

Technology for tomorrow's classrooms

From: **New Straits Times** Date: **July 6, 2000** Author: **Ananda Samudhram**

STRAITS TIMES

New Straits Times

07-06-2000

Technology for tomorrow's classrooms

Byline: Ananda Samudhram

Edition: Computimes; 2*

Section: Outlook Issues

TECHNOLOGY for the classroom has always garnered a lot of attention, with students becoming more adept at using computers and the increasing accessibility of technology for all.

Effective technology-driven learning, however, goes beyond just making state-of-the-art stuff available to kids; it includes little tricks to capture their attention and keep it for prolonged periods. Apple's Web pages at www.apple.com/hotnews/articles/2000/06/necc/ cover some of the tricks that educators at the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) in Atlanta have been up to in making their little charges face up to technology with confidence.

One such idea is that of the Oregon trail where students assume the role of travellers on wagons following this historical trail. They form teams and each team is challenged by the limitations imposed by the space and amount of weight that each virtual wagon can accommodate.

The technology co-ordinator, Bruce Ahlborn, set various obstacles on the path of the wagons that simulated the actual challenges faced by the pioneers who rode the trail long ago. When they came to the obstacles, the students researched the problems to find solutions. If they found the correct answers to their problems, Ahlborn allowed them to proceed on the virtual trail. The success of this project is encouraging the educators to consider it as a model for similar educational projects.

Another project that had students coming to school early and voluntarily staying back after class was based on immigration, and carried out by Marco Torres of the San Fernando High School in California. Given the task of creating stories based on how their families had migrated to the US, the students, many of whom were first- and second-generation Americans, went about the project interviewing all the people who had first-hand knowledge about such matters - their parents, grandparents and great grandparents. They captured their stories on digital cameras and worked with them on iMacs, using iMovie, adding music, narration and titles to their own footage.

The NECC, attended by 15,000 tech-inclined educators, provided many revealing moments for the participants, with exhibitions of student multimedia projects and glimpses of tomorrow's classrooms.

Apple has carefully aimed its marketing efforts at taking advantage of the rapidly growing market for digital videos and movies; from creating digital movies to broadcasting them via

the Web with QuickTime. And it has now released Final Cut Pro version 1.2.5, the latest version of its professional video editing software.

One of the problems with digital videos is the vast amounts of space that they gobble up. Version 1.2.5 decreases this space with reference movies which store the digital movies in smaller, compressed forms. In addition, the latest version also supports the 16:9 format that allows users to create movies on a wider screen. Current owners of Final Cut Pro can upgrade to the latest version via a free download at www.apple.com/finalcutpro/.

Alternatively, they can use a compact disc (CD) priced at US\$19.95 (RM75). Final Cut pro has enjoyed rave reviews from many sources, eliciting a four mouse rating from Macworld ([http:// macworld.zdnet.com/1999/08/reviews/finalcutpro.html](http://macworld.zdnet.com/1999/08/reviews/finalcutpro.html)).

Final Cut Pro is relatively new in the marketplace and as such, third- party support continues to build up. As new Final Cut Pro hardware and software products are continually emerging, users who want to get it should check out www.apple.com/finalcutpro/techspecs/ to determine if their current and intended products are compatible with this software. Users could find useful tips at www.apple.com/finalcutpro/training/.

Final Cut Pro is basically the professional version of iMovie, which is now available as a free download for Mac users who want an inexpensive, good quality video-editing program.

The writer can be contacted at ananda@metropolitan.edu.my.

(Copyright 2000)

This material is published under license from the publisher through ProQuest Information and Learning Company, Ann Arbor, Michigan. All inquiries regarding rights should be directed to ProQuest Information and Learning Company. For permission to reuse this article, contact [Copyright Clearance Center](#).

HighBeam™ Research, Inc. © Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.

www.highbeam.com