Frameworks: What we know . . .

Is hardware all that I need to use a computer?

- Hardware
  - Physical components of computer system
  - Not able to work without the aid of software

- Software
  - Set of instructions that direct the computer to perform tasks
  - Various categories of software that all individuals must use to perform specific tasks

Basics: Considerations for purchasing

Are there considerations to take into account when purchasing software?

- Compatibility
- Documentation
- Price
- Licensing
Basics: Compatibility

What does compatibility mean?
- hardware and software can communicate
  - Operating system
  - Speed of CPU
  - Amount of RAM
  - Capability of monitor
  - Space required to store on HD

Basics: Documentation

What does documentation mean?
- support materials for the software
  - Print
  - CD
  - Online

Basics: Price

How does price differ?
- depends who develops/distributes the software
  - Commercial
    - Application suites
    - Integrated software packages
  - Open Source
  - Web-based
Basics: Licensing

How does the licensing of software differ?
- depends who develops/distributes the software
  • Commercial
    - Single use
    - Multiple users
    - Site
  • Open Source
  • Web-based

Basics: Types of Software

What types of software do I need to be familiar with?
- Operating system software
- Application software
- Internet software
- Instructional/educational software
- Integrated learning systems (ILS)
- Teacher utility software tools

Basics: Operating System Software

What is the OSS and how is it used?
Operating system software manages and controls the computer hardware so that other software can perform tasks.
- Microsoft Windows
- Apple MAC OS
- Linux
Basics: Application Software

What is application software and how it is used?
Application software is software that performs specific tasks.
– Word processing and desktop publishing
– Database management
– Spreadsheets
– Graphics (photo editing, painting, drawing)
– Diagramming, mapping, and webbing
– Multimedia authoring
– Web authoring

Basics: Internet Software

What is Internet software and how it is used?
Internet software allows access, sharing of files, communication and collaboration on the Web.
– Browser
– Email
– Media players / plug-ins
– File sharing
– Web 2.0

Basics: Instructional Software

What is instructional software and how it is used?
Instructional software is used to reinforce or remediate learning.
– Drill and practice
– Simulation
– Tutorials
– Instructional Games
– Problem Solving
– Reference
Section I: Preparing to Use Technology

Chapter 3: Software Basics

Basics: Teacher Utility Software

What is utility software and how it is used?
Utility software is designed to assist teachers with tasks.
– Offered commercially and online
  • Grade programs
  • Task generators
    – Test generators
    – Puzzle generators
    – Rubric generators
    – Worksheet generators
    – IEP generators

Basics: Evaluating Software

Are there criteria that I should look for when evaluating software for my students?
– Does the software support curricular objectives?
– Hands-on review is a MUST!!
  1. Identify objectives and instructional purpose
  2. Locate appropriate software titles
  3. Complete a hands-on review
  4. Collect and interpret the information
– Software review guide - Student materials

Adapting for Special Learners

How do I adapt software for special learners?
– Much software can be used with special learners with adaptations.
– Assistive software
  • Refers to a wide range of products
  • Adapting the operating system software
  • Adaptations for accessing other software
– Access software
  • Must be purchased as separate software programs
Adapting: Assistive Software

How do I adapt OSS for special learners?
- OSS can be adapted through accessibility options.
  - Magnifier
  - Narrator
  - On-screen keyboard
  - High contrast
  - Audio description
  - Mouse settings
  - Keyboard settings
  - Sound sentry
  - Speech

Adapting: Access Software

How do I adapt for special learners?
- Access software must be purchased separately.
  - Text to speech
  - Word prediction
  - Scan and read
  - Speech recognition
  - Magnification
  - Screen reading

Voices in the classroom

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In this Voice, Aaron explains that Open Source Software is a great solution to classrooms. Free to download, these software titles allow students to have access to the latest versions of the software at home and at school and for no charge! Aaron offers much more at his website which you’ll find at the companion site.
For more information

Go to the textbook companion website:

http://web.utk.edu/~bobannon/preparing/index.shtml