

Acquiring of Graphic/Animation Software

by James Ditmore

Two Factors that I look at when making decisions regarding the selection, acquisition, and use of graphics/animation software are:

1). First and foremost, the needs of the students and what they need to learn to help them after high school! What is being used out in the REAL WORLD? One of my pet peeves is when teachers are still using old dos programs to teach students in 2002! I think this is a disservice to the students and the only reason for it, is ease of use by the teacher. Teachers need to learn technology and quit taking the easy way out! I realize that teachers are busy, but technology slows down for nobody! I can see teachers who are willing to learn technology and they are going to be the ones who will succeed in the future. The others will be left behind not knowing what happened and will be more behind than ever, Overwhelmed by what they have to learn!!!

A). I chose Adobe Photoshop/Livemotion because it is being used by our Annual staff and it is what is being used in industry. It is a good choice in my opinion and I applaude the TATC staff at Region 11 for choosing this product to give us for our certification course!

2). Second is Cost. Every school district has budgets and restrictions on what they can spend. This has to be weighed against what is needed by the students. This is not always an easy task, especially if a principal or superintendent doesn't know much about technology. They don't understand why you might need a graphics/animation software that cost a lot as opposed to using the paint program that comes with Windows! There are a lot of ways to find money, by writing grants, to approaching community groups about helping out with funding. Money will always be a problem, finding ways around the problem, called solutions, will be the job of the school districts. The students will suffer is school districts cannot find the right solution!

A). When our school actually starts offering a course in graphics/animation software, I will recommend Adobe Photoshop/Livemotion. It will cost more, but in my opinion these software packages are well worth the cost. Educational pricing should always be asked about when purchasing software for schools. I know Educational pricing will be offered in this case.