

**Title of Session:** K-20 Math Group - PersonalProfessors

**Moderator:** Jeff Cooper

**Guest Speaker:** Michael Hosking

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelHo:** Hi Everyone...we'll ask for introductions when we start, so have something in mind!

**JeffC:** Before we get started... and before we even introduce ourselves... let me say a little bit about the Math Group.

**JeffC:** I am the facilitator of this group, as well as the Science Group (which meets right after this one).

**JeffC:** My goal is to get Math (and Science) educators together... to facilitate collaboration between them.

**JeffC:** I've created a Math Resources (and Science Resources) room here... to do just that. Later, I will ask people to join that group... but for now... let's get some preliminaries out of the way.

**JeffC:** The first thing... is that since the text flows rather quickly here... it might be best if you "Detach" your chat window. To do that: 1) Click the "Actions" menu (above in this frame) and 2) Click: Detach

**JeffC:** It's up to you whether or not you wish to do this... because it will separate your text chat from the main Tapped In web window.

**JeffC:** Next... introductions...

**StevenLC:** How shall we intro ourselves?

**JeffC:** If everybody could say a few things about themselves... we can then move to our guest presenter.

**SonyaF:** Hello everyone. I am Sonya, undergrad at UH, senior. I want to teach Kindergarten

**JackieAM:** Hello, Sonya, I'm in Northeast Louisiana. I live in Sicily Island. I am an Assistant Principal at Winnsboro High School, Winnsboro LA. I have been an educator for 32 years and am particularly interested in math because we are trying to increase our student's math scores school wide.

**StevenLC:** I'm Mr. Case who teaches Algebra 1 (freshmen), Algebra 2 (frosh/soph) and Finite (seniors) at Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach CA (south of San Diego). I'm a bona-fide math nerd!

**MichaelHo:** (excellent!)

**SonyaF:** WOW everyone is a Pro here!

**JeffC:** I'm Jeff Cooper... I have been an Education Technology Specialist for the past three years... before that I taught Computer Applications... before that Language Arts and ESL... which as you can see... makes people wonder why the heck I'm leading the math group!

**BJ . o O ( because Jeff is wonderful! )**

**JeffC** blushes

**BJ . o O ( and I asked )**

**BJ** wonders if Jeff is speechless?

**JeffC:** Today's session... we have a guest presenter, Dr. Michael Hosking of [www.personalprofessors.com](http://www.personalprofessors.com) ...who is here to demonstrate his system...

**BJ** . o O ( difficult to believe )

**JeffC** . o O ( impossible )

**MichaelHo:** I'm Michael Hosking...I was formerly a biology professor at Davidson College (in NC). I quit to start PersonalProfessors because I felt that the Web could be used to provide the type of personal instruction that students get at small liberal arts colleges and small academies.

**MichaelHo:** And I didn't see it happening anywhere else, so I thought I'd invent a way!

**MichaelHo:** Strange, I know...professor turned entrepreneur.

**JeffC:** The plan for today is to go to Michael's office, where he will lead the discussion... at the end of the discussion... I'll "take the floor" again, and ask for people to join the Math Resources group (and show people how to do it). So... for now... Michael has the podium.

**MichaelHo:** Thanks Jeff.

**MichaelHo:** So...I'll head over to my office, then you can just click on my name in the Online tab and hit the door picture...make sense?

**MichaelHo:** Jeff can hang out here to help you if you get lost...

**MichaelHo:** Here I go...see you there!!

**MichaelHo** left the room.

**JackieAM** left the room.

**SonyaF** left the room.

**StevenLC:** Am I in **MichaelHo**'s office?

**CarlaGst4** left the room.

**StevenLC** left the room.

**JeffC** left the room.

**BJ** left the room.

Room: Michael Hosking's Office

**BJ** joined the room.

**SonyaF:** Yes, very important

**JackieAM:** Yes, I believe that the teacher is the most important variable in the classroom.

**MichaelHo:** Seems odd to have to say that, but if you look at most online learning models, you will see a shocking lack of teaching....

**MichaelHo:** mostly text content, pictures, etc..

**SonyaF:** That is what I have seen

**MichaelHo:** I think the teacher is the most important thing there is for learning math and science.

**MichaelHo:** So, I developed a way to deliver instruction online, at low-bandwidth, in a place I call PersonalProfessors

**StevenLC:** No kidding, they either love me or hate me and it usually determines whether they pass or fail.

**MichaelHo:** Yeah..I know Steven!

**MichaelHo:** So, I look at the Web as a way to connect knowledge experts with learners....

**MichaelHo:** a communication tool, not a publishing medium.

**MichaelHo:** That's the core of my approach...and what I believe to be the real promise of the Web in education.

**StevenLC:** Does the technology add motivation for the kids that just don't like math or science?

**MichaelHo:** Agreement? Disagreement?

**CarlaGst4** joined the room.

**SonyaF:** Communication is the key, yes I agree

**JackieAM:** I would think so. Students are usually pretty motivated by technology.

**MichaelHo:** That's right..some really love technology...

**MichaelHo:** and that's good for them...helps them with motivation, no doubt.

**MichaelHo:** But I try to keep the cart behind the horse....I don't want the technology driving the learning model, I want the learning model driving the adoption of technology.

**MichaelHo:** Which is not what can be said about most online learning systems.

**MichaelHo:** At least in my experience.

**SonyaF:** True

**JackieAM:** Good, technology needs to be a tool.

**MichaelHo:** Yes...a tool to facilitate learning.

**MichaelHo:** But, as I have argued elsewhere, I think technophiles have taken control, and won the first few battles of online learning.

**MichaelHo:** But I'm confident that teachers and students can take back the Web.

**MichaelHo:** And we can do that by actively seeking ways to connect learners with mentors/knowledge experts...and facilitating educationally meaningful interaction.

**MichaelHo:** That's where I'm coming from...just so you all know!

**MichaelHo:** Comments?

**MichaelHo:** By the way, welcome Carla...I didn't get to acknowledge you before.

**CarlaGst4:** Hello. This is my first time visiting Tapped In.

**MichaelHo:** Great...glad to have you here.

**MichaelHo:** (I'm pausing in case anyone is typing right now)

**StevenLC:** Sounds good. Content experts/mentors can best answer that hated question by math teachers: "When are we ever going to use this stuff?"

**MichaelHo:** Right...agreed.

**JackieAM:** I think students might be more open to discuss their fears and problems with anonymous mentors (experts).

**MichaelHo:** Perhaps...depends on the anonymity I guess.

**MichaelHo:** But certainly, research shows that students who are

**SonyaF:** What grade level should this mentoring start??

**MichaelHo:** reluctant to speak up in class are much more

**MichaelHo:** likely to speak up online, in text chat like this or in asynchronous discussion.

**MichaelHo:** And that's a good thing.

**MichaelHo:** I think in math and science in the late primary grades, early middle school.

**StevenLC:** What kind of topics/issues typically come up by those shy students?

**MichaelHo:** That's where the subject area expert starts to become important.

**MichaelHo:** The same things, Steven, they are thinking in class but don't say...I don't get this, or this is so cool I'd love to talk about it more but I'm afraid others will think I'm a nerd.

**MichaelHo:** Both ends of the spectrum.

**JackieAM:** Tell us more about how your professors online works.

**MichaelHo:** Sure...that's the plan Jackie.

**MichaelHo:** Here we go.

**MichaelHo:** My faculty and I deliver live lessons in our site, then we archive those lessons for anytime access by the students.

**MichaelHo:** So then can review specific concepts, or work at their own pace.

**MichaelHo:** The lessons are only 15-20 minutes in length...so it's easy to log on and learn a bit at a time.

**JackieAM:** OK, when do you mentor?

**StevenLC:** Do they watch an online video of a lesson or is it something else?

**MichaelHo:** Know why I do lessons of 15-20 minutes?

**MichaelHo:** (it's something else..I'll show you in a bit here)

**StevenLC:** That's all they can handle at that level.

**MichaelHo:** That's all anybody can really handle....!

**SonyaF:** Their attention span right??

**MichaelHo:** Right.

**MichaelHo:** So, essentially....because we can.

**MichaelHo:** We don't have to worry about maximizing the ratio of time spent traveling on campus or school, settling down, taking roll, handing in papers..etc.

**MichaelHo:** We just go immediately into instruction.

**SonyaF:** Great idea

**MichaelHo:** And then, I think someone asked this...

**MichaelHo:** we mentor students in our twice weekly live 'Office Hours'...

**MichaelHo:** where students can drop in for questions, just to say hello, or discussion like this.

**JackieAM:** Ok, I see.

**MichaelHo:** Plus, we have 'asynchronous' discussions that go on all day long, all the time.

**MichaelHo:** So...teaching, live chat office hours, and discussion.

**MichaelHo:** Connecting knowledge experts with learners, facilitating interaction.

**StevenLC:** So if I'm a sophomore who's never figured out how to factor a quadratic  $x^2 - 5x - 14$  you could help?

**MichaelHo:** Absolutely.

**SonyaF:** So the lessons are scheduled like these sessions are??

**MichaelHo:** That's the point.

**MichaelHo:** So..notice....no text content!

**MichaelHo:** By connecting knowledge experts with learners...we provide CONTEXT.

**MichaelHo:** That's the key to helping people learn math and science.

**StevenLC:** Where do the students get their questions? Are they in public schools, private schools? Where do you get the majority of your clients?

**MichaelHo:** All over...Steven.

**JackieAM:** How much does this cost?

**StevenLC:** What do I tell my students if they want to get help from you?

**MichaelHo:** We charge \$40/month. And we are subscription-based.

**MichaelHo:** People only have to join for as long as they want/need.

**MichaelHo:** So..I'd like to show you the way we deliver lessons..

**MichaelHo:** Ready?

**JackieAM:** Are your clients mainly students who need help in courses they are already enrolled?

**StevenLC:** Ready!

**MichaelHo:** I'll get back to that Jackie...please remind me.

**MichaelHo:** Do you all have Real Player?

**JackieAM:** OK

**CarlaGst4:** yes

**StevenLC:** I think, if not Quick Time

**JackieAM:** yes

**MichaelHo:** You'll need RealPlayer...plus a small plugin called Mimio boardCast.

**MichaelHo:** If you have RealPlayer, open the Help menu and hit the 'Check for Updates'...boardCast plugin will be there if you don't have it already. Choose it.

**MichaelHo:** The link to the live lecture I'm going to show you now is above below my Greetings box.

**MichaelHo:** Go ahead and click that link

**MichaelHo:** It' in the 'Featured Items'.

**MichaelHo:** It's in...

**MichaelHo:** If you have RealPlayer and the boardCast plug in, the RealPlayer will open and you will see a whiteboard with the word 'mimio' in the bottom right hand corner.

**MichaelHo:** If it doesn't work now, you can just get it later and view our demo lecture.

**MichaelHo:** Ok?

**SonyaF:** Ok

**MichaelHo:** I'm going to show you how this works now, so I'll be moving to the whiteboard for a few minutes

**JackieAM:** Go to the whiteboard link?

**StevenLC:** What should I be looking at?

**MichaelHo:** No....the link above in my office.

**JackieAM:** Senior moment. I'm confused.

**JeffC:** I think perhaps... you should "Attach" the text chat... so you can see the room view Jackie

**SonyaF:** I see it, do I post something?

**JeffC:** Can you hear Michael talking? Do you see his presentation?

**StevenLC:** Do I need that Mimio Board Cast? What should I be looking at?

**JackieAM:** I'm not given the option of attaching for some reason. I have real player but when I click on the link it wants me to download it. I can't see or hear anything yet.

**SonyaF:** I just see a blank Whiteboard, I cant hear anything

**JeffC:** yes... mimio board plugin

**StevenLC:** What if I don't have it. Is it a free download?

**StevenLC:** Or am I out of luck

**JeffC:** you both clicked his link "Click This Link for the Live ASO Lecture" and have Real Player installed? Yes... it's a free download

**MichaelHo:** So..how are you all doing?

**MichaelHo:** Anyone see what I did?

**JeffC:** I did

**MichaelHo:** It's still running....so I can continue.

**MichaelHo:** Just thought I'd check in.

**MichaelHo:** Where do we stand.

**JeffC:** I think we needed to make sure at the beginning that people had Real Player installed

**JackieAM:** Sorry I must not have every thing I need.

**StevenLC:** I clicked the link for the Live ASO... but I get a RealPlayer something or other and a blank webpage.

**MichaelHo:** Steven..open up the RealPlayer, go to Help, then 'Check for Updates'.

**MichaelHo:** Then hit the link again.

**MichaelHo:** Anybody get in at all besides Jeff?

**SonyaF:** No luck

**JackieAM:** No luck working on it.

**MichaelHo:** Ok....

**MichaelHo:** Well, maybe you can all just view the demo lecture I have in my office at your leisure.

**JeffC:** <http://www.real.com/freeplayer/?rppr=rnwk>

**JeffC:** That's the link to get the free real player, if you don't already have it... just click on that link... download...

**MichaelHo:** I'll keep this live lecture running just in case you jump in there.

**JeffC:** stupid of me to not do that at the \*beginning\*!

**MichaelHo:** But I want to be able to talk with you more here, and I'd be happy to continue the conversation at any time with all of you.

**StevenLC:** Ok I'm there and I got the plug in, what should I be seeing other than "This is how we..." on the top of the window?

**JeffC:** Michael... say "Can you hear me now?"

**StevenLC:** Wow, can I write back?

**JeffC:** Good question!

**JeffC:** (I don't think you can though Steven)

**StevenLC:** That's awesome! That's kinda how I use my Smart board in my class room (but someone stole my computer, so I'm back to the overhead )

**MichaelHo:** So..I'm back.

**MichaelHo:** Glad you could join me Steven.

**CarlaGst7:** I was able to get Mimio by looking under tools, not help, for check for updates

**JeffC:** Michael... we're about out of time for this... the Science Group starts shortly... and I want people to know that Michael can certainly work with everyone here (and more) at other times to give more of a demo.

**MichaelHo:** I hope I answered your question.

**StevenLC:** I wish I could talk back

**MichaelHo:** In our new conferencing office hours you can.

**JeffC:** Excellent!

**StevenLC:** Thanks!

**MichaelHo:** Please...feel free to contact me at any time and I'll show you around some more!

**MichaelHo:** Thank you all. Looking forward to hearing from you again.

**JeffC:** I'd like to thank Michael for his time today... and I have one request of people here... to join the Math Resources Group (Carla, you will need to register to join).

**MichaelHo:** Feel free to stop in my office whenever I'm in.

**SonyaF:** I will be visiting the site to learn more

**JackieAM:** I've finally found the small download. I'll try to see the science group demo

**StevenLC:** How exactly do I leave a room? (Sorry)

**JeffC:** In order to join the Math Resources group: 1) Click the "Search" tab (in the Web window top frame... if you've got chat detached... you'll need to look at the other window) 2) Click: Groups subtab 3) type: Math in the box and click: Find It! 4) Click: Math Resources K-20+ and click it... you will be prompted to join.

**JeffC:** To leave a room Steven, there are several ways... click: Favorite Places (and select the room you want to go to and click: Go... or... click the "Online" tab and single click a user you want to join and click the little door...

**StevenLC** left the room.

**JeffC:** Michael... Science is about to start... should we just have them join us here?

**JeffC:** OK... BJ just talked to you... ok... we'll now switch over to Science!

**MichaelHo:** Yep..I'm here.