Technology-based training systems, such as e-learning and virtual reality, have been gaining ground on conventional training techniques during the past decade or so. In the past, simulation-based learning was solely provided through expensive workstations. However, today such workstations are becoming obsolete and computer- and Web-based simulations are now the norm. Advances in technology have made technology-based simulation training more desirable and effective for many different skill areas and industries. But perhaps—most importantly—technology-based simulation training is attributed to increased information retention and therefore, employees maintain the skills necessary to react proficiently during critical situations as well as during their everyday job responsibilities.

Furthermore, these advanced technology-based simulations often allow individuals to train in highly realistic environments, provide immediate feedback to the learner and present various levels of material to further one’s skill level and expertise. Also, such training is usually self-paced and can be delivered to the learner’s location—whether in an office, at home or while traveling. But as always, it is important that a technology-based simulation, like any other training technique, be employed in situations where it is appropriate. If deemed appropriate for your organization, some of today’s many leading simulation software companies are illustrated below.

Macromedia Captivate—formerly known as RoboDemo—automatically records all onscreen actions and instantly creates an interactive Flash simulation. Captivate can automatically generate text captions for users, allowing them to generate fully annotated simulations and demos. Instructional designers use Captivate to create interactive training efficiently for distribution to large audiences in quickly. Simulations are easily enhanced by adding captions, audio, images, Flash animations and videos, interactions with branching and scoring, highlights, hyperlinks, rollovers and more. To learn more about Macromedia Captivate, visit [www.macromedia.com/software/captivate](http://www.macromedia.com/software/captivate).

Forio is a global builder of customer simulations and provider of simulation development software. Forio focuses on strategic planning and training simulations for mid- and senior-level managers. The company’s Web-simulation software helps users build a simulation and eliminates the need of maintaining your own Web server because the simulation engine resides on the Forio Web server. The simulation software also lets the user enter his or her model using a scripting language and provides Web-based tools to design the user interface. To learn more, visit [www.forio.com](http://www.forio.com).

SIMUL8 Corp. develops business simulation software for enterprise-wide use in business, government, education, etc. The company’s products include SIMUL8 Standard, SIMUL8 for Education, SIMUL8 Professional, SIMUL8 Planner, Autmod and the Consultant’s Toolkit. SIMUL8’s simulation software allows the user to pick from a predefined set of simulation objects and statistical distributions to create the model. The software also permits hierarchical modeling and can be customized to meet an organization’s exact needs. For more information on SIMUL8, visit [www.simul8.com](http://www.simul8.com).

Imagine That Inc. is the developer of Extend, a simulation environment used to model, analyze and optimize processes. Extend can be used to model every aspect of an organization at all levels of expertise—from a manager to an engineer or from a novice instructional designer to a professional instructional designer. Extend allows users to build models quickly, make changes interactively, see the results immediately, explore all alternatives, develop customized
components and use the model as a virtual environment for communicating ideas. Its other features include component libraries, hierarchical modeling, linking with MS Office and the ability to model continuous, discrete event and hybrid systems. To learn more about Extend, visit www.imaginethatinc.com.

GoldSim Technology Group provides state-of-the-art software, training and consulting to develop computer models that simulate the performance of complex systems in business, engineering and science. GoldSim software is built using a modular framework that allows users to customize the software package to the functions they need. Various modules provide additional features or specialized functionality for particular applications, such as the reliability module, contaminant transport module, distributed processing module and more. GoldSim Pro simulation software is most widely used by commercial users to build full-feature models for business. For more information, visit www.goldsim.com.

Realtime Technologies is a provider of simulation software applications, consulting services, custom engineering solutions, and software and hardware development. SimCreator is the company’s graphical, hierarchical, real-time simulation and modeling system. SimCreator allows users to develop distributed simulation models without writing a line of C Code. With SimCreator users can rapidly develop distributed real-time simulations, create graphical models that are as efficient as hand-coded technologies, generate complex plant models using power flow-style modeling methods and easily integrate external software APIs and user-code. For more information on Realtime Technologies’ SimCreator, visit www.simcreator.com.

CreateASoft Inc. is a business solutions company that offers simulation technology and consulting services to meet organizations’ operations design, implementation and optimization needs. CreateASoft’s products include Simcad Process Simulator, Value Stream Mapper and SimData Pocket PC Data Collector and Simcad Pro. Simcad Pro is a process simulation and modeling tool that allows top-down modeling of complex industrial processes. The company also offers simulation and consulting services to build, analyze and optimize simulation models based on customer specifications. For more information, visit www.createasoft.com.

Training Prism, ©2006 Media Tec Publishing