One of the problems facing academics and institutions is how to facilitate the training of future professionals. The fundamental aim is to maximise practical, hands-on experience in a safe environment, while still covering the necessary design principles. Students are increasingly keen to access the latest lighting technology and develop their design and programming skills, whilst academic institutions are faced with the fiscal challenge of attracting more students and keeping a cap on costs.

CAST recognises the challenges that both students and academics face in these fast moving times. With this in mind they carefully consider the importance of equipping highly computer literate, aspiring professionals, for example students, with the opportunity to learn and take possession of valuable skills at the beginning of their careers. *wysiwyg* addresses all of these issues and allows students to see how the whole production will fit together.

Not only is *wysiwyg* the industry standard for lighting and production design within the entertainment sector, it is also the learning / teaching software tool of choice for over 6000 students and academics in more than 300 universities, colleges and schools around the world.

*wysiwyg – Lighting The Future*

Learn is the special network version of *wysiwyg* for installation in computer labs at qualified academic institutions. It comes in multiples of 10 seats and enables the different versions of *wysiwyg* (Report, Design or Perform) to run simultaneously over a network. Institutions without a network can use Student Editions instead. CAST’s special *wysiwyg* Learn package is ideal for establishing creative independence, within the safe haven of the software’s virtual world, for individual, group or class projects.

To present the best introduction possible, *wysiwyg* Learn includes the software plus a 20-hour onsite installation and training session. *wysiwyg* training is mandatory for all initial installs to ensure confidence in using and current knowledge of *wysiwyg*. This training is delivered by Authorized *wysiwyg* Trainers (AWT). The training involves practical activities in using the software as well as a suggested curriculum for classes and projects etc. *wysiwyg* Learn is more than just a software program -- it is a complete lighting education solution.

One institution that utilises a *wysiwyg* Learn program as an aid to teaching is the University of Glamorgan in the UK. Course leader Stuart Green commented: “*wysiwyg* is used throughout our course from the first year where students are introduced to CAD, different types of luminaires, colour theory and creating basic compositions progressing to the final year where students utilise *wysiwyg* to connect to a variety of control platforms to simulate the programming of concerts, corporate and architectural projects. *wysiwyg*
A lighting education - learning with wysiwyg - continued

enables students to express and develop their design flair on larger platforms that would not normally be available at this early stage in their careers. wysiwyg Learn enables students to create a design portfolio that provides a collection of evidence to support future opportunities beyond academia.

CAST’s Learn program is designed to give students the edge and the help they need to beat the competition for the best jobs while delivering the learning and teaching experience with more energy and at a faster pace by making instant changes with much more visual impact. Previz means that you can do all the work in the classroom, computer lab or using a laptop, and thanks to CAST’s Library of 25,000+ objects your output is really virtually real!

The benefits of using wysiwyg are also acknowledged by students. Ben Perrin a BSc (Hons) Lighting Design & Technology Final Year Undergraduate at the University of Glamorgan Walles comments, “wysiwyg has been an invaluable educational tool. It has enabled me to push my creativeness, and has given me a medium to express and realise artistic ideas; furthermore it has made it possible for me to communicate these ideas to others. wysiwyg has given me the opportunity to learn to use a variety of lighting equipment, due to its connectivity with a wide a wide range of virtual consoles. I feel that wysiwyg has given me an advantage when I come to apply for jobs once I graduate. It has already helped me to secure work within the entertainment, corporate and architectural fields.”

wysiwyg for Students

To help students seeking to develop their skills away from the classroom and to take their learning to the next level, CAST produces a special wysiwyg package for students only. There are two Student Editions (SE) to choose from: wysiwyg Design (lease) and wysiwyg Perform. Each costs about as much as a textbook and is an ideal accompaniment to any student studying the art of lighting.

Each SE comes with a dongle that is the purchasers’ property. This means that the dongle and the software can be used anywhere – at school, home, or working with a team on a project.

Jack Moorhouse, an Undergraduate student studying Live Event Technology in the UK who has his own copy of the wysiwyg SE, commented, “wysiwyg has enabled me to easily experiment with and develop my design ideas, as well as being able to prepare, organise and produce all of the appropriate paperwork for an event. wysiwyg is a great tool to use for design pitches and project proposals. Without it I would struggle to convey my design ideas. Being able to show prospective clients a 3D rendering of their venue or space with the intended lighting design in it is very useful, as they can then clearly see what your intentions as a designer are. The fact that wysiwyg can produce renders of your design ideas, manage paperwork and be used as real-time simulation, ensures its place in the students’ tool kit.”

After graduation, it is easy to upgrade to a professional edition of wysiwyg in order to launch into the real world with the best tool (an important confidence builder). The only thing that can’t be done with the Perform Student Edition is download Releases or get Tech Support.

After using wysiwyg you will have the tool and the confidence to build a great career!

For information about how Learn can help you and your students, please contact us at learn@cast-soft.com.