

# THE EDUCATION Technology GUIDE

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## Is Technology Making Students SMARTER?

### PLUS

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And Much, Much More...

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## The NXTgeneration of educational robotics

The renowned intelligent LEGO® brick has a successor that is creating almost as big a stir as the RCX did almost ten years ago. The NXT is smarter and even more intelligent, with exciting features like Bluetooth® compatibility and on the brick programming.

Kids who have already experienced MINDSTORMS in the classroom literally gasp when they're introduced to the NXT generation. They're already fans of robotics as a way to bring science and technology to life, so it's easy for them to grasp the joys of the new: Things like the ultrasonic sensor, which senses distance and recognizes objects and movement; the improved sound sensor, which recognizes sound patterns and different tones; and the interactive servo motors (3 in the set) which have in-built rotation sensors for considerably improved motor control – accurate within one degree.

For newcomers the enthusiasm is just as tangible because the concept is so appealing and straightforward. The school set, LEGO MINDSTORMS Education Base Set 9797, is tailored for groups of 2-3 children. The educational software, 2000077, includes an interactive step-by-step guide to programming, called the Robot Educator. And there's a superb curriculum activity pack on CD, called Introduction to Robotics, 2009797, which includes video introductions, building instructions, programming guides and a complete series of challenges for kids from 8 to 16+. The pack, developed by Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy, is tailored to meet targets in science, technology, design and mathematics.

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## See you on the Wiki? (Why?)

Games and 'New Technologies' are increasingly popular in schools, where Blogs, Wikis, Moodles and online games are now becoming routine aspects of the use of ICT in schools. These technologies can be used to create and support challenging and engaging classroom activities in which students can interact, collaborate and jointly produce projects and documents. However, they have to be used appropriately and wisely if they are to realise their potential. Deakin's Master of Education (Information Technology Education) units focus on both the nature and use of these new technologies, as well as examining the 40 year history of the use of Information Technology in schools so that they are able to place these newer technologies in a wider educational context, and not simply adopt them because they are the 'next best thing'. The initial unit - ICT in Education - examines how influences from Psychology, Education, the IT industry and social expectations have influenced the ways in which technology is being used in schools. This broad background knowledge helps teachers to begin to be able to make better principled decisions about the appropriate use of technology.

To find out more visit [www.deakin.edu.au/education/masters](http://www.deakin.edu.au/education/masters) or call 03 9244 6333.

## Deep Freeze & LanSchool @ Ferny Grove State High School

**Background:** Ferny Grove State High School in Brisbane currently has approximately 1670 students enrolled and has more than 350 computers for classroom use. Ferny Grove enjoys an excellent reputation for academic, cultural, citizenship and sporting success and has a high public profile in the Brisbane community.

### 2 Challenges

**Challenge #1:** The school wanted to have peace of mind and reduce support time.

**Solution:** Ferny Grove State High School installed Deep Freeze on its computers.

**Results:** Head of Information Technology at Ferny Grove State High School, Ken Capps said, "Deep Freeze is the best thing since sliced bread. The programme has contributed to a significant reduction in support time and maintenance whilst guaranteeing a frustration free computer within the classroom. All the machines are working perfectly and we are able now able to focus on our core business - i.e. supporting curriculum initiatives to achieve effective learning outcomes."

**Challenge #2:** The school wanted a PC interactive teaching aide that was easy to use by all teachers.

**Solution:** Ferny Grove State High School installed LanSchool on its computers.

**Results:** Head of Information Technology at Ferny Grove State High School, Ken Capps said, "The school was keen to invest in a solution that empowered the teachers by providing them with an effective way to manage the learning outcomes in an ICT reach classroom. The management tool needed to be simple to use, easy to learn and simple to maintain and deploy. LanSchool was our product of choice as it provided all this and more."

Deep Freeze restores the pristine Standard Operating Environment (SOE) upon every reboot of the computer. Therefore, students can explore, experiment and destroy the PC with the knowledge that the next student using the PC can have this same opportunity. Support time for those PCs is reduced dramatically and teachers can rely on the same programs, icons, settings will always be the same for every class.

LanSchool allows the teacher to broadcast, blank and monitor all student PCs. During a class the teacher may want to focus attention on herself, so LanSchool can blank out all student PCs ensuring attention is focused back on the teacher. Alternatively, a teacher may want to broadcast their teacher screen to all student PCs. LanSchool Monitor can even show small snapshots of all student PCs in real time, proactively managing classroom PC activity.

Mark Hacker, Managing Director of Aussie Telecom Pty Limited had the following to say: "We are pleased to see that Ferny Grove has implemented the very best technologies to help support their teaching environment. Throughout Australia, ShareIT is one of the best technology education conferences of the year and I encourage all educators to attend and experience the fun, energy and education that takes place at Ferny Grove State High School."

More information for both Deep Freeze & LanSchool can be obtained from the Australian distributor - Aussie Telecom Pty Limited. Phone 1800 14 13 12 [www.deepfreeze.com.au](http://www.deepfreeze.com.au) [www.lanschool.com.au](http://www.lanschool.com.au)