Control Studio

£79.99 + VAT (single-user license)
£199.99 + VAT (5-user license)
£50.00 + VAT (additional 5-user extension)
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Every now and then a product comes onto the market and you wonder why no one had thought of it before. In my opinion, Control Studio, the new electronics teaching software from New Wave Concepts, falls right into this category.

Control Studio is a multimedia-based electronic systems simulator in which students can create electronic circuits by joining sub-system blocks together. In addition, Control Studio enables users to combine system circuit diagrams with text (with spell checking), graphics, tables and charts with the ability to connect pages together to create live multimedia books. Control Studio also comes supplied with a comprehensive range of ready-to-go printed resource material and on-line interactive worksheets.

As you can already tell, Control Studio is a very innovative product. I can see it deployed by teachers in a variety of different ways. Firstly, as a systems based simulator alongside real systems boards in the same spirit as Crocodile Clips. Secondly, I can see it used as an interactive worksheet generator for teaching problem solving with Years 8, 9 and onwards, as well as a DTP package for pupils to support their portfolio work.

The final way in which I can imagine Control Studio being used is for designing and manufacturing PCBs, and in this way, it is a real gem which will revolutionise GCSE project work. I have had the pleasure of testing the software with my present Year 11 GCSE Technology Systems & Control groups. The student's verdict on Control Studio has been a unanimous thumbs up. Circuits that used to be made using Crocodile Clips and PCB Wizard are now produced in a fraction of the time using Control Studio and PCB Wizard (v2.6). My problem with different types of circuit design to use in their GCSE Major Project work. How many technology teachers have been left to pick up the pieces of an over ambitious PCB design? With Control Studio this will now be a thing of the past. Students have found that prototyping of their circuits, no matter how complex, is relatively easy. After the circuits have been tested and proved it is just a simple matter of using the Design & Make Wizard to export the completed circuit over to PCB Wizard. Because the two programs are completely compatible, fast and efficient transfer is completed within minutes. The result is a very professional set of print-outs. Included in this are a real-world view, a silk screen showing the layout of the components with all the relevant information on component identification and values, including resistor colour codes. But, most importantly for overworked teachers, a full written list of instructions and guidance is printed alongside the circuit instructing the students on how to assemble and solder their PCBs. Plus of course the Bill of Materials which gives the cost and stock code of every component used in the circuit is also supplied.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish New Wave Concepts deserved success with Control Studio and to thank them for making my job of teaching electronics that bit easier!

Philip Smout
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