ICT in the Classroom

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Introduction

Back again, this time with shorter introductions and more content! This new school year many of you and your students seem to be slowly making moves towards the tablet - a topic which is hot within education circles and amongst academics, Here in Ireland an estimated 1 in 10 first year students have made the move and it will be interesting to see the results and feedback from those that have chosen this route. I have decided to do the same - the journal has been ditched along with some of the books and in this edition I will mention just a few of the great features I have discovered in the past three weeks.

Regards,

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edshelf BETA

Edshelf is and American based and K12 orientated website which is currently in beta mode but entirely free. The site offers a directory of websites, mobile applications and desktop software that are rated and reviewed by educators for educators. Users can expect to find lots of helpful tools and rate the ones which you have tried and tested. There is also a facility to create your own collection of useful tools/applications and even share these with your fellow teachers In the 'find tools' section you can find a wide range of tools to choose from and even choose by category to concentrate on the education tools which may be of most interest to you!

www.edshelf.com

FREE YouTube Downloader

The majority of us have used YouTube in the classroom at some stage and for those of us that have we all want to avoid the adverts and pray the video will stream uninterrupted. In order to avoid both of these situations we can use this great FREE download. YouTube downloader will allow you to paste your video link, choose your destination folder and simply download your YouTube video enabling you to view it offline and advert free.

www.youtubedownloader.com

tes

TES is a UK based website which has more than 500,000 teaching resources developed by teachers for teachers. Although the site is England curriculum based, it provides an abundance of excellent resources for a wide variety of subjects and topics.

In addition to this there are also forums where you can engage with some of the 2 million registered users and get the answers to your questions from teachers all over the world. There is also a careers section on the site which contains regularly updated education related positions **www.tes.co.uk**

makeuseof.com

This is one of my most referred to sites as it contains such a wide array of information from 'the best websites' to 'the best apps' an unrivalled set of manuals on the topics such as:

- Photoshop
- Buying Laptops
- Using Chrome
- Social Media
- File Sharing
- Networking
- Jailbreaking
- Blogging
- Virus Removal
- Web Design
- Photography
- Gaming

+ lots lots more

www.makeuseof.com

SurveyMonkey

No doubt many of you will have already heard of and used SurveyMonkey but for those of you who haven't it is a great free resource which allows you to create web based surveys and gain results instantly. The site also offers paid versions which provides extra and advanced features but for teachers that want get student feedback on a course, at the end of the school year or even provide an online test, SurveyMonkey is your solution. www.surveymonkey.com

Google | Search Education

Many of us encourage and want our students to become independent learners and critical thinkers. In today's tech savvy world these responsible and motivated learners are using Google search as their main source of information outside of the classroom, but are they using this massive database of information correctly? This site teaches how to become a skilled searcher

www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation

google GOORU

Lots of teachers use Google Apps as part of their daily teaching. This site is a must resource to learn everything you need to know about using Google Apps.

www.googlegooru.com

Reflection App

The rise in the use of iPads and iPhones in the classroom has inevitably led to the rise in accessories and accompanying apps becoming more available and marketed towards the education sector. Up until now the only method to display/mirror your entire iPad screen was to purchase 'Apple TV' at the cost of $99/€109. However, you can now purchase reflection app for just $15 which allows you to airplay your iPad or iPhone 4S wirelessly to your PC/Mac and allow all your class to view on your projector/interactive board.

www.relectionapp.com

3 useful iPhone & iPad Apps to use and checkout for the Classroom

Teacher Kit | Educreations | Mocks.ie

- TeacherKit is a personal orgainser for teachers allowing you to organise classes, take roll call, record behavior + more.
- Educreations turns your iPad into a recordable whiteboard. It allows you to easily create and share video tutorials.
- Mocks.ie for Junior & Leaving Cert provides an ideal app for exam revision and preparation

Monthly Pick

www.learni.st

Learnist is going to be BIG.

It is the latest educational social network on the scene and the easiest resemblence to make is – Pinterest for Education.

Learnist allows the user to make learning boards that are essentially digitally curated silos of information. Learnist was developed with education being one of the main focus points which results in the learning boards being easy to use within the classroom, set as homework tasks or share on other social networks.

Before now the large array of lesson categories could just be viewed through your browser but now the iPhone and extremely neat iPad applications have been released. Learnist is developed by Grockit, an online social gaming learning company based in San Francisco, California.

www.learni.st