Computer Software Evaluation Form

Title: **Macromedia Captivate (formerly RoboDemo) for K-12 Education**

Evaluator's Name: **Bradley A. Lavite**
Date: **1 November 2004**
Subject Area: **Instructional Technology and Learning**
Grade Level: **K-12 Education**

My answers are bolded and/or underlined throughout this evaluation!

1. Program Requirements: (Memory, Operating System, CPU):

Macromedia Captivate: Authoring

- **Windows 2000 or Windows XP**
- **600 MHz Intel®; Pentium®; III processor or equivalent**
- **128 MB of RAM (256 MB or more recommended)**
- **100 MB available disk space**
- **Minimum resolution 800 x 600 (1024 x 768 or higher recommended)**

2. Additional hardware or software required:

Software and Accessories: Publishing and Recording

- **Internet Explorer 5.0 or later**
- **Flash Player 6 or later**
- **Microphone to record audio**
- **Speakers and sound card**

3. Publisher: **Macromedia** Publisher web site:
http://www.macromedia.com/resources/education/k12/special/robodemo/

4. Vendor Name: **Macromedia** Vendor Phone: **Tel: (415) 252-2000**

- **Buy online**
- **Contact an Educational reseller**

5. Vendor Address:
Macromedia, Inc.
600 Townsend Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Vendor Web site:
http://www.macromedia.com/cfusion/store/html/index.cfm?store=OLS-EDU&event=displayProduct&categoryPath=/Software/PreOrder/Captivate

6. Price of Program (Individual price, site license or network price?)

Full package from US $199 or a free 30-day trail demo is available for review from Macromedia. Other ways to purchase:

- **Buy by Phone 1.877.229.0269 or 1.801.431.1385.**
- **Hours of operation: 5am - 6pm PST, Monday - Friday.**
- **Macromedia Volume License Program**
- **Government Resellers**

7. Is a network demo available? **Yes** No

8. What funds will be used to purchase the program? **N/A**

9. Manuals and Support:
       A. User's Manual is available/included. **Yes** No
       B. User's Manual is easy to understand. **Yes** No
       C. User's Help is accessible within program. **Yes** No
       D. Technical support is available online. **Yes** No
       E. Technical support by phone is available. Yes **No**
       F. Yearly support or maintenance fee is required. Yes **No**

i. If yes, how much per year?

Upgrade support is available once initial software package is purchase. It can be purchased directly from Macromedia. To be eligible for the Captivate upgrade pricing and for the upgrade to install properly, you must own a previous commercial version of one of the following products on the same platform:

- **RoboDemo 4 or RoboDemo eLearning Edition 4, upgrade for $299**
- **RoboDemo 5 or RoboDemo eLearning Edition 5, upgrade for $299**

10. Describe the program's objectives related to district curriculum, state & national standards:

This program relates to very broad objectives and standards because students have to use numerous higher level cognitive skills to create the menus that accent their HTML files or PowerPoint presentations. If not for this software students would have to understand how to write and create linked executable files to create and access auto run functions used by standard CD-ROMs.

11. Describe how this software would improve your ability to complete specific job responsibilities and/or increase student learning:

This software would increase student learning because it allows students and instructors the ability to create an auto run menu for a variety of programs and software. The software automatically creates HTML and PowerPoint presentations menus once the user designs the menu. Designing menus are easy and the interface screen is similar to all Microsoft products. By creating an auto run function for HTML files and PowerPoint users can just place a CD with the files or presentation saved on it into their CD-ROM and it will auto run and load the executable file (.exe) taking them to the menu that RoboDemo users created. The software allows users to quickly create interactive training and instruction tutorials, demonstrations, and simulations for your staff and students including captions, audio, animations, and more.

From the developer:

Macromedia Captivate is the easiest way to create customized training about technology to meet the needs of your staff, teachers, and students. Captivate records your actions in any technology application and instantly creates a Flash simulation with visible and audible mouse movements. The small file size and high resolution make Captivate simulations and demos easy to publish on your school or district website or burn to CD. For IT staff, this is a great way to reduce time spent training staff and teachers on new software applications, policies, and procedures. For teachers, now you can quickly create individualized instruction for students who learn in different ways.

1=Strongly Disagree 5=Strongly Agree

12. Software supports existing curriculum. 1 2 3 **4** 5

13. Software adequately meets its objectives. 1 2 3 **4** 5

14. Software would make my job more effective. 1 2 3 **4** 5

15. Software is usable without reference manual or user help. 1 2 **3** 4 5

16. User can easily navigate between program screens. 1 2 3 **4** 5

17. Program allows user to correct errors. 1 2 3 4 **5**

18. Instructions are available on-screen and clearly written. 1 2 **3** 4 5

19. Graphics, media elements, & content are clear and appealing. 1 2 **3** 4 5

20. Incorrect use of keys/commands does not cause program to abort. 1 2 3 4 **5**

21. Software is age-appropriate in content & language. 1 2 **3** 4 5

22. Menus and other features make the program user friendly. 1 2 3 **4** 5

23. Bug free; program runs properly. 1 2 3 **4** 5

24. Software performs management tasks satisfactorily. 1 2 3 **4** 5

25. Program will be easily integrated into classroom curriculum. 1 2 **3** 4 5

26. Program uses real-life problems and/or authentic scenarios. 1 2 3 **4** 5

27. Program requires students to use higher-level critical thinking. 1 2 3 **4** 5

28. Tools for student assessment are provided and adequate. 1 **2** 3 4 5

29. Program is appropriate for: (Underline all that apply.)
    A. Small group use around 1 computer
    B. Individual student on computer
    C. Use in computer lab on each machine
    D. Use with 1 computer & lg. display for classroom

30. Use of this software would require which level of computer skill? (Underline one.)
Basic **Intermediate** Advanced

Your recommendation - Please check one.
    ☐ This would be a valuable software purchase. I recommend we adopt it.
    ☐ **This is beneficial software, but I have some serious reservations. (Please**
        describe problems & indicate if you want to look at other programs like this.)
    ☐ This software will not produce the results desired and should not be adopted.

Comments:

Reservations include student understanding of software design and terms, but once concepts and terms are understood students would be able to navigate and use software to their benefit. This software is primarily used as a tool to accent Microsoft PowerPoint and HTML creator software programs. I have evaluated and used other similar programs like Macromedia Captivate MenuBuilder and I have found it to be the easiest to navigate and create a fully working executable menu.