MathView Chosen to Explore Technology Opportunities in Ireland

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Waterloo Maple Inc. is proud that MathView was chosen as the software to explore technology opportunities in Ireland classrooms. MathView is an interactive symbolic math and graphing program with a graphical user interface that provides fast and easy mathematical calculations. Approximately 80 teachers are taking part in a course on Computer Algebra Systems and MathView is the exclusive product under review. This course is being supported by the European Social Fund and the In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education.

MathView was identified as having sufficient power for all of the mathematics that a second level Irish student requires. Indeed it has enough power to last most students all the way through University and into their professional lives as well. It is particularly suited to schools because it has very modest hardware requirements, modest memory requirements, a very reasonable price, a graphical interface that students find appealing, the ability to tailor notebooks for a specific lesson and cross-curricular functionality.

"Computer Algebra Systems such as MathView have changed significantly the way in which mathematicians, scientists and engineers go about their business. MathView is designed as a powerful tool to aid the professional in his or her work. However it may also be used to interest students (who are fascinated by anything to do with modern technology) in mathematics. It may also be used by teachers themselves in pursuance of their own mathematical interests" states Sean O'Tuama, Secretary, IMTA Tipperary Branch.

During this course certain subsets of MathView were selected for demonstration. The application may be easy to use but it is impossible to show all its features and functions in just one course. Also addressed will be the opportunity to expand the scope of MathView's integration into other areas of the curriculum. One such feature of MathView is the Internet plug-in which opens discussions on distance learning and the sharing of information between institutions and students.

In addition to implementing technology into the mathematics classroom, the teacher gets the personal satisfaction of having completed a course of study that will aid their professional development. A few of the teachers asked if they could use their knowledge of MathView as part of a program to gain a Masters degree. Universities were approached and the concept was favorably received.

There is awareness in Ireland that the teaching of Mathematics must change. The teachers who complete this course will be at the front of these changes and hope that they will be able to continue sharing their knowledge in the classroom.

Waterloo Maple Inc. is a leading producer of mathematical software technology. Over one million users currently use Waterloo Maple's mathematical technology. Its products include Maple V, MathView, and Expressionist. To compliment the product line, Waterloo Maple is a key distributor of the MathResource, and Standard Math Interactive. Waterloo Maple Inc. also

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supplies other software companies with essential mathematical components for leading products such as Mathcad (Mathsoft, Inc.), MATLAB (The MathWorks), Standard Math Interactive (CRC Press), and Scientific Workplace (TCI Research).

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