Education software specialist NetSupport, developer of the market-leading classroom management solution for Windows, NetSupport School, has responded to the challenges of the modern classroom with the release of NetSupport Assist; the new cost-effective and efficient way for teachers to manage and engage with their students in a Mac and Linux environment.

Twenty-first century education is providing students with inspiring learning opportunities and giving them unparalleled access to a diverse range of computing assets. However, providing the latest ICT infrastructure is only half the equation. Ensuring it is used in the most effective way represents the other half.

With 22 years of development expertise to call upon, NetSupport Assist brings together NetSupport’s core classroom management technology to deliver a focused feature set that ensures teachers can give their time and attention to their students, without having to worry about learning and maintaining the software.

Crystal clear student thumbnails enable teachers to monitor the entire class in a single real-time view, each thumbnail displaying visual indicators to show when applications and websites are in use. To ensure the resources being accessed by each student are appropriate, with a single click you can switch to a view that details exactly which files and websites are open and, if needed, take remedial action to block the internet.

A powerful range of remote control tools enables teachers to interact with students individually or as a class. Teachers can discreetly view an individual desktop to confirm the student is on task and, for example, conduct a two-way chat session without disrupting the rest of the room.

With NetSupport Assist there’s also no need for expensive front-of-class display equipment: real-time presentation tools enable the teacher to ‘show’ their screen to students.

To gauge topic understanding, teachers can, on the fly, poll students for their feedback. A question can be sent to each machine with a pre-defined list of responses and, once the students have responded, the results are instantly reported on the teacher’s screen.

NetSupport Assist is fully optimised for use with wired or wireless networks, laptops, netbooks and desktop computers and can be configured to maximise performance without compromising the network or the devices servicing it.

NetSupport’s Managing Director, Al Kingsley, acknowledged the rapidly changing face of classroom technology and the need for supporting software to keep pace: “NetSupport is delighted to be able to bring its skills in the classroom management arena to a Mac and Linux audience. Across our product range we recognise the need to develop our technology to ensure it remains relevant for today’s modern learning environments and, with a growing number of educational establishments extending their IT infrastructure to include Mac and Linux computers and netbooks, we are certain that NetSupport Assist will be welcomed by customers whether they are familiar with the NetSupport brand or not.”

For a mixed environment, NetSupport Assist is also compatible with NetSupport School. With over nine million licences already deployed globally, NetSupport becomes the first classroom management software vendor to offer compatible solutions across Windows, Mac and Linux environments.

NetSupport brings classroom instruction software to the new generation of Mac and Linux learning environments

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