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Mrs. L Cobcroft,
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Dear Lorraine

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on your courseware "Programming with Layout". To my mind, this is a comprehensive 'How To' series which leaves the manual supplied with the software looking very pale indeed.

For those of us who learnt programming in some other language, Layout may require some paradigm shifts. What these entail will vary with the individual, however this course will surely ease if not eliminate the transition into programming using Layout.

Layout forces structured programming and also allows the user to concentrate on the logic and control structures within the program rather than any other extraneous matters. Furthermore Layout allows the user to produce modern looking programs very easily, which makes it ideal for use in schools.

Having taught Computing subjects at a range of levels in secondary school I have noticed that students find many of the programming concepts difficult and that the resource material available is limited in its use. As a result the teacher is frequently required to develop their own resources – not an easy task if you want to do it well, regardless of any time constraints. This is where your manuals "Programming with Layout" are excellent. They provide a graded series of lessons dealing with all of the important constructs. The language used is non-technical and is well supported by abundant screen shots. The course has a range of relevant practical exercises demonstrating the concepts covered in the text. The exercises are not meaningless but ultimately produces a piece of useful software and a large procedures library. The course also provides a great deal of advice and anecdotal information not found in many texts of this genre. They give valuable insight into what is required of a professional programmer and how those requirements can be met.

If I had to state what I like best about the 'Programming with Layout' course I would say that the course is structured so that the student can work at their own pace, leaving the teacher to facilitate the learning process.

It is a great package and a great effort. I am certain a lot of people will learn and understand the concepts and ideas involved in programming through your efforts in preparing and developing such a first rate course.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Tame