



### NetSupport School v.7 – Teaching the masses.

One year down the line and it is difficult to imagine lecturing large classes without the control of Netsupport School. In a very short time it has become one of our most valuable teaching tools in the classes.

PE Technikon decided to install Netsupport School on our network in 2002 with version 6 of the product. At that early stage we realized the potential of the product within the teaching environment for distributing files, slide shows and demonstrations of software to large classes.

We found the installation on the network with the automated installation package very easy and powerful and were able to set up a various 30 PC labs from a single computer in less than an hour. The control of the system is extremely intuitive and the lecturer functions in the main program are very useful.

In large classes we found it difficult to address people by their first names, but with the software we could save the actual class layout and have every student enter their names as they logged into the system. This made the teaching experience much more personal for both the instructors and the students.

The distribution of tests and notes is one of the major functions we use in our environment. The system allows us to distribute test files to specific folders on all client machines and afterwards we can collect them into a collection folder with a subfolder for each student with his or her name as the folder. In the past we had to create shared folders on network drives, which caused many problems to us.

With the introduction of the new NetSupport 7 this year, we could not believe the vast improvement to the older system. We still have the stable system with all it's functionality as before but with added features, which we use constantly. A great plus is that with the maintenance fee we pay we got the new software at a fraction of the retail price.

Being on a Leased line Internet connection we have always had trouble with students surfing the net while they should be concentrating on the lecture or doing work. In the old system, we could lock the workstations but that meant that no one could actually do work at that time. The new system allows us to block or allow only certain user chosen web sites or applications. For us this means that when we write an Excel test for instance that we could allow only the excel application to be run and all other functionality would be disabled, even in the operating system.

The introduction of the new testing module for multiple choice, drag and drop, annotation and other type tests is another good feature in the education environment. We can now set quick revision tests at the beginning of each period which is immediately marked and tallied for the instructor saving hours worth of work.

There are so many features we use that I have not touched on like the annotation, polling, message boards, discussion groups etc., which should indicate to you the immense value this software has brought to our institution. Probably it's greatest feature is the stability of the software and I have not experienced any serious crashes or lock ups over the past year.

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JC Nortje  
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Campus

Thank you to the Netsupport team for a great product.

JC Nortje

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