

CYBER COURSE BUILDERS

A look at rapid e-learning authoring software.

BY SARAH BOEHLE

COMPANY: Adobe Systems Incorporated

PRODUCT: Adobe Captivate 3

PRICE: \$699

HOW TO BUY:

www.adobe.com/products/captivate

FEATURES: Adobe Captivate 3 allows those with limited programming skills or multimedia experience to create a variety of training outputs—from scenario-based modules and automated on-screen demonstrations to interactive simulations and podcasts. Other upgrades: a randomized quizzing capability, more robust assessment and test-scoring features, and a multimode recording facility that allows users to repurpose a single recording session for multiple learning applications.

COMPANY: ReadyGo Inc.

PRODUCT: ReadyGo Web Course Builder Plus Suite

PRICE: \$999

HOW TO BUY: www.readygo.com

FEATURES: The ReadyGo Web Course Builder (WCB) Plus Suite targets content experts with limited or no experience in Internet coding or Web design. It employs a dialog-box interface to guide course developers in the creation of Web-based training courses. Course pages output in standard HTML and JavaScript languages. WCB Plus Suite offers enhanced graphics capabilities beyond those available with WCB's standard edition, including Flash animation and basic simulation functionality.

COMPANY: Articulate

PRODUCT: Articulate Rapid E-Learning Studio Second Edition Professional

PRICE: \$1,398

HOW TO BUY: www.articulate.com

FEATURES: Articulate Rapid E-Learning Studio Professional bundles four stand-alone Articulate products—Presenter 5 Pro, Quizmaker 2, Engage, and the Rapid E-learning PowerPoint Template Kit—to provide users with an integrated set of authoring tools that can produce e-learning courses complete with Flash-based quizzes, assessments, and surveys. Another feature is the ability to select options that will guide course navigation based on assessment results. The inclusion of Articulate Engage in Studio Professional (not included in the standard Studio version) means non-technical users can incorporate interactive visuals and custom narration into their course design.



Adobe Captivate 3



ReadyGo Web Course Builder Plus Suite



Articulate Rapid E-Learning Studio Second Edition Professional



Rapid Intake's Flashform Rapid eLearning Studio Professional Edition Version 2.2

COMPANY: Rapid Intake Inc.

PRODUCT: Flashform Rapid eLearning Studio Professional Edition Version 2.2

PRICE: \$1,199

HOW TO BUY: www.rapidintake.com

FEATURES: Flashform Rapid eLearning Studio Professional Edition provides a customized course development platform that is accessible to experienced and non-technical users alike. Neophyte e-learning developers, for example, can author interactive, standards-conformant (AICC or SCORM) courseware—incorporating a variety of assessment tools, tutorials, and simulations—without technical programming knowledge. And experienced Flash developers may extend source FLA and XML files to create a highly modified look and feel to the overall style of course interfaces and associated Flashform templates. Courses developed on this platform also can be packaged to communicate with any standards-conformant LMS.

COMPANY: Trivantis Corporation

PRODUCT: Lectora Professional Publishing Suite

PRICE: \$3,185

HOW TO BUY: www.trivantis.com

FEATURES: Lectora Professional Publishing



Trivantis' Lectora Professional Publishing Suite

Suite builds upon the capabilities of the standard Lectora Publisher (long known for its ease of use in organizing content into pedagogically sound courseware). Users of the product can create adaptive e-learning environments incorporating quizzes, assessments, and surveys that engage learners with audio, video, Flash, and other multimedia. As compared to Lectora's standard version, the Professional Suite offers an expansion of editing options that enable significant modification and customization of courseware multimedia and other e-learning components. The software supports SCORM, AICC, and LRN standards.