Title of Session: Squeak and Scratch
Moderator: Randall Caton
Title of File: squeakandscratch
Date: July 25, 2007

Room: Randall Caton's Office

BJB2: I'd suggest that you read the material on the screen above the chat

TaraED: should I begin downloading Squeak and Scratch?

RandallCa: Yes, that would be good. Start with Scratch and install it.

TaraED: ok, thanks

RandallCa: Welcome to Squeak and Scratch - playgrounds for the mind

RandallCa: Please excuse my slow typing - I will try to keep up

DorethiaM: good thing I can multi task, because I have been online since 8am

BJB2: everyone is starting to slow down, Randy....we're halfway through the festival!

BJB2 . o O (so take your time ;-))

RandallCa: How many of you have downloaded Squeak of Scratch and installed them?

DoloresG: I have. I have it on another computer next to me.

TaraED: I am in the process

SusanneN blushes, I saw I could do this but haven't yet

DianeKR: I downloaded...I guess that means installed as well?

RandallCa: Alyssaa, what is your problem downloading?

AlyssaYS : it never did anything

CelesteR: I can't download Squeak

MarleneK is just on a very slow connection today.

ShayneTr: I've downloaded and installed both

CelesteR: Squeak is for Mac

RandallCa: Diane - after you download, you have to install. Do you have a Mac or PC?

DianeKR: PC

DoloresG: I have Squeak on the PC

SusanneN: I'm a PC tonight

SusanneN: do I need both?

GregMa: I have both

CelesteR: I tried with Vista, no good

CelesteR: I have Scratch and have been using it…but am still learning

RandallCa: Susanne, either will do. I just am here to answer questions about either.

TaraED: My downloading and installing are complete

DianeKR: How do I install?

RandallCa: Celeste - I don't have Vista. Maybe they haven't got it ready for Vista.

TaraED: Diane, I installed by clicking on the "Open" link that comes up on the "Downloads" screen

RandallCa: Diane - there should be an install icon on your desktop. Just double click it.

DianeKR: thanks, looking now

DorethiaM: I am downloading scratch

TaraED: I also think that when downloaded there is an install setup on the desktop

TaraED: oh, sorry Randall, you already told her that

RandallCa: The Mac and PC are different, but there is some kind of an install program for each.

DorethiaM: downloading squeak

SusanneN: you should download using Internet Explorer on Windows

SusanneN: or else you might have to reinstall

DorethiaM: I am using firefox

RandallCa: Alan Kay developed Squeak as a general educational authoring environment. He intended people to design educational packages using the Squeak environment. Scratch is a good example of that process.

RandallCa: Squeak should work with Firefox

ChristinS4: I've heard a lot of chatter about Scratch... so I'm eager to check it out

ChristinS4: Squeak I haven't heard of, but I'm interested

CelesteR: Is Squeak for high school? The examples I saw did not seem so, but I always find ways to adapt to what is before me.

RandallCa: Once you have either Squeak or Scratch installed, you can try some of the links on the right.

TaraED: I have firefox and it worked fine for me

RandallCa: Etoys in Squeak was designed for 10 year olds, however there is a more challenging part called Smalltalk that is good for highschool

RandallCa: Scratch was designed for after school middle school programs

RandallCa: Celeste - if you look at Squeakland, you will find many examples from and by younger learners.

ChristinS4: I've downloaded them both via Firefox

AlyssaYS: scratch is for middle school...like what in particular?

SherylM: 10 year olds, lol. For me this will probably be like "Are you as Smart as a 5th grader?" show.

DavidWek: exactly

RandallCa: Scratch is to make multimedia stories using simple programming blocks. It has music and graphics tools built in.

BJB2 grins...I am with you, Sheryl!

MarleneK: grins and agrees.

RandallCa : Actually etoys is plenty challenging for me as an adult, but young kids take to it quickly.

SherylM : I see the tools to use, they look cool.

VickiLM : Slooow download today -- I'll be with you shortly

ChristinS4 : I'm excited to start playing w/ it

DorethiaM : I have downloaded and installed scratch.   Just have to figure out how to use it.

RandallCa : The tools are very cool and the things kids do are even cooler

SusanneN : My grandchildren age 5 and 7 are experts with Playstation2, and granny does not get it yes

SusanneN : next time I'm going to challenge them with this

SherylM : When your cursor rolls over an object it has an explanation. good thing

ShayneTr : Are you playing with Squeak or Scratch?

SherylM : Squeak

ChristinS4 : What are we going to be playing w/ 1st?

SherylM : Let's don't get ahead of myself yet, lol.

SusanneN : scratch

CelesteR I am here but won't interact as much because I can't download Squeak, but I'll join in with Scratch good for HS students...and me...good ideas for Graphic Comics

SusanneN : <I'm at a level where I can edit my avatars :-)

CelesteR : Susanne, do you mean with Scratch?

SusanneN : or sprites - found a library of different sprites

SusanneN : yes

GregMa : I downloaded and installed the squeak plugin, but the pages don't load for me either

SusanneN: like a paintboard, but I don't get the usage of commands in left column - probably would need to read instructions :-(

RandallCa: Greg - what type of Internet connection do you have

GregMa: t1 line

RandallCa: Susanne - the left column is for programming commands to make the Sprites act and music

GregMa: pages just look like a jpeg that won't load

SusanneN: yes - I'm beginning to see the light

RandallCa: Greg - what kind of message do you get when you try the links above?

SusanneN: reminds me of kidPix

MarleneK: is there a limit as to how large a project you can create?

RandallCa: Marlene - I don't know of a limit.

TaraED: it is quite similar to KidPix!!

RandallCa: Greg - what link did you try?

GregMa: squeakland project

RandallCa: Scratch is KidPix with programming. Kids learn to think logically while having fun playing.

GregMa: IE stopped site from installing activeX...

RandallCa: Greg did you click a project at Squeakland or on my page above?

GregMa: yes

RandallCa: Greg - do you have pop-up blocking on?

RandallCa: Has anyone got Squeak and etoys to work by clicking the links above?

AlyssaYS: the yoshi jump on scratch is really interesting

GregMa: turned off, still won't load

RandallCa: Greg - do you have Netscape? You could try that instead.

TaraED: I watched the squeak demo by using the link above

DeidraM: Can you give the links again for those of us who arrived late?

GregMa: no netscape, firefox

RandallCa: Greg - do you have a Squeak icon on you desktop that popped up after installing?

DorethiaM: I was on the squeak demo it works on firefox.

GregMa: icon, yes

RandallCa: Deidra - the links for downloading and installing are at the lower left. Then you can try things on the right.

RandallCa: Greg - try Firefox

GregMa: will do

RandallCa: Has anyone tried the Squeak demo in the top right box?

ChristinS4: Are we playing in Scratch 1st or Squeak?

SherylM: http://scratch.mit.edu/

AlyssaYS: scratch is fun

DoloresG: I am looking at squeakland.org and going through that,

SusanTs: I'm just trying to get in to the demo now

RandallCa: You can try either. Scratch is easier for an introduction.

GregMa: works in firefox

ChristinS4: Can you see the avatar move in scratch before you save it?

ChristinS4: is there a play button that I'm missing?

RandallCa: Greg - I don't know why. It must be the darkside of MS.

SherylM: This is where I downloaded Squeak: http://www.squeakland.org/

RandallCa: Christine - to see the results of your program, click the flag at the top.

KarenAro : Hello everybody, and I'm sorry for being late (job reasons), so I'll lurk and see what you're doing. :) Thanks!

RandallCa : Sheryl - that is correct. Next you have to double click the install icon.

RandallCa : Welcome Karen

BJB2 : everyone is installing the programs, Karen. Have you done that?

DianeKR : if you click flag at top and nothing happens, then what did you do wrong?

BJB2 : http://www.squeakland.org/

KarenAro : I have installed one of them, but my browser doesn't get the plugin to work. The other program is not yet installed, I'm trying to do it now.

SusanTs : windows is blocking the squeak plugin

AlyssaYS : Susan I have the same problem

SusanTs : is it worth trying firefox

ShayneTr: I tried to view the demo but windows won't let me 'cause it can't verify the publisher. I do have Squeak installed.

ChristinS4 : Just approve the plugin and you'll be set

BJB2 hopes Randy doesn't have to spend the entire session trouble shooting the download

RandallCa : Susan - you have to disable pop-up blocking in the menu at the top.

SusanTs : ok thanks

ChristinS4 agrees with BJ

RandallCa : Downloading and installing takes time.

BJB2 understands that....and patience!

RandallCa : Does anyone who has been successful have a question?

VickiLM : I downloaded all using Firefox and it's all working just fine

DianeKR : if you click flag at top and nothing happens, then what did you do wrong?

ChristinS4 (Christine) agrees again and will be patient :)

RandallCa: Diane - are you in Squeak or Scratch?

DianeKR: Scratch

DoloresG: I had no trouble downloading with IE

KarenAro: Hey, Squeak plugin only needed to have the browser re-started I guess. It's working now, and I have Scratch open and running. :)

RandallCa: Diane, start opening a project that a student created and click the flag to make it run.

DianeKR: thanks

RandallCa: Karen - yes I forgot that glitch - good catch.

SusanTs: firefox for squeak works better

RandallCa: IE has always worked fine for me with Squeak, but every day is different.

GregMa: I agree w/ Susan

RandallCa: I am glad FireFox is working.

KarenAro: I use Opera... so we're visiting Squeakland?

SherylM: I have both browsers and of course no bias, LOL, but Firefox works best for everything.

RandallCa: Does anyone have a philosophical question about playing and learning with these tools.

RandallCa: Karen - you have to go to Squeakland to download Squeak.

AlyssaYS: are these used for classroom purposes or for other purposes?

GregMa: how do I exit the paint tool?

TaraED: I am seeing this program for the first time, and I am finding myself getting a slow start....how have kids done with this in the past?

SherylM: Yes, do teachers report any troubles getting their schools to let them work with Squeak and Scratch? Or do they let you know?

RandallCa: Everybody - there are two flavors of Squeak: deep for programmers at squeak.org and educational for young learners at squeakland.org - you want squeakland to start

MarleneK: Here's a question, what is the reaction you get from students, when they are asked to do a major project without using these tools. Are they reluctant or does their written work from a traditional form, have a higher quality to it?

ChristinS4: I can see kids creating these for fun... but how can I use them to achieve state curriculum standards?

KarenAro: Sorry, I meant to say if we were checking any specific content there. I have Squeak downloaded and working fine now. My question is, is it used for older learners as well? Different languages? anybody out there with previous experience in such scenarios?

ShayneTr: In what areas of the curriculum would you use this?

ChristinS4: Sequencing?

SusanneN: Do these tools promote student collaboration?

ChristinS4: Following directions?

CelesteR: Yes, and comprehension

SusanTs: EFL

BJB2 thinks perhaps we should give Randy a chance to answer all the questions before asking more?

TaraED laughs to self

SherylM: lol

SusanneN: lol

RandallCa: Tara and Sheryl - kids pick up Squeak and Scratch much quicker than we do. It isn't a problem for the kids. Some schools won't let you install Squeak, but generally it isn't a problem.

GregMa: mind mapping??

SherylM: Yes, I would agree. They probably would have a page produced by now.

SherylM : or a whole story.

ShayneTr: Scratch has a pdf manual under Want Help? for us (kids seem find things intuitively)

RandallCa : Squeak is a mind builder that can be use in all areas of study. They allow young learners to use the most powerful parts of their mind and create.

DianeKR : I could see high school students using it to illustrate a story they just read...you could check for comprehension that way. Just an idea.

TaraED : thanks for the tip Shayne

RandallCa : Squeak is harder to start out in than Scratch, but it is more powerful.

RandallCa : Squeak and Scratch have an international community of learners and both are in many languages. I was recently in Spain and a Squeak conference.

RandallCa : Diane - story telling is a powerful way to learn.

AlyssaYS : what is the age group for scratch?

DianeKR : students can also create mental images they had and compare with partner, group, whole group...

RandallCa : Scratch is designed to motivate middle schoolers to think logically while having fun creating a multimedia project.

DianeKR : I couldn't quite get the hang of squeak...

RandallCa : Scratch was designed for after school programs.

AlyssaYS : ok, I played with one of the games on the site

ChristinS4 : In my limited exposure, Scratch seems to create moving avatars and games?

SusanTs : animations too

TaraED : may I ask what avatars are?

RandallCa : Diane - Squeak is a blank canvas on which you can create just about anything you can imagine. It takes awhile to get started. Did you try the demo?

ShayneTr: There's art involved... some of the Scratch samples are lovely.

ChristinS4 : avatars - characters

SusanneN: I would need to spend some time at this to make it work, but I do like the concept. I've been using KidPix a lot with after school children - kidPix have some more advanced features and less math involved

AlyssaYS : that's why I enjoyed it...I think the students would be able to express themselves well through scratch

DianeKR: just previewed it, but will try it out for sure

RandallCa : An avatar is a virtual character that can represent you or anything you want.

TaraED : thanks

SusanTs: even my non-English speaking 6th graders managed to create with scratch

MarleneK: can see a lot of practical application to using this with curr projects and collaborations

GregMa: these tools are much cheaper than KidPix

RandallCa : Scratch is more advanced in regard to logical thinking through programming

DianeKR: how do you close a project in scratch without closing the program?

MarleneK: fun development of critical thinking skills at a young age

ShayneTr: I teach some high-school programming. It might be fun to start off with this type off program, so they see how logical steps are needed.

TaraED : what is the issue that schools sometimes have with installing these programs?

RandallCa : Someone asked about collaboration some time ago. Squeak has collaboration built in. A student in Japan and another in the US can collaborate real time over the Internet.

ChristinS4: What type of projects did they create Susan T?

SusanneN: yes, KidPix is not cheap

ChristinS4: How do they link to each other Randall?

AlyssaYS : the collaboration sounds like it would be very beneficial

RandallCa : Tara - some system administrators don't want any new software on their systems and approval can take a year.

ShayneTr: Dianne, save one project, then click new

DianeKR: thanks, Shayne

SusanTs: we only discovered scratch about 2 lessons before the end of the year, they managed to get sprites moving around the stage with the help of controls

SherylM: Randy, someone may have asked this, but are Squeak and Scratch related to Logo?

ShayneTr: One game in the samples seemed to have levels. The first person could design level one, the second level two, etc. collaboratively.

SusanTs: I know that another school in Israel has been working with scratch to create animations

RandallCa: To collaborate you have to pull out an object catalog from the supplies flap (see my demo). Then you use the collaboration tools. I can email you a write up.

MarleneK: a write up would be helpful, thank you

RandallCa: Sheryl - Squeak is related to logo in that Seymour Papert is Alan Kays mentor. Squeak is logo with much more.

ShayneTr: Or could you post it somewhere it Tapped In so everyone can get it?

SherylM: Mhmm, thanks

MarleneK: I always love these hands on sessions that introduce us to new tools!

SherylM: I liked Logo

CelesteR Yay, Shayne

RandallCa: If you want a write up about collaboration, email me at rcaton@cnu.edu

SherylM: this is even more powerful and useful

ChristinS4 thinking the same thing Shayne

BJB2 cheers...perfect for Randy...he's a real champ for sticking with us all and helping us!

GregMa: thank you!

RandallCa: BJ - can we keep chatting or should I sign off?

BJB2: You can keep chatting.

SherylM: Thanks, I will learn more.

DianeKR: thanks, Randall. great programs I can use.

BJB2: we also need to remind everyone that there is a room for etoys in the student campus

RandallCa: Any more questions or problems?

AlyssaYS: thank you for the insight on these tools

KarenAro: Thanks!

RandallCa: If you are or become a member, visit the Etoys room.

SusanTs: thank you bye

RandallCa: You are all welcome.

BJB2: Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule, Randy. As you can see there was a lot of interest!

RandallCa: Any more questions?

DavidWek: Thanks, Randy

RandallCa: You are welcome

BJB2: Hopefully you and Sharon can collaborate and do future sessions in Ti

DavidWek: If we can make this happen again, I think other people might participate

DavidWek hands BJ a quarter

BJB2 agrees with David

DavidWek agrees with BJ

TaraED: THANK YOU RANDY!!!

RandallCa: I think I should have picked either Squeak or Scratch - although diversity is good

RandallCa : You are welcome

BJB2 : I'll be in touch, Randy...enjoy the rest of your vacation :-)

RandallCa : BJ - thank you for all the support

MarleneK : is good for now, but can we email you if we have any further questions?

RandallCa : Marlene - please email me at rcaton@cnu.edu

KarenAro : Well, as it seems most of us didn't have time enough to play with them yet, are you planning any other sessions on this at TI?

MarleneK : thanks, much appreciated

MarleneK : would love more play time with this tool

BJB2 : keep an eye on future calendars, Karen and we'll work on that :-)

RandallCa : I am sure BJ and I can organize another session.

DoloresG : Good bye. Thank you. I have not had much to say as I was just exploring.

MarleneK : cheers

SherylM : thank you, thank you, thank you. I would love to hear more.

SherylM : waves goodbye

RandallCa : You are all welcome

KarenAro : great! thanks! I'll do it!

KarenAro : Thanks again, and goodbye!

RandallCa : BJ: I would be glad to do another session - perhaps longer - and just on Scratch to start and then one on Squeak.

BJB2 : sounds perfect, Randy.

BJB2 : just let me know when and I'll put it on the calendar...