Promethean Planet

Location
International

Aim
Promethean Planet aims to support teacher’s use of Promethean’s range of interactive whiteboards.

Description
Established in September 2006, Promethean’s online community, Promethean Planet, is designed to provide Activclassroom (Promethean’s brand of Activ products) teachers around the world with opportunities to share new and innovative lessons, to access a range of professional development materials, and to connect with fellow Activclassroom teachers from around the world.

The Promethean Planet site helps to introduce teachers to new techniques, and to provide access to continually updated archives of resources to support learning across a range of curriculum subjects. The community resource and the means by which it is accessed and is planned to support and develop use of whiteboards in classrooms.

Promethean Planet won a 2008 Worlddidac Foundation Award for Excellence in Education.

Scale
• Promethean Planet currently has 662,497 members on July 28, 2010
• The site includes 22,146 searchable teacher-generated interactive lessons and professional development materials
• By July 2010, a total of 9,062,165 resources had been downloaded from Promethean Planet

Cost
Information on costs is not available.

Price
Free to all teachers that have an Activboard in their classroom or use Promethean software in their instruction.

Staffing
Staffing levels within Promethean are not disclosed.

Leading Practice
• Promethean’s recognition that for teachers developing and innovative use of interactive whiteboards will be supported best by an active community
• Promethean Planet draws participation from teachers from approximately 200 countries accessing and participating in the forums on a regular basis and with support has grown rapidly

Impact
In a study conducted by Dr. R Marzano (Marzano, J and Haystead, M, 2009), during the 2008-09 school year, 79 classrooms using Promethean Planet were observed and pupil achievement was tracked. Across a range of general indicators, the students using the Promethean whiteboard scored 17 percent more than the control group in standardized tests (the control group were taught the same subject matter by the same teacher but without the interactivity).

Dr. Marzano identified the best conditions in which to use whiteboards as when:
• A teacher was highly experienced, with more than 15 years of teaching service
• They had used whiteboards consistently for more than 2 years
• Had a degree of confidence in wider technology
• Used interactive whiteboards for more than 75 percent of their teaching time

The study showed that there are negligible gains from increasing use of the whiteboard beyond 75 percent of the time in class: it appears that this is the optimal level for concentration and for the board to add value to the classroom.
The Promethean Planet forum enables teachers with less confidence to learn from their more experienced peers:

“I don’t think that I would know a quarter of what I do without the benefit of the forum. It’s such a great help to be able to get an answer to a problem in just a few hours. The forum members are always helpful and friendly, and it’s great to know that you can also contribute and share ideas and resources with teachers all over the world.”
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_pwwi/is_200712/ai_n21136014/?tag=content;col1

Lessons Learned
Establishing strong communities of practice and networks of people can help technology adoption, and associated changes in practice.

Read the Education Best Practices Whitepaper and other case studies at:

Sources
Bryan, I, 2007, Promethean hits record heights, BNet:
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_pwwi/is_200712/ai_n21136014/?tag=content;col1

Marzano, J and Haystead, M, 2009, Evaluation Study of the Effects of Promethean ActivClassroom on Student Achievement, Prepared by Marzano Research Laboratory for Promethean, Ltd:

University of Hull/Promethean collaborative project, 2002-04, Whiteboards: promoting technology in the classroom, final report, obtained from NESTA (funder): http://iwbrevolution.ning.com/forum/topics/robert-marzano-and-interactive

Contact and exchanges with Lisa Rogers and Gaynor Harper, Promethean Planet: www.prometheanplanet.com/en-gb/