area.

Upload picture or grab an image online. Align red box to lower half of mouth/chin to shape of mouth/chin area when talking.
If you like Wordle, try WordItOut.

http://worditout.com/

Ideas for using wallwisher:
1. Student book reviews
2. Name a historical figure
3. Create a place where students can post questions
4. Suggestion box
5. Add greeting in different languages
6. Post where a historical event occurred, and link to Google Earth

Awesome Educational Videos For Your Classroom


Math How To Videos:
http://www.mathatube.com/

Moderated video sharing site for teachers and students:
http://www.schooltube.com/

An innovative learning environment built around video from the NBC News Archives.
http://www.icue.com

Glogster EDU easily allows users to upload photos, videos, text, audio, and other exciting resources to create a unique online, interactive poster.

Great video showing Glogster uses in the classroom:
http://www.schooltube.com/user/Glogster

http://edu.glogster.com/
Just for fun...

Eyeball/geometry challenge
http://woodgears.ca/eyeball/

The Virtual Piano
http://www.thepiano.com/

The Online Magazine for International Literature, Words Without Borders publishes stories, poems and essays by foreign authors translated into English. http://wordswithoutborders.org/

Share your passion for teaching
http://www.havefunteaching.com/

http://animoto.com/

“Animoto automatically produces beautifully orchestrated, completely unique video pieces from your photos, video clips and music. Fast, free and shockingly easy.”

For The Mac Lover - Bring Mac Functionality to Your PC!


maComfort
Bring Mac to Windows!
Works on Win 9x, ME, XP, Vista and 7

Never miss the comfort of Mac while using Windows again!

Free screen capture with editing features.

http://www.screenpresso.com/
Come share your “SMART” ideas!

Did you know HP has a SMARTBoard Users' Group? Once a month we get together to share ideas and help new users. Everyone is welcome, even if you don’t currently have a SMARTBoard in your classroom! Join us and check out the amazing things you can do with this exciting technology. Our next meeting will be announced soon. Questions? Email Krista DiCesare or Margaret McNamara.

Interactive Math SMARTBoard resources:
http://www.gckschools.com/trc/smartboard.htm

Lots of SMARTBoard resources for the primary teacher:
http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/smartboard/smartboard.htm

Tips for a SMARTer classroom:
http://www.rce.k12tn.net/SMARTBoard/SMART%20board%20tools.htm

SMARTBoard Quick Tip:

Import or type in text, double click on it and then highlight to drag and drop a word away from the main body of text. Change the color of the text to the same as the background to create a quick close activity. Put an image on the back layer (click on image, go to drop down menu, choose order and send to back) and then slide the image behind the text to reveal clues!
Back to Basics:

New to your Mac? Fortunately, a Mac is very easy to use, in some cases too easy. Most Windows users tend to overthink how to do things on a Mac. Here are a few tips to get you started.

The Keyboard

The Mac keyboard looks different from that of Windows. The Apple/Command key replaces the Windows key. But, it works like the Control key on Windows machines. You’ll use it for shortcuts. Many shortcuts are similar to those in Windows. Just use the Command key in place of the Control key. For example, use CMD+C to copy, CMD+V to paste and CMD+X to cut. Shift+CMD+A opens the Applications folder. Option+CMD+M minimizes all windows. One shortcut to learn fast is CMD+?. It opens the Help menu.

The Alt/Option key isn’t used much with shortcuts either. Use it with the arrow keys to skip words. Hold the Shift key as well to select entire words.

The Mac Screen

The first thing you’ll notice is that you don’t have a Start menu or taskbar. Instead, you have the Dock, which sits at the bottom center of the screen. The Dock contains icons for programs. To add a program’s shortcut to the Dock, drag the program from the Applications folder. To open a program from the Dock, simply click on the icon.

Minimizing a window sends it to the Dock. Minimized windows appear between your shortcuts and the Trash.

System Preferences

The Apple menu provides quick access to system commands. Always visible, it resides at the top left of the screen.

Use the Apple menu to turn off your system or restart it. Or to open System Preferences from the menu. Like Windows’ Control Panel, it provides access to network, printer and other computer settings.

Macs check for software updates automatically. You’ll receive a notice when updates are available. To check manually, select Software Updates from the Apple menu.

To change your wallpaper, select System Preferences from the Apple menu. Click Desktop & Screen Saver and then Desktop.

Click a folder on the left to see the images it contains. Click one to set it as your wallpaper. Close System Preferences. Note you can also choose from your iPhoto album.

You can also change your screen saver when you change your wallpaper. Click Screen Saver in the Desktop & Screen Saver box. In the box on the left, you can select from screen savers. You can also opt to use a folder of photos for your screen saver.

Finding things on your Mac

The Finder is another important program on your Mac. Like Windows Explorer, it lets you navigate through files and programs.

Click File, then New Finder Window on the Finder menu to open the Finder window. Or use the CMD+N shortcut key. Click the desktop if you don’t see the Finder menu.

In the left pane of the Finder, you’ll see shortcuts. Click Macintosh to access the hard drive. Clicking Applications opens your program folder. There’s also a shortcut to documents.

If you need to search your Mac for files, use the spotlight feature. Use the CMD+Space Bar shortcut key to access it.

Enter your search term in the box. Spotlight searches for files, applications and folders that contain the term. It also searches the contents of files for the search term. Results are displayed as you type. You can also search by file extension. For example, enter ".MP3" (less quotes) to find all MP3 files on your computer.

Using Spaces

Spaces lets you create virtual desktops that hold different applications and windows. You can then switch between desktops. This will help you reduce windows cluttering your workspace.

Click Spaces on the Dock. You’ll be prompted to set up Spaces. Click the Enable Spaces checkbox.

Use the "+" buttons to create up to 16 desktops. Programs can automatically open in a particular desktop. Click the "+" button under Application Assignments. Select the program and click Add. Use the pop-up menu to assign it to a desktop.

You can also specify other options for Spaces. Specify the shortcut for switching between desktops and more.

Finally, like any operating system, your Mac freezes occasionally. When this happens, you need to force the unresponsive program to stop running. Just press CMD+ALT+Escape. Select the program and click Force Quit.