

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Ansyst is using BETT to launch the latest version of its CapturaTalk software, designed for mobile phones and aimed at dyslexic learners. CapturaTalk Version 2 recognises text and numbers contained in photographs or digital documents and includes text-to-speech functionality for all Word, SMS and email applications. The new version also integrates the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, allowing users to

highlight a word and hear a dictionary definition read back to them.

Operating on Windows Mobile, the software sits on the main toolbar of a handheld appliance. Lauding its product and encouraging visitors to try it out on stand A70, CapturaTalk is emphasising that the software can be run without a SIM card and, as such, can be used in schools with mobile phone bans in place.



WHY THIN CLIENTS NEED A DIET

Software able to turn one PC into eight is the claim from the makers of SoftXpand, an Israeli product aimed at out-slimming the thinnest of thin clients. Created by MiniFrame, the software will be on display during BETT 09, with demonstrations showing how schools can take one PC, connect it to seven monitors, keyboards and mice and create an immediate set of eight workstations.

Crich Carr School (pictured) in Derbyshire created 15 workstations from five PCs using the software, plus the necessary kit to fashion what MiniFrame calls a 'virtual PC', while Oriel College, Oxford, formed

292 student desktops, based on six shell monitors to each PC. Each cluster of six 'PCs' cost the College £1,100, albeit this figure excludes the significant cost of the monitors.

Still, the company says savings can be made in other areas too, with an 'approximate' saving of 83% in electricity costs on a six station cluster, compared with six standard desktop PCs.

Maintaining that the standard thin client model, used in a number of schools, 'is not suited to education' a MiniFrame spokesperson insisted that thin clients were 'expensive to purchase and costly to maintain'.



FILM DIRECTING FOR ALL

Amateur school film makers are the target of TechSmith's BETT promotional efforts, with the recording software company hoping to secure interest in its Camtasia Studio 6. Pitched at video makers of varying abilities, the latest version of the Camtasia Studio software offers an updated interface and new editing options in a bid to make it easier for teachers and pupils to use. Among the changes are the ability to edit video and audio separately – allowing dubbing and voiceovers – and a move to allow videos to be made in a format compatible with Flash Player. The US company hopes the Flash integration will allow films and clips to be accessed from a wider array of devices.

The changes follow a bout of intense customer feedback at TechSmith, with the new service also offering buyers 2GB of storage on the company's Screencast.com, plus 2GB of monthly bandwidth as standard. The good news for those intrigued enough to want to know more is that unlike last year when TechSmith sorely lacked a physical presence at BETT, this year it has invested in a real life stand (G84).

For a free trial of Camtasia Studio 6 visit www.techsmith.com/download/camtasiatrial.asp