

PRODUCTREVIEWS

Put to the Test

T&L editors take some new products for a test drive

By Joe Huber

▶▶PRODUCT: NETSUPPORT NOTIFY

www.netsupportnotify.com ▶ Retail price: \$180 for a 75-user pack

A school would install this network (LAN, WAN) messaging system program to communicate any message to the staff as a group or to small groups of staff. This short message is then displayed on a designated staff member's computer screen (either PC or Mac). With the acknowledgment feature, the sender can confirm who has received the message.

PROS: The program can issue an audible alert. Messages can be classified as critical, alert, technical, message, or news. The messages can be set up so they go only to specific people or to the entire school, so teachers can send messages urgently requesting help back to the security officer or to the main office. The program can be password-protected to block unauthorized users. NetSupport Notify requires no special equipment and has a distribution module, so all the computers in the school can be installed from one location.

CONS: None.

OVERALL IMPRESSION: This is a good tool for increasing the security of our schools and for improving communication between the administration, technical staff, and instructional staff. As long as this type of communication tool is used responsibly, it would make a great fit for schools.

