STUDY 500 – EFFECTIVE LEARNING IN ANY ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

SANAKO Study 500 is a performance improving teaching software, which combines the use of multimedia and the Internet with a suite of essential classrom management tools. Study 500 can help tutors get the maximum benefit of different types of ICT environments, ranging from work with small computer groups to controlling large computer labs and teaching in constantly evolving wireless classrooms. The following chapters present some of the features, which make Study 500 a particularly effective solution in different environments.

Small Clusters of Computers

Activity Based Solution

Study 500 is an activity based solution in which students can be divided into sessions and each session can be set to perform a different activity. This is ideal for group work as each cluster can perform a different and separate activity.

Classroom Layout of GUI

The creation and editing of classroom layouts has been made simple in Study 500. The intuitive classroom layout makes it easy to target individuals or groups, especially if tutors use thumbnail images in place of the student icons. This also allows them to monitor the students' activities all at once no matter the combination of computer clusters in the lesson. The level of control over the students' activities even surpasses the traditional classroom environment.

Classrooms and the corridor

The possibility to set different contexts for student computers means that you can create numerous smaller classrooms within a single network. Similarly to a traditional school school environment where teachers can select only their own students into the classroom from all the students that are waiting in the hallway, Study 500 allows the tutor to select the different locations (contexts) of the various clusters via the Show Corridor option and just display the student PCs they need to work with while leaving the others in the corridor.

Group based File area

Study 500 has group based file areas and students are only able to access the learning material in their own group's file area. This makes it very easy for a teacher to present differing material to the various clusters and to set each cluster to perform their own tasks independently and without interference.

Call Teacher - with message

No matter how physically remote the students are from the teacher, they can always contact the teacher to get assistance or instructions when needed. Students can call the tutor when they need to discuss with the tutor or send a text help request message or question to which the tutor can reply.

Remote Log Off / Shutdown and Wake-On-LAN

With Study 500 the management of the ICT environment is easy no matter the number and distance of the computer clusters in an institution. Study 500 allows teachers and administrators to control the Shutdown, Log Off and Restart functions of any combination of computers on the tutor screen. This will not only save valuable time, but also the the teacher's legs!

Large Laboratories

Teacher or Model Student Demonstrations
In addition to teacher-led presentations, the screen transfer functions also allow teachers to hand out some responsibility to the students themselves. Students can present their work to others using both their screens and voice with no need to prepare or move students, or a more advanced student could even be set to instruct a group of students. This allows the tutor to distribute responsibility in the classroom and to engage students by breaking from the traditional model of instruction.

Easy differentiation of students
With Study 500 tutors can quickly split the class into up to six groups based upon, for example, ability or subject area. This makes learning more efficient as you can team students with their others of their own level making interaction more natural while promoting co-learning. Tutors can also set different tasks for the groups, which allows them to divide a large classroom into more efficiently manageable learning units.

Lock Screen
The different locking options in Study 500 are a very effective way of focusing student attention to the task at hand and to prevent them from concentrating on their mouse and screen, for example during oral excercises. The locking options also prevent students from exploring material outside the topic of instruction and from opening unwanted programs.

Discrete text messaging
The tutor has a possibility to display written messages on the student screens, which is an effective way of private communication. The text messages are particularly useful, for example, if the tutor needs to tell a student off without everyone else in the room hearing or knowing.

Focused and controlled use of Web based resources
The focused Web browsing allows tutors to keep students focused and avoid the temptation to browse the web in search of non-educational resources. Tutors can make the student browsers follow the teacher's navigation, which not only prevents the students from straying off, but is also an effective way of guiding them to useful material on the Internet and for giving presentations. There is also a possibility to define allowed and denied Web pages for when the students browse the Web independently.

Wireless and Mobile Labs

The Corridor
With Study 500 there is no need to adjust existing classroom layouts to follow the constantly changing conditions of wireless classrooms. Classroom creation is simple even in a wireless environment with roaming remote students. Tutors can simply select the desired students from the 'corridor' and start a class even if the students are spread around to different parts of the institution. If students leave in the middle of a lesson, their student icons will become inactive.

File Area
The file areas are an immediate way to make work available to students and vice-versa. Once the students have completed their work they can save it to the file area and teachers can collect it for evaluation.

Textual Chat
The textual chat in Study 500 is a very simple yet effective way of involving remote students. The chat rooms allow an interactive exchange of ideas without disturbing the task at hand and provide an open forum for students that is still fully under teacher supervision.

Web Tours
The focused Web browsing is a very effective way to engage remote and local students alike. Tutors can take control of the student browsers, which not only prevents the students from wandering off, but is also an effective way of leading them to learning material and for giving presentations. The guided Web browsing allows tutors to keep students' attention on the task at hand, while engaging them with Web-based learning resources.

*The screen transfer functions have certain limitations in wireless environments