

Title of Session: Squeak
Moderator: Randall Caton
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Room: Randall Caton's Office

RandallCa: Welcome Susan, what do you teach?

SusanR: K to 5 Sub

RandallCa: Have you ever used or seen Squeak before?

SusanR: I have heard of it; but not used it

RandallCa: I will wait a bit for more people to enter and then say some general things about Squeak.

RandallCa: Do you use computer simulations in the classroom?

SusanR: I would like to; but have not had the opportunity

RandallCa: Squeak allows learners to create their own simulations.

RandallCa: Squeak is a free open-source programming environment that runs on several platforms and can be used to construct active learning environments.

RandallCa: What computer platforms do you use?

SusanR: at home MAC; at school PC

RandallCa: Squeak runs the same on both.

RandallCa: Etoys are a part of the Squeak environment developed to allow young learners around age 10 to develop their thinking by simulating, modeling or creating what is in their mind and explore the results.

RandallCa: When students get an idea, they can implement it in Squeak using etoys and explore their ideas.

RandallCa: Susan, have you used software like that before?

SusanR: logo

SusanR: and turtle geometry

RandallCa: That is good. Seymore Pappert is an advisor to the development of Squeak. It is like logo on steroids.

BJB2 smiles

SusanR: that goes way back

RandallCa: There is a part of Squeak called Kedama developed by a Japanese programmer that is like logo with millions of turtles.

SusanR: wow

RandallCa: Have you used Star Logo or Net Logo?

SusanR: yes I have

RandallCa: Kedama is like them.

SusanR: is there a web site

RandallCa: Yes - www.squeakland.org and you can go there now to see what they have.

RandallCa: I also have developed a lot of Squeak projects for middle school mathematics and science that could be adapted to 5th grade.

RandallCa: Squeak is like a giant sandbox where the learner can play and use the tools to model and simulate a variety of physical phenomena.

RandallCa: Susan, have you seen the OLPC?

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In is SO privileged to have Randy as a presenter. I don't understand why there aren't a hundred people here!)

SusanR: OLPC..no

RandallCa: It is the One Laptop Per Child project and Squeak is installed on the laptop.

SusanR: yes, the acronym

RandallCa: The goal is to get millions of laptops to children in poor countries.

RandallCa: They are also making the laptops available to US school systems now.

SusanR: Randy, you should be the feature speaker for the Tapped In Festival

BJB2: he was!

SusanR: I wish they would make them available for school systems in Ontario, Canada

BJB2: . o O (he was a speaker at the last festival, playing to learn)

RandallCa: I got one in January and it is incredible. I am just starting to explore it. They cost about \$200 to make.

BJB2: what is the major difference between the \$200 computer and a regular laptop?

RandallCa: I am not sure they haven't. They may be doing that by now. Have you seen one?

BJB2 hasn't seen one yet

SusanR: <http://laptop.org/laptop/>

RandallCa: The OLPC was designed from the ground up to be for children, rugged and educational. It is easy to collaborate on an OLPC.

SusanR: Is it still give one get one?

RandallCa: That is over now.

SusanR nods

SusanR: Does it run on solar power?

RandallCa: You can plug a solar cell into the laptop to power it.

SusanR: that's ideal

RandallCa: Back to Squeak. If you follow the Etoys and Scratch pane in my office, you can see how to download Squeak and run some demos I created.

SusanR: Is Squeak being used in computer labs?

RandallCa: Scratch runs in Squeak, but you wouldn't know it by looking at it. Scratch is oriented towards creating art and music through programming.

RandallCa: Squeak is used all over the world to help students learn. It is usually used in computer labs, but because it is free many learners use it at home.

RandallCa: Squeak and etoys make student thinking visible.

SusanR: Now is scratch web based?

SusanR: . o O (no it is not)

RandallCa: Scratch and Squeak both run on the web.

RandallCa: I take that back. I haven't seen Scratch run on the web, but it should.

RandallCa: I could get an idea like that I want to simulate a compass. I would have to learn how compasses work and in the process of simulating one in Squeak, I would become an expert in compasses.

SusanR: I am looking at this project

SusanR: <http://scratch.mit.edu/projects/1pikachu1/117567>

RandallCa: Yes, they post a lot of student projects.

RandallCa: Scratch is easier to use, but not as powerful.

RandallCa: Alan Kay developed Squeak as a general thinking environment with a minimum of tools. His goal was for others to package it for various purposes. That is what MIT did when they developed Scratch.

SusanR: We should have more teachers here!

SusanR: investigating and playing

BJB2 agrees with Sue

RandallCa: Susan, you should try installing Squeak or Scratch and just play with it a bit. If you have questions, you can always email me at rcaton@cnu.edu.

RandallCa: You could start with Scratch because it is easier. Why don't you try it now?

SusanR: thanks Randall. I will

SusanR: I am on the download page

SusanR: I must leave, I am preparing for a ski trip

SusanR: Thanks

SusanR: I promise to explore

RandallCa: It should be very straightforward. Get the version for your computer.

RandallCa: Good. Have fun skiing and explore when you get back.

SusanR: Thanks again for sharing, I see there is a conference coming up

SusanR: Thanks

SusanR: Goodnight

RandallCa: Goodnight.

SusanR left the room (signed off).

RandallCa: BJ - do you think that is it for tonight?

BJB2 nods to Randy. I'm so sorry that there were not more people here

RandallCa: That is okay.

BJB2 hugs Randy. Thanks for presenting.

RandallCa: Thank you for the opportunity.

RandallCa: Goodnight BJ.

BJB2 waves goodnight.