



Cumulus 8 and Val Tech:

Digital Asset Management within an Educational Framework

Ten years ago, in the fall of 2001, Valencia High School and the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board of Education founded the Val Tech Program. Located in the heart of Southern California's Orange County, Valencia had been a leader in developing modern technology since the early 1960s. Now it was time to consolidate all the school's tech courses into a technology magnet program for the district.

For ten years now, a Val Tech high school education has provided students with an opportunity to acquire high-level technology skills, be ready for advanced college and university courses, prepare for specialized technology certificate programs, and sharpen their skills as well as deepen their understanding of technology. A key responsibility of the Val Tech students has been to develop, use, and maintain their digital assets in a digital asset management program throughout their high-school career.

In addition to classroom credits, the Val Tech Program requires a 150-hour internship, and the program culminates in a research project, a reflective essay, an oral presentation, and an electronic portfolio that reflects their years of study. Not surprisingly, the internship is always the highlight of a student's Val Tech experience. In a real-life setting out in the community, students come to better understand how technology is used in various businesses and organizations.

Making the Selection

One aspect of this real-life experience is learning to develop, organize, find, and share any type of digital file. Extensive research was done early on to determine which of the available DAM software programs would provide the students with industry-standard/real-life experience in electronic portfolios. Factors were ease of use, ease of learning, friendly and helpful tech support, and, of course, cost. Canto's Cumulus was selected early in the 2003-2004 school year because it met all these Val Tech program criteria.

Cumulus enables students to learn how to create a new catalog, catalog assets to create records, delete asset records, create record categories and subcategories, delete categories, assign records to categories, find records based on their category assignments, select a Record View Set, perform a

Quicksearch, edit (open) a file with the creating application, make a slideshow, and create a simple custom search. Students are able to assign all records (assets) to a category and to catalogue their records by asset type, by Val Tech class, by the year created, and by subject or course.



Staying with What Works

In 2010, Val Tech upgraded its computers and software to Windows 7 and Office 2010. Because of compatibility issues, the electronic portfolio software needed to be upgraded too. Of course the Cumulus program was the first software considered, and Val Tech ultimately selected it.

Migrating from Cumulus 6 to Cumulus 8 was seamless. The 250 students who were already familiar with the earlier version of Cumulus had no problem transitioning to the new software. While they certainly noticed the upgrades and improvements, they were quickly able to adjust to the changes and continue developing their portfolios. Tech support and other necessary support were, as always, fast and friendly.



Val Tech students who—thanks to Cumulus—are comfortable with digital asset management will have a head start over other high-school graduates who haven't been trained. With hundreds of companies and organizations using Cumulus, our Val Tech students will definitely have a huge advantage when they enter the marketplace.

Technical Specifications

Computers	Windows 7	50 Desktops
Software	Cumulus 8 Single User	50 Upgrades
Users	Students	250 Students

Mike Guest
Val Tech Coordinator / Department Chair
ASCP Business & Technology
Valencia High School
500 North Bradford
PLACENTIA CA 92870 USA
<http://www.vhstigers.org/>



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Pty Ltd. <http://www.databasics.com.au>