Stratenotes

Going Mobile
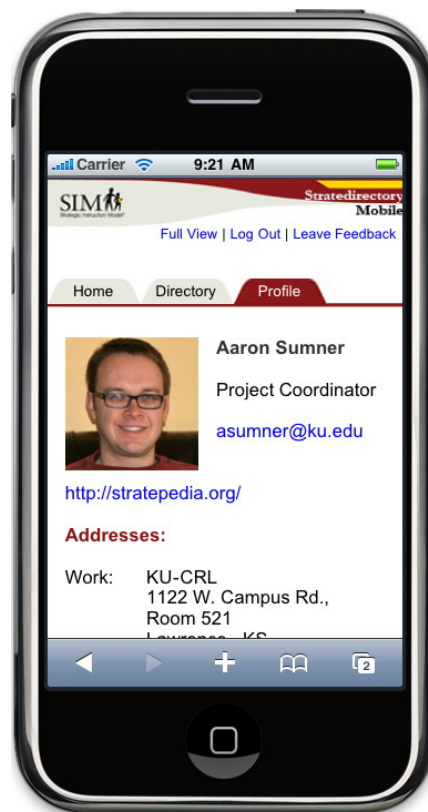## with SIM®, CLC®, & Stratepedia

Aaron Sumner
KU-CRL

With the theme of this year's International SIM® Conference being *SIM Trek: Voyage to School Change,* it's fitting that an increasing number of participants will arrive in Lawrence equipped with their own *Star Trek*-style personal communication devices. Captain Kirk called his a Communicator; we call ours iPhones, Blackberries, Androids, or Palms. These mobile devices have come a long way in the last decade. They're not just phones anymore—they're pocket-sized computers capable of keeping us connected, informed, organized, and entertained. They also present new challenges and great potential for those of us who develop technology components to work with Strategic Instruction Model® and Content Literacy Continuum® interventions. We've been developing mobile-friendly versions

of Stratepedia and other web-based CRL products and looking toward more feature-rich mobile applications and the overall potential of mobile computing technology to help us reach increasingly digital students and teachers.

Mobile web applications

Most Internet-connected mobile devices available today have fully functioning web browsers and access to high-speed connections. For the most part, if you can access a web site on your computer, you can access it on a handheld, albeit on a small screen and without a mouse. To address this, web developers are creating mobile-friendly versions of their sites. The basic idea of mobile web development is you use the same technologies you'd use to create interactive web sites, but optimize for a small screen and finger presses instead of computer monitors and mouse clicks.

This is great for us, because we can use technologies we've been using for years to develop for the web—it's just a matter of mobile-optimizing our products to make them as accessible as possible on handheld devices. It also means we can develop one version of an application and it will run

2010 International SIM® Conference:
July 14-16, 2010
Preconference: July 13, 2010
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SIM
Strategic Instruction Model®

on just about any mobile device with a current web browser, provided an Internet connection of some kind is available.

Mobile web applications are accessed through your handheld's built-in web browser (Safari on iPhones and iPod touches, Internet Explorer on Windows Mobile, Browser on Android and Blackberry). If you've got an iPhone or an iPod touch, you can create buttons to your favorite web applications by pressing the "+" icon in Safari then pressing "Add to Home Screen."

We're currently developing mobile web versions of the Stratepedia applications (Depot, Coaching Calendar, and Dossier). Dossier (https://dossier.stratepedia.org/), our online data collection tool to monitor implementation of the Content Literacy Continuum®, is our first mobile-ready application. Handheld devices are great for data collection—instead of transcribing hand-written notes or disrupting a class with keyboard clicks, observers can quickly and quietly record data on mobile devices and instantly save the information in a centralized database. We're currently working to make it as easy as possible for school administrators to collect observation data at our CLC demonstration sites in Virginia (and, eventually, other CLC sites throughout the country). Look for a mobile version of Coaching Calendar later this year, with Depot following.

The mobile-friendly version of *Stratedirectory Online* (http://directory.kucrl.org/) puts the entire directory of SIM Professional Developers in your pocket. You can browse or search the directory, get information about coming SIM conferences, and even directly contact a member of the network via e-mail or telephone by clicking links in her or his profile.

Finally, the Stratepedia Blog

Dossier, our online data collection tool to monitor CLC implementation, is our first mobile-ready application.

(http://blog.stratepedia.org/) is mobile-optimized. The next time you're waiting at the airport and short on reading material, fire up our blog on your handheld and get caught up on our take on instructional technology.

Downloadable applications

Out of the box, most of today's mobile devices come with calendars, music players, cameras, web browsers, and e-mail clients. Some of them can even make phone calls. You can add to this functionality by downloading software to them, just like you would on a regular computer. Unlike mobile web applications, which run through a device's web browser, these "apps" as they're commonly called are downloaded to the device, usually through a centralized store like Apple's iTunes, Android

Market, or Blackberry App World. In addition, apps are device-specific—in other words, an app written for the iPhone won't work on a Blackberry, and vice versa. However, many apps are capable of working without an Internet connection and can generally access device features that web applications can't, such as cameras and microphones.

We've recently submitted a few grant proposals to pursue developing mobile apps related to classroom video, self-monitoring, and mnemonic instruction. Jim Knight's Instructional Coaching Group has developed a mobile app to assist with classroom observations, called Time on Task. The app is available for the iPhone or iPod touch and may be found in Apple's App Store.

On to tablets

We're looking forward to what looks to be next for touchscreen-equipped computers. 2010 is looking to be the year of the tablet computer. Models like Apple's iPad—essentially an iPod touch with a much larger screen—are on the way from a variety of manufacturers. In addition to touchscreen technology, tablets also will have access to mobile web applications and downloadable apps. They'll also tap into the e-book field, giving tablet owners potential access to thousands of books formatted for on-screen reading. We'll be exploring how these devices might be used to augment instruction and help us communicate. We're particularly interested in learning more about how to apply what we all know about supporting literacy and professional development to digital textbooks, networking tools, educational games, and streaming video.

It's going to be a fun year for us as we explore the potential of tablets, apps, and the mobile web. Please join us on the ride by reading the Stratepedia Blog (http://blog.stratepedia.org/) or follow us on Twitter or Facebook. (If you'd like, you can even talk to us in person at the SIM conference.) Let us know your thoughts on these technologies, what you'd like to see us try, and your own stories of putting them to use in classrooms and professional development.

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Aaron Sumner is director of technology for research and development at the Center for Research on Learning.

SIM TREK
Voyage to School Change

The 2010 International SIM Conference will be July 14-16 in Lawrence, Kan., with preconference sessions on July 13. Registration forms can be found at http://sim2010.kucrl.org.

Keynote speaker

We are fortunate to have as our keynote speaker Timothy Shanahan, professor of urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Shanahan possesses a wealth of expertise in reading instruction and has written or edited 200 publications on the topic. Learn more about Dr. Shanahan and his work at his blog, www.shanahanonliteracy.com.

Timothy Shanahan

Reading assignment

During this year's conference, we will continue our exploration of disciplinary literacy. Across the country, researchers and practitioners hold many perspectives on what constitutes literacy. How each defines literacy has direct implications for who within a school is responsible for it and what is involved in teaching it. Two articles available on the conference web site will help you prepare for these discussions:

- *Rethinking SIM, Literacy, and Professional Development,* by Don Deshler.
- *Using the Content Literacy Continuum® as a Framework for Implementing RTI in Secondary Schools,* by Barb Ehren and Don Deshler.

Both of these articles are available by selecting the **About** link in the right column of the conference web site. Look for the "DO THIS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE" information.

Strands

We will break into five "strands" for most of the first day of the conference. These intense sessions allow you to think deeply about SIM, the needs of educators today, and your role in bringing about lasting school change.

We will post an online survey this spring to gauge your interest in these strands. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. In this survey, we will ask you to rank the strands in the order you are most interested in attending. The strands that have the greatest interest—AS REFLECTED IN THE SURVEY RESULTS—will be assigned to larger rooms. This does not mean that you are locked in to a choice you make on the survey. We just ask that you think carefully before making your choice on the survey and understand that these choices do affect accommodations during the conference. It is very important that you participate in this survey when we announce that it is posted. Watch *Stratenotes* and Twitter (@ StrateTweets) for announcements.

2010 Preconference Sessions

http://sim2010.kucrl.org/ preconference/

Full-day:
- What's New in the Big Four

Morning:
- Computerized Writing Strategy Instruction
- Guidebooks on Integrating CE Routines into Core and Elective Classes
- Science and Social Studies Essential Understandings SMARTsheets
- Stratepedia

Afternoon:
- Computer-Based Strategic Tutoring
- All-New GIST 2.0
- Introducing the EDIT Strategy: An In-Depth Look
- Literature Literacy SMARTsheets

http://sim2010.kucrl.org
Your go-to source for SIM TREK: Voyage to School Change

We have set up the conference web site (http://sim2010.kucrl.org) as a place to begin conversations and professional learning months before we get together face to face. During the next few months leading up to the big show, visit the site often to help us plan session content and to get answers to any questions you have before you arrive in Lawrence. As many of you know, we changed the conference format last year so that we now spend almost the entire first day in a "strand" focusing on a specific topic. Because of this change, you will need to make an important choice on the first morning of the conference: Which strand will be of most benefit to you and your work? The information available ahead of time on the web site will help you make this choice, and you will be glad you took the time to study it before the conference starts.

The site features many ways for you to communicate with each other and with us. On the right side of the page, you'll see a column labeled "SIM 2010 Interactive." This column explains all of the ways you can get in touch and keep in touch about the conference. If you use an RSS reader, you can subscribe to an RSS feed on the conference site that will alert you when news items have been posted. You may use the contact form to submit questions, suggestions, and comments directly to Mona Tipton here at the Center. You can find the link to our Twitter account in the column.

The SIM 2010 Interactive column also explains how to comment directly on the web site. CRL staff monitor all comments and are ready to respond. Some presenters also will monitor the comments related to their sessions and will be available to discuss plans and suggestions.

Use the tabs across the top of the page to navigate to important information: registration, daily schedule, preconference workshop descriptions, session descriptions, and the list of presenters.

We believe active participation in the site before the conference will be beneficial for you in many ways. You will have a say in conference planning. You will have reasonable expectations for what you will learn at the conference. You will be able to get answers to nagging questions before you arrive in Kansas. You will make connections with other professional developers who are attending. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, especially if this is your first time at a SIM conference.

CONFERENCE NOTES

Attention, First Timers!

We will offer an orientation session for all first-time conference participants at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, at the conference hotel. We'll answer your questions, and you'll have the opportunity to meet researchers and staff from the Center for Research on Learning. Watch the conference web site for further details.

One-on-one

Schedule a meeting during the conference with any researcher or staff member at the Center for Research on Learning. E-mail Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu) or use the contact form on the conference web site. Let Mona know which staff member you want to meet with and what topic you want to discuss.

Twitter: @StrateTweets

Follow conference plans, provide feedback, and make suggestions for the 2010 SIM Conference using Twitter. Use the hashtag **#SIM2010** to tag your tweets.

Suggest an affinity group

Got a topic you want to discuss during Friday morning's affinity groups? E-mail Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu) to let her know.

May 4-5, 2010
Louisiana SIM Update (Open to all)
Baton Rouge, La.
Contact: Joyce Russo,
joyce.russo@la.gov

May 23-28, 2010
Learning Strategies Potential Professional Developer Institute Palmer, Alaska (Hosted by Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District) Contact: Lee Schwartz, friedalee@aol.com. Application deadline April 1; space is limited

June 1-5, 2010
SIM Learning Strategies Class for Preservice Educators
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 1-5, 2010
Teaching Content to All: Effective College Teaching
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 9-10, 2010
Iowa SIM Update, Des Moines, Iowa
Contact: Kara Krohn, kara.krohn@iowa.gov

June 15-18, 2010
SIM Reading and Writing Strategies
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 15-18, 2010
More SIM Strategies, Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 21-25, 2010
Institute for Potential SIM Professional Developers in Learning Strategies
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 21-25, 2010
Institute for Potential SIM Professional Developers in Content Enhancement, Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 21-25, 2010
Florida Potential Professional Developer Institutes for Learning Strategies and Content Enhancement, Orlando, Fla.
Contacts: Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org, and Valerie Watson, watsonv@nefec.org
Non-Florida residents register through KU-CRL.

June 22-25, 2010
Introduction to Teaching with Content Enhancement
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

June 23-25, 2010
SIM for Administrators
Lawrence, Kan.
http://kucrl.org/classes

July 13-16, 2010
International SIM Conference and Preconference, Lawrence, Kan.
http://sim2010.kucrl.org

Aug. 9-11, 2010
Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 1, Lawrence, Kan.
http://instructionalcoach.org

Aug. 12-14, 2010
Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 2, Lawrence, Kan.
http://instructionalcoach.org

Oct. 4-6, 2010
Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 1, Lawrence, Kan.
http://instructionalcoach.org

Oct. 7-9, 2010
Instructional Coaching Institute, Level 2, Lawrence, Kan.
http://instructionalcoach.org

Oct. 11-13, 2010
Instructional Coaching Conference
Lawrence, Kan.
http://instructionalcoach.org

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2010 International SIM® Conference Tentative Schedule
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Tuesday, July 13, 2010

6 p.m.	Orientation for first-time participants

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Welcome
8:45 a.m.-10 a.m.	Keynote: Timothy Shanahan
10:15 a.m.-Noon	Strand breakout sessions
Noon-1:15 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:15 p.m.-4 p.m.	Strand breakout sessions, cont.
4:15 p.m.-5 p.m.	Certificate ceremony
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Social

Thursday, July 15, 2010

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8 a.m.-9 a.m.	Welcome, SIM awards program
9:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	Breakout sessions
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own
12:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Breakout sessions

Friday, July 16, 2010

8 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Poster session
8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.	General session
10:15 a.m.-Noon	Affinity groups, "Grab & Go" lunch
Noon-12:30 p.m.	Closing session

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