

October 10th 2003 – Gold Coast City Council Innovation Stories Feature on Eduss Innovation



PROFILE

EDUSS

EDUCATING THE WORLD

For today's school students there are teachers, and then there are virtual teachers in a very different learning environment to the days of the old schoolyard.

Teachers will never be replaced but they are being assisted like never before, thanks to virtual education being delivered into schools and homes across Australia and overseas, by Gold Coast Education Software developer Eduss.

Company Marketing Director, Theo Scheman says it's not about superseding, but supplementing the role teachers play and helping them to be more effective.

"Our Integrated Multi-Dimensional Teaching Assistant can take over up to 60% of a teacher's role," Mr Scheman claims.

Much more than simply providing computer-based exercises for students, the Eduss system, available for both Maths and English, is capable of intelligently evaluating students, teaching them according to their capabilities, creating lesson plans, setting homework and individually assessing students.

"Teachers are able to use the system to do as much or as little as they like for them," Mr Scheman explains.

The system evaluates students by setting random exercises, with no true/false or multiple-choice questions that can be guessed at. It can even detect if a student has failed to comprehend a question and ask it in a different way.

If a student solves a problem incorrectly, the system is able to intelligently detect at which stage they went wrong by travelling down the tree of the question/answer, to discover what underlying concepts they may have missed.

"It takes four hours to assess all students in a classroom. Teachers then have a true indicator of where they are at," Mr Scheman says.

"They may then proceed to teach the traditional way or combine classroom and computer activities."

"It allows the teacher to more easily establish remedial groups and groups of accelerating students."

When it comes time for homework, the system delivers it to students' home computers, and marks the completed work immediately.

In fact under the system, which uses randomly generated questions, children can keep doing their homework again and again – proving to the teacher how hard they tried – but there can be no excuses their dog ate their homework!

The Eduss system has already been introduced into 525 schools across Australia since its launch in October 2001, while the company has sold its products into 6,500 homes.

Because the software works using both skill level based exercises and curriculum specific exercises, the system is being sold internationally and even incorporates Afrikaans for the South African market.

"We've sold the system into schools in Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire in the UK, and California, Arizona, Colorado and Georgia in the US," Mr Scheman comments.

The next step in Eduss innovation will be extending the maths program into upper secondary and introducing a science program.

"The reaction has been awesome. Our teachers need the wisdom and knowledge to become better teachers and we know we are helping them."



Above And to the left: Students enjoying the Eduss system