

Version

5.0

SAWMILL SOFTWARE CORPORATION

Your Math Buddy – General Math

Administrative Guide

YOUR MATH BUDDY – GENERAL MATH

Administrative Guide

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The splash screen as shown in Figure 1-1 is the first screen a user will see. It is programmed to display for only four seconds, but can be advanced by clicking the splash screen itself.

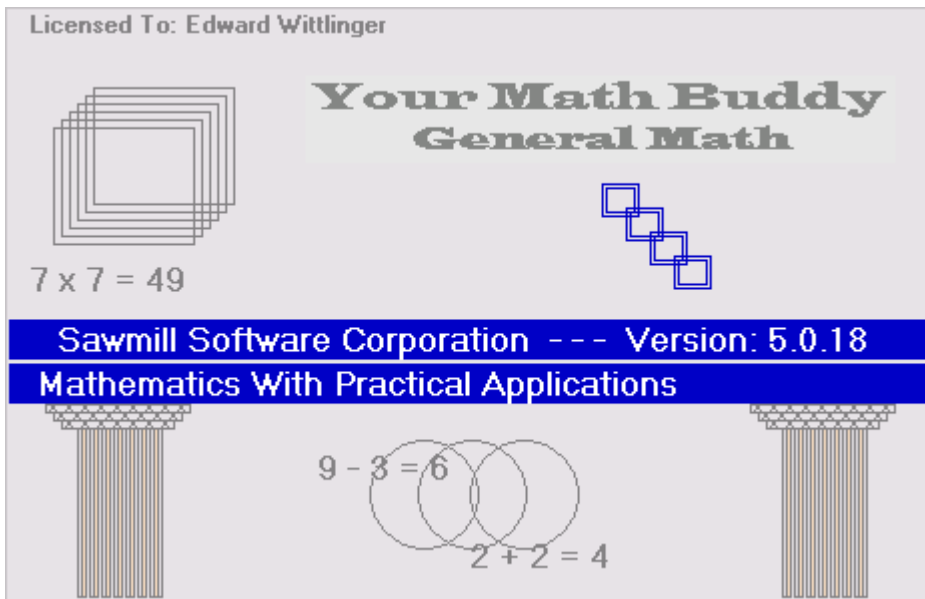


Figure 1-1

The main screen as shown in Figure 1-2 is where the students will spend most of their time. This program can be quite advanced, yet easy to use based on how the program is administered. Before any student(s) gain access, they should be set up with their own custom settings based on their age and grade level. What this help tutorial is designed to do is show an administrator how to enter and track the student(s)' efforts. The first time should be fun and the settings adjusted so the student(s) gain confidence and become used to the software. After they use the software, adjust the setting so a new range of numbers and/or math function is generated. At this point, either increase or decrease the scope.

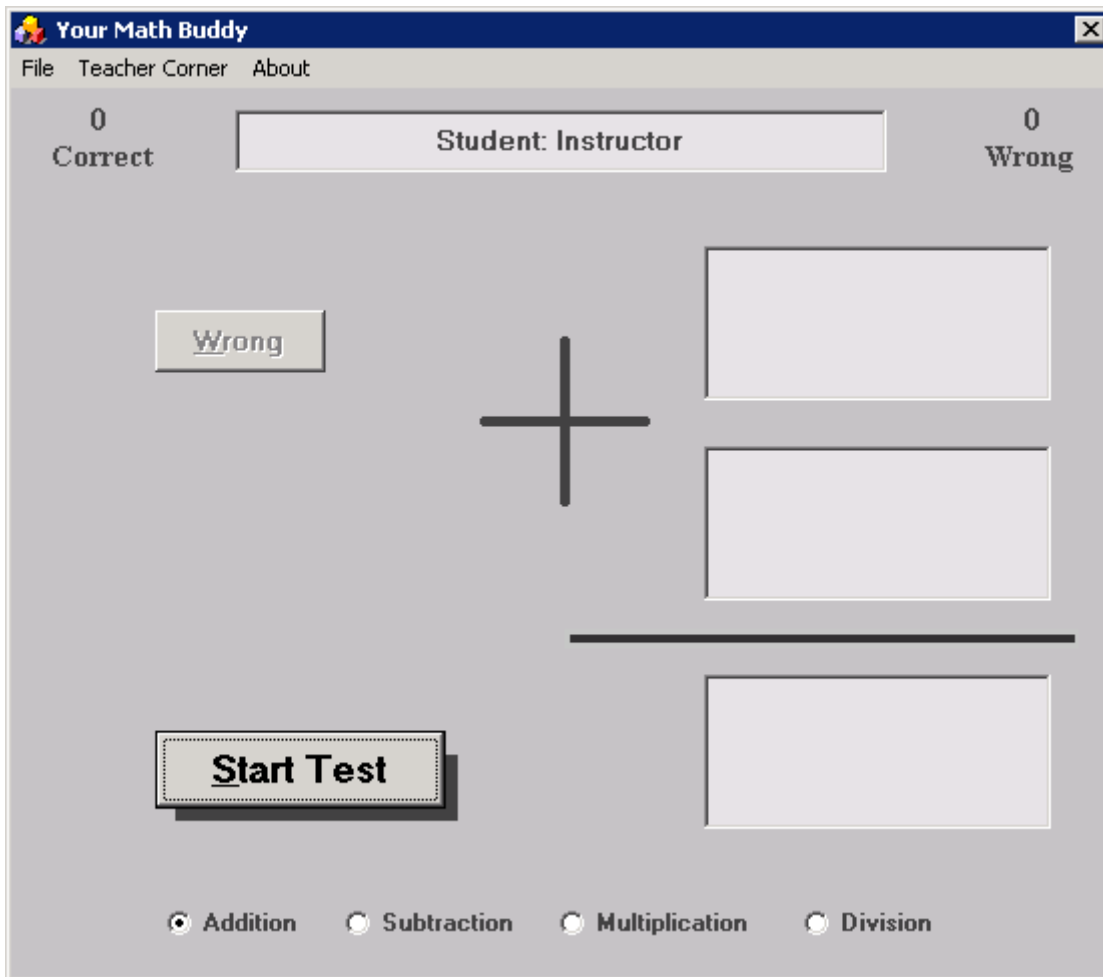


Figure 1-2

This tutorial will set the program up for two students, Sandy Smith and Tony Wilson. Sandy is in the first grade and Tony is a fifth grader. It is obvious that both students can't work with the same equations based on age and grade level, so that is why each student should have their own custom settings. To add these students click the menu option at the top of the main screen labeled "Teacher Corner." To gain access to this area, a password is required. The first time in, the system will prompt a user with a message box as shown in Figure 1-3 providing the default password. The password is "admin" in all lower case. Once in Teacher Corner, the password may be changed.

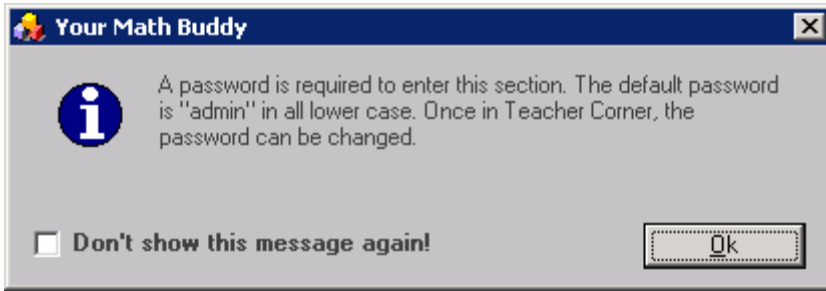


Figure 1-3

As shown in Figure 1-4 an option can be selected setting the system not to display this message again. Once the "ok" button is clicked, the Teacher Corner password utility will display.

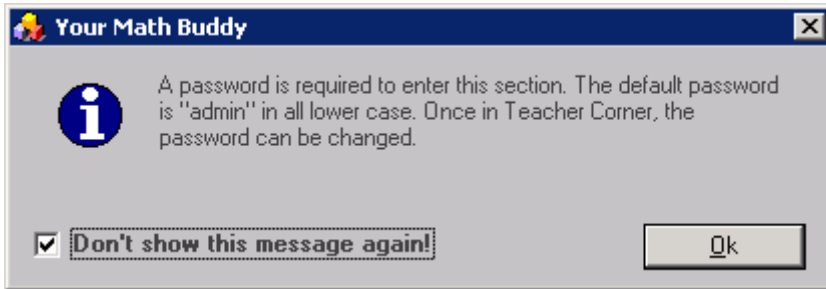


Figure 1-4

As shown in Figure 1-5 the Teacher Corner password utility. Enter the password that is required and click the "ok" button.

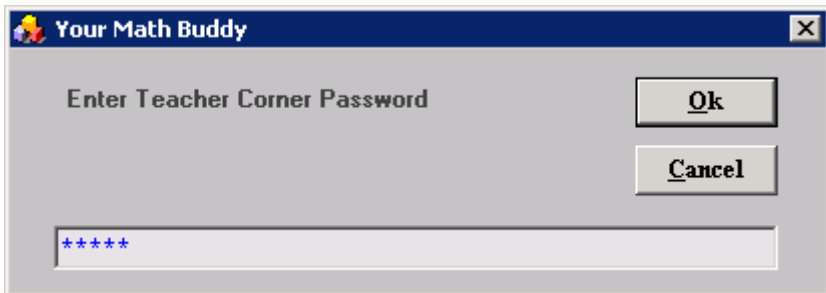


Figure 1-5

As shown in Figure 1-6 Teacher Corner, displaying the default settings shipped with the software. Notice the student log-in is "Instructor." The instructor properties should be set with a complex range of numbers and timer settings for each math function. The student log-in can only be changed when adding a new student. The system requires an instructor student log-in to function.

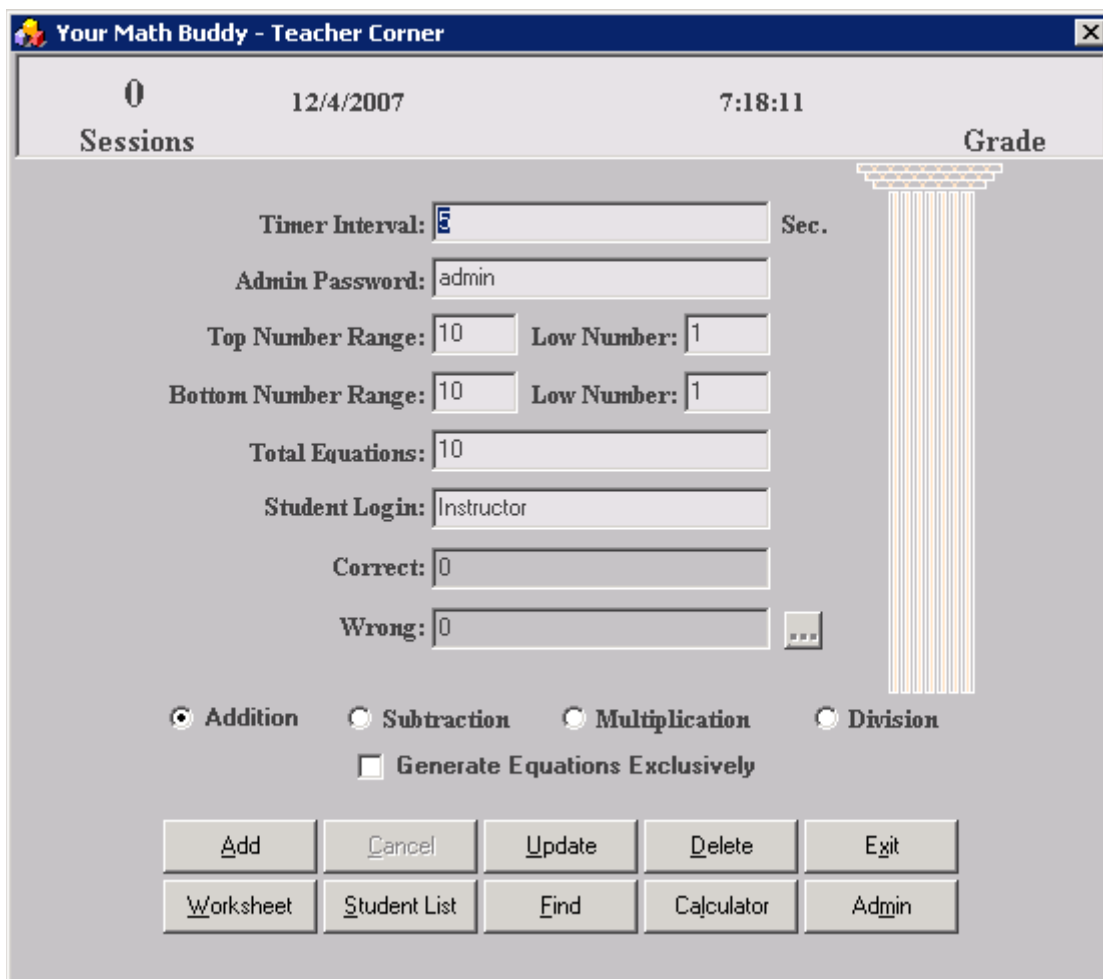


Figure 1-6

Do a quick review of each property. The timer interval is how long each equation will display during a test. If a student does not answer the equation within the time allocated, the program will assume the student did not know the answer and mark it as "wrong." If the equation is answered within the time allocated, the program will evaluate the answer and mark it as either "correct" or "wrong."

The "admin" password can only be changed if the student log-in is "Instructor." We highly recommend using a name you will not forget. Keep this password in a safe place so students cannot gain access to other student and teacher data.

The top number range and bottom number range properties will be set based on a student's age and grade level. By default, the top number range is set to 10 and the bottom number range to 10. This will set the program so equations will be no greater than $(10 + 10)$. If a student is just starting to learn math, set the top number range to 9 and the bottom number range to 1. This will set the program so equations are generated no higher than $(9 + 1)$. That is the beauty of this program, the ability to set the system with multiple students, and adjust the settings for each student's age and grade level.

Set the low number fields to a value you want the numbers generated for the top number range and bottom number range to start from. The numbers generated will not be lower than the values set.

Set the total equations property to 10, so each session will have no more than 10 equations. To have the system present 5 equations, change the number to 5 and update the changes made. The default setting for this property is 10.

An administrator can determine how students log in to the system, either by entering their first name, first and last name, or a user name like "Nautical." Remember, the value of "Instructor" may never be changed. By having the students log in to the system, gives an administrator the chance to track how many sessions were completed, how many equations were correct and wrong, and print student reports that show which equations they're getting wrong.

The correct and wrong properties cannot be changed. Next to the wrong property is a command button with three dots, which will allow an administrator to view and print a student report. This report will display which equations they're getting wrong and the range of numbers and timer settings allocated for each equation. This will help teachers by showing the equations each student is having trouble with.

Under the text fields, there are four option buttons. This is where you set which math function the program will present. If the student is tested with division, simply select the option button labeled "division" and update the changes made. Notice in Figure 1-7, if division is selected a numeric value will display on the right side of the top number range. The number displayed is the range of the top numbers displayed for division equations. This assures that any equation presented will have an answer with a whole number value.

Figure 1-7

The value is created by multiplying the top number range and bottom number range. In this case the top number range is 36.

Currently, the system is shipped with an instructor student log-in. Click the command button labeled “Add” as shown in Figure 1-8; Teacher Corner is in “Add” and “Update” mode. All the required input fields will go blank. Enter 8 for the timer interval, 10 for the top number range, 2 for bottom number range, 10 for total equations, “Sandy Smith” in the student log-in, and select “addition” for the math function. After the students are added and you have acquired some hands-on experience, delete the student body, setting the system back to its default values. Now that all required fields are completed, click the command button labeled “update” to complete this entry.

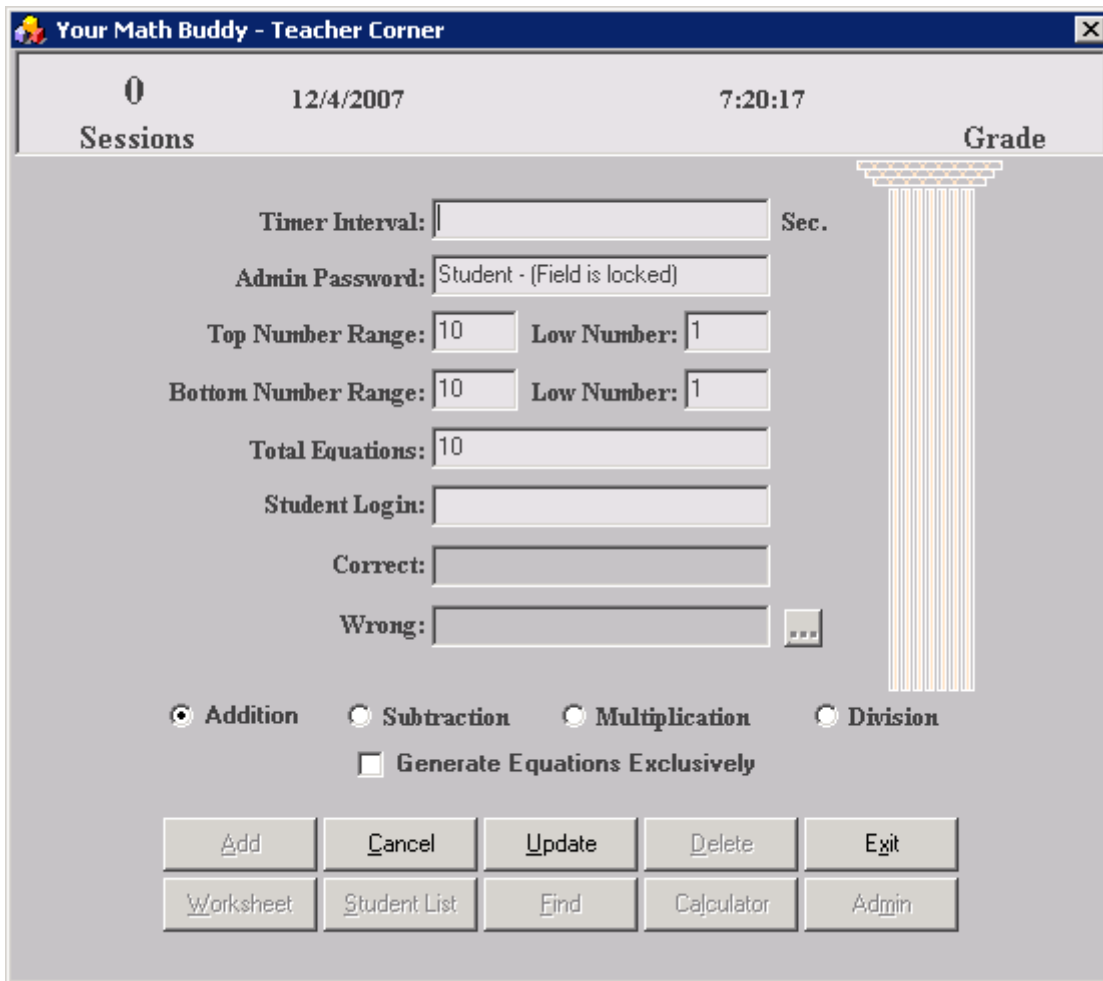


Figure 1-8

As shown in Figure 1-9, Teacher Corner with Sandy Smith's settings.

Your Math Buddy - Teacher Corner

0 Sessions 12/4/2007 7:22:41 Grade

Timer Interval: 8 Sec.

Admin Password: Student - (Field is locked)

Top Number Range: 10 Low Number: 1

Bottom Number Range: 2 Low Number: 1

Total Equations: 10

Student Login: Sandy Smith

Correct: 0

Wrong: 0

Addition
 Subtraction
 Multiplication
 Division

Generate Equations Exclusively

Add Cancel Update Delete Exit

Worksheet Student List Find Calculator Admin

Figure 1-9

Enter Tony Wilson into the system by following the same steps to enter Sandy Smith. Click the command button labeled “Add” after the required fields go blank, enter 5 for the timer interval, 12 for the top number range, 12 for the bottom number range, 10 for total equations, “Tony Wilson” for student log-in, and select “multiplication” for the math function. Click the command button labeled “Update” to complete this entry.

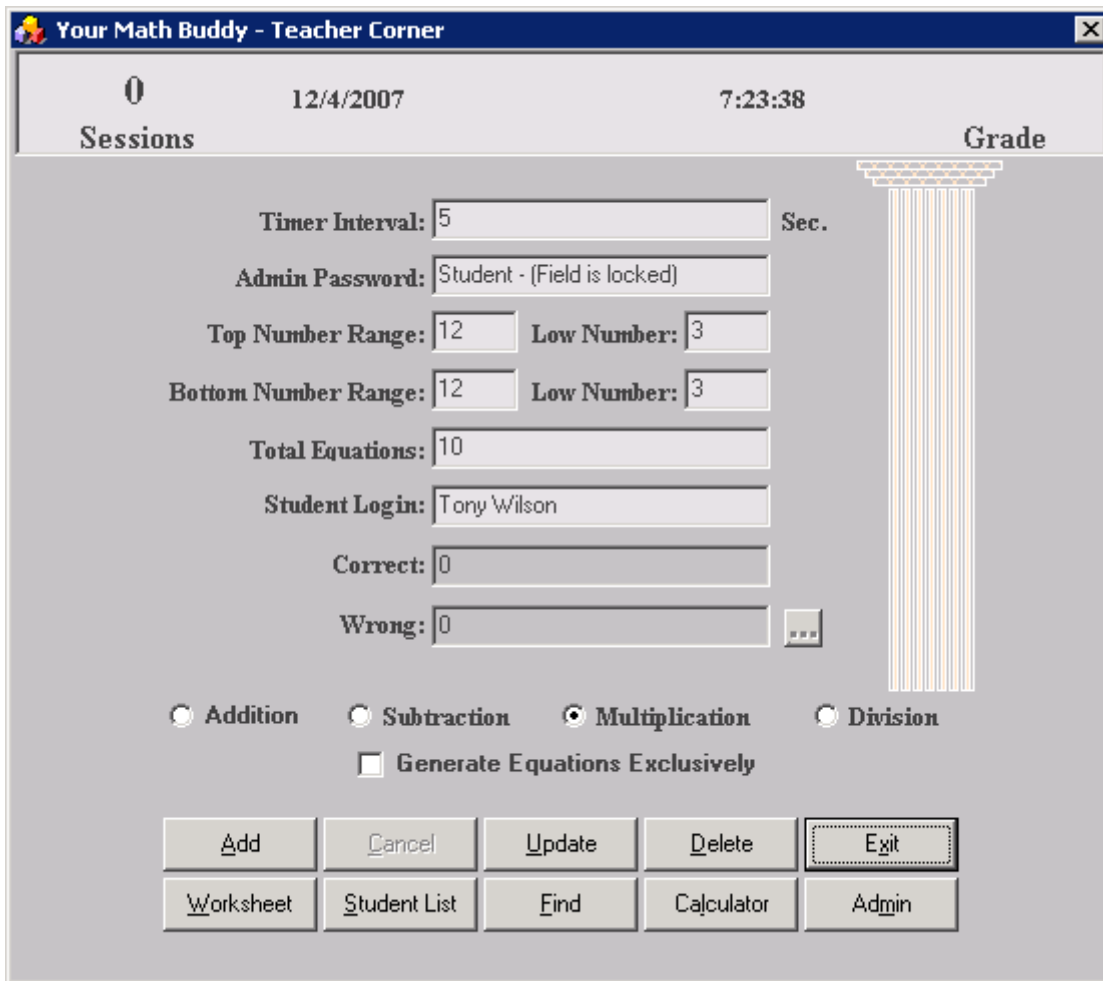


Figure 1-10

Now that the two students are entered and the system updated, view the list of students by selecting the command button labeled “Student List.” As shown in Figure 1-11 Your Math Buddy student body is displayed. An administrator can check if students are entered. This utility can be used to view student accounts and select an individual student by clicking the box on the left side of the student’s name. If Your Math Buddy is set up on a network, a student or group of students can be monitored with this utility. The student body will be refreshed every fifteen seconds with an updated view of how each student is doing. Access a student’s account by selecting the student from the list, and clicking the “Exit” button to return to Teacher Corner with this account available for review.

User Name	Session Count Addition	Session Count Subtraction	Session Count Multiplication	Session Count Division
Instructor	0	0	0	0
▶ Sandy Smith	0	0	0	0
Tony Wilson	0	0	0	0

Exit

Figure 1-11

In Figure 1-11, Sandy Smith has been selected so her account becomes available when returning to Teacher Corner. Your Math Buddy can generate equations randomly or exclusively. Under the math function option buttons, a check box labeled “Generate Equations Exclusively” can be selected. If this option is selected, the equations for this student will be presented in an exclusive manner. For example, $(12 \times 1 =)$ $(12 \times 2 =)$ $(12 \times 3 =)$, etc. Otherwise the equations will be presented in a random order within the range set.

At the bottom left corner is a command button labeled “Worksheet.” At any time an administrator can print math worksheets for a group or a particular student by selecting this option. The worksheets are generated based on the current numeric range displayed. This is why Teacher Corner has a student log-in listed as “instructor,” so if an instructor wanted to test a group of students on a particular range this option would be set for a group. If the instructor would like to print a worksheet for a particular student, select the student from the grid displayed in Figure 1-11 or search the database by selecting the command button labeled “Find.” Once the student is found, the system will display the settings with which they’re currently testing.

The system has a delete option that if selected will allow an administrator to delete the entire student body, setting the system back to its default settings. This option is so teachers can set the system for the next school year. The second option is so teacher can delete only the selected student without affecting the other student records. The third option will allow an administrator to reset the student body. This will not delete the students, it resets the student’s history back to zero. The fourth option will reset only the selected student.

Currently, you have two students that are entered into the system. Click the command button labeled “Exit” to leave Teacher Corner and go back to the student-testing environment. At the top center of the main screen, the system will display who is logged into the system. Let’s have Sandy Smith use the system first. If the system is not displaying Sandy’s name, select the menu option labeled “File | Student Login” to log her into the system. As shown in Figure 1-12 the file menu option is displayed.

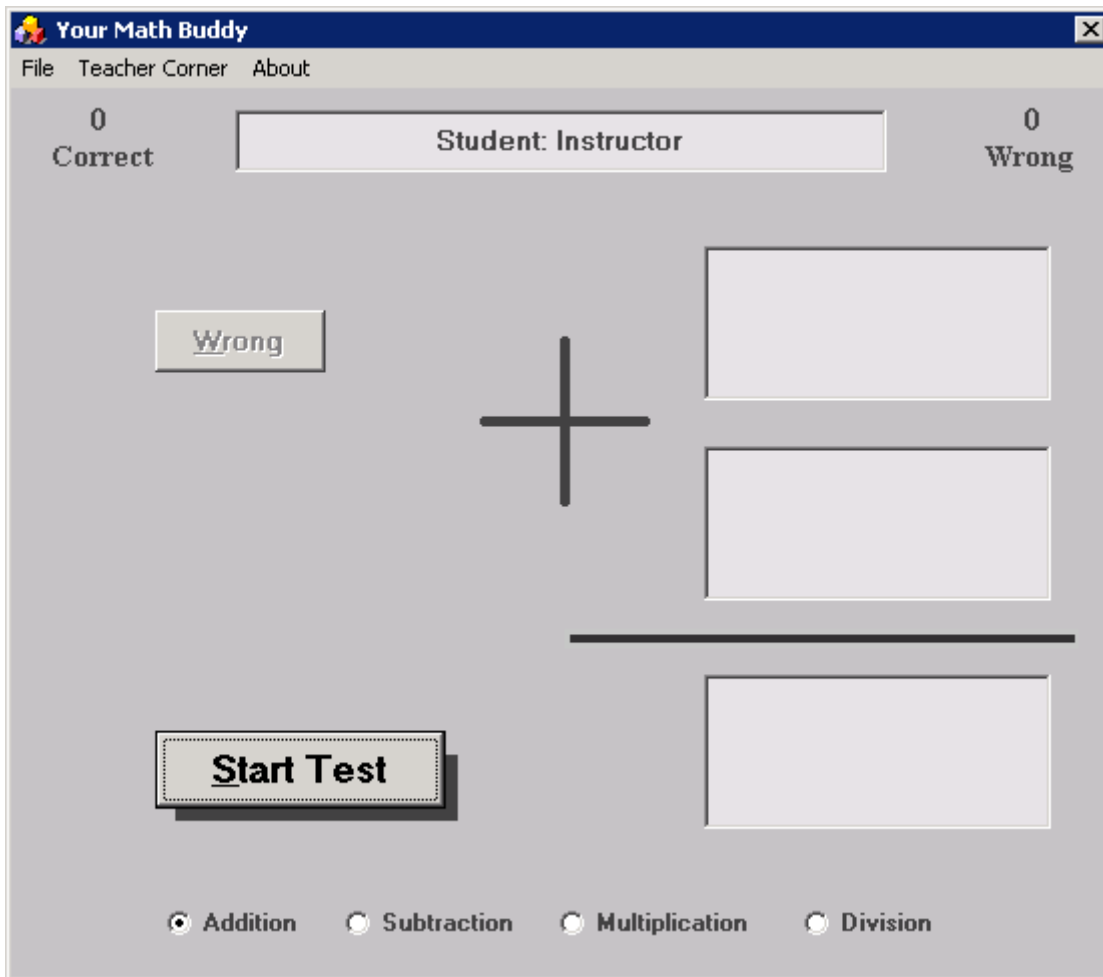


Figure 1-12

This is where the students will log in to the system. Students should be trained on how to log in to the system. Remember, if the students are not logging in, there is no way to track their efforts. To log Sandy into the system, select "Student Login" from the file menu. The "Student Login" utility will display allowing a student to enter their log-in name to gain access to their account. If the student incorrectly enters his/her name, the system will default to the instructor account, hence the student may be testing with a numeric range that is out of his/her scope. If the student's account was found then select the "start" button to begin testing.

After the student has started a session, the system will present equations based on the numeric range set by the instructor. If the student answers an equation before the timer interval expires, the student can click the "enter" key on the keyboard to advance onto the next equation. Otherwise, the student can wait until the system timer advances to the next equation. After each equation is presented, the system will test if the answer was correct or wrong. If the student leaves the answer field blank, the system will mark the equation as "wrong" and progress onto the next equation.

At the end of each session, the student can click the "start" button to start another session.

After students run a few sessions, an instructor can enter Teacher Corner to view how each student is doing. This is very important to check if the numeric range is set properly. If the student answered any of the equations wrong, the command button next to the “wrong” system field will become enabled. An instructor can view which equations the student is having trouble with selecting this option. As shown in Figure 1-14 the student report is displaying the equations Sandy got wrong. The system will also display the set amount of time allocated for each equation, and the range of numbers set for this student.

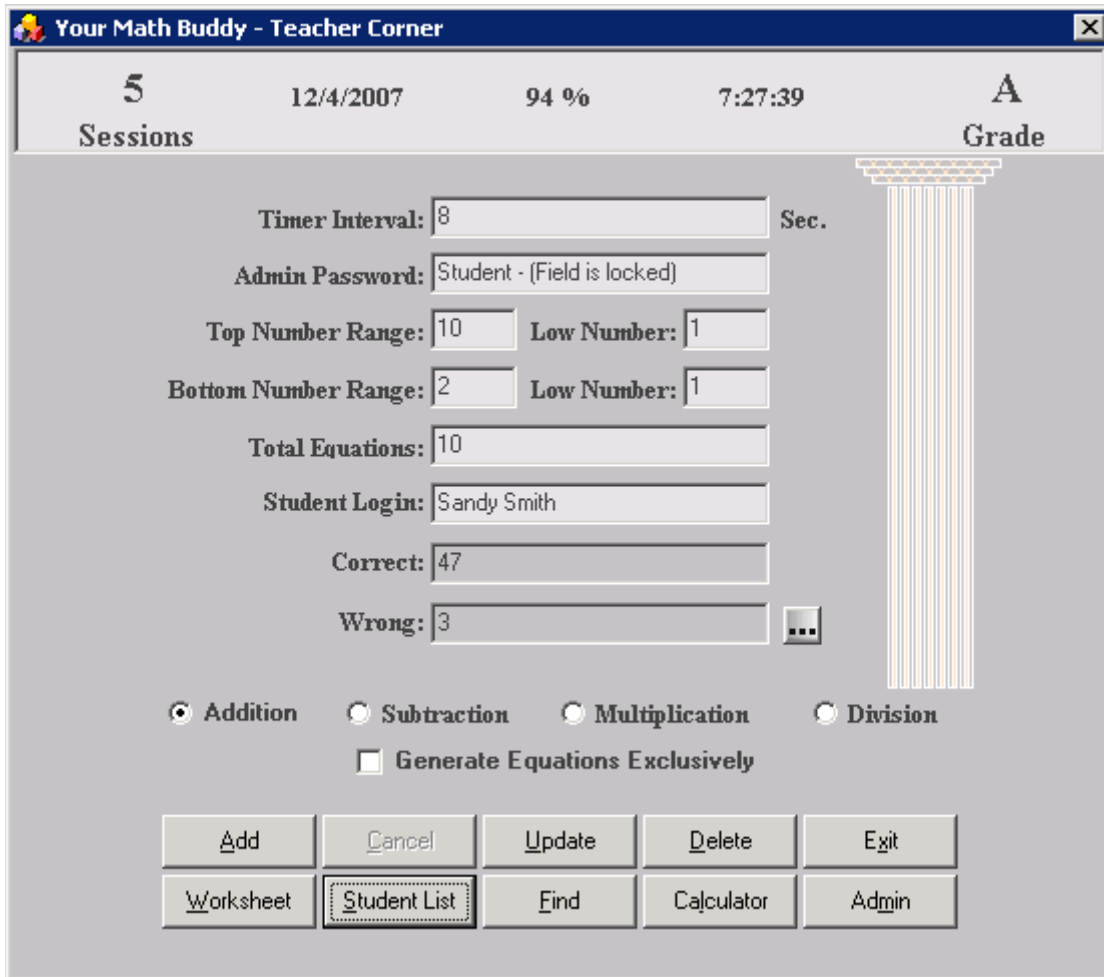


Figure 1-13

In the top center of Teacher Corner, a percentage of the student’s grade is displayed. This will give a better understanding of how each student is doing and how his/her grade is calculated.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Student Report" with a zoom level of 100%. The main content is a table titled "Your Math Buddy - Student Report". The table has five columns: Student, Equations, Timer Settings, Top Number, and Bottom Number. There are three rows of data, all for the student "Sandy Smith".

<u>Student:</u>	<u>Equations:</u>	<u>Timer Settings:</u>	<u>Top Number:</u>	<u>Bottom Number:</u>
Sandy Smith	<u>6 + 1 = 7</u>	8 Sec.	10	2
Sandy Smith	<u>7 + 1 = 8</u>	8 Sec.	10	2
Sandy Smith	<u>9 + 2 = 11</u>	8 Sec.	10	2

Figure 1-14

While the students are running their sessions and get any of the equations wrong, the “wrong” command button on the main screen will become enabled. Through our experience, we have found if students review the equations in the “Student Review Utility” shown in Figure 1-15 a student will have a better chance of remembering the correct answer. Have the students write down the equations in this section just to get a thorough review.

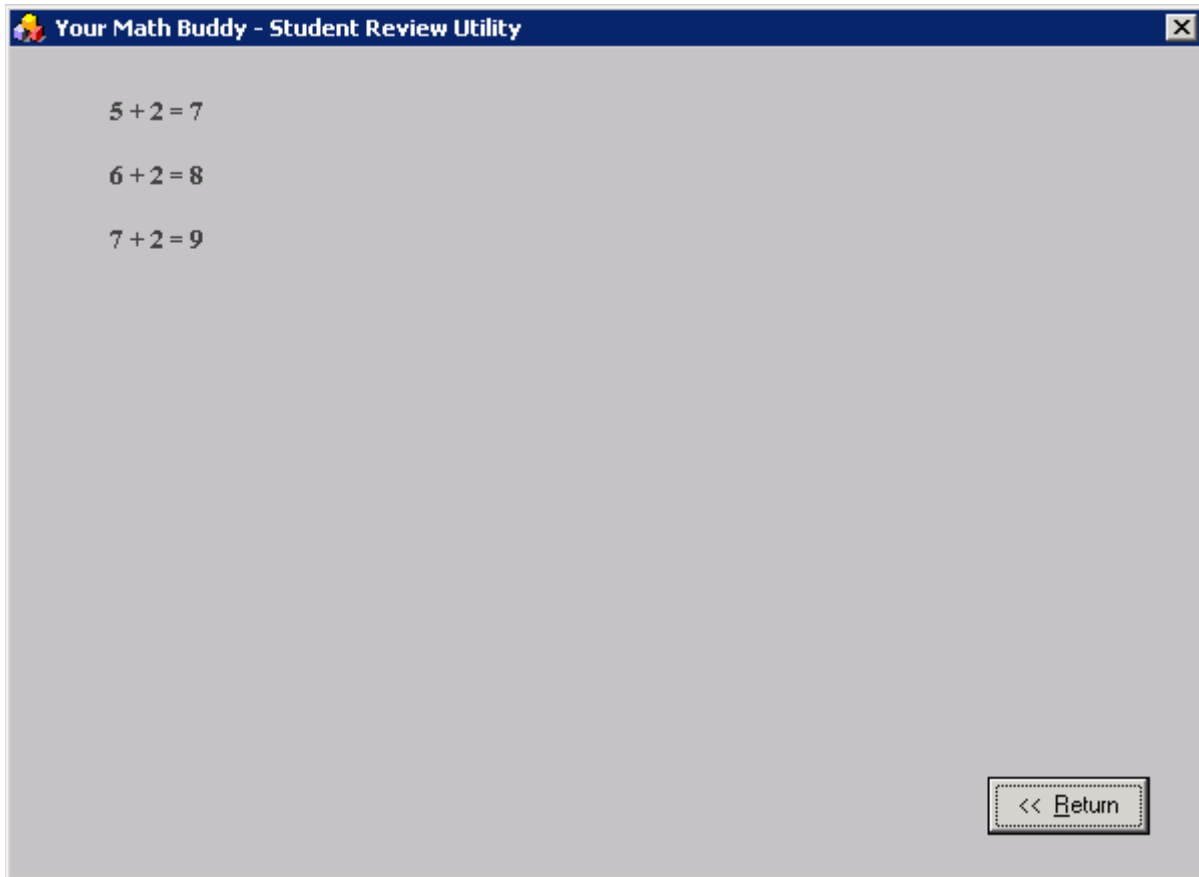


Figure 1-15

This is our goal to have students use this software and drill equations till they become second nature. At any time, you can go into Teacher Corner and delete your student body used for this example. We hope if you have any suggestions on how we can improve this product, you will send us an e-mail. If you have any further questions, Sawmill Software offers free technical support at <http://www.sawmillsoftware.com> and/or call 1-877-869-6472.

Appendix - A Using the database admin section.

Located at the bottom right corner of “Teacher Corner,” is a command button labeled “Admin.” This will allow database administrators to navigate the client applications to a copy of the “Math Buddy.mdb” (database file) located on your local area network drive (LAN). As shown in Figure 1-1 “Your Math Buddy - Database Admin” section.

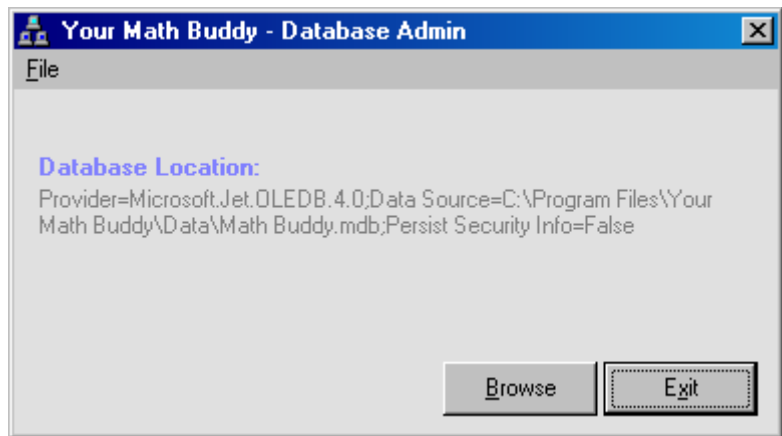


Figure 1-1

To locate and change the database location, copy the database file to another location and select the command button labeled “Browse” to activate the Your Math Buddy – database dialog shown in Figure 1-2.

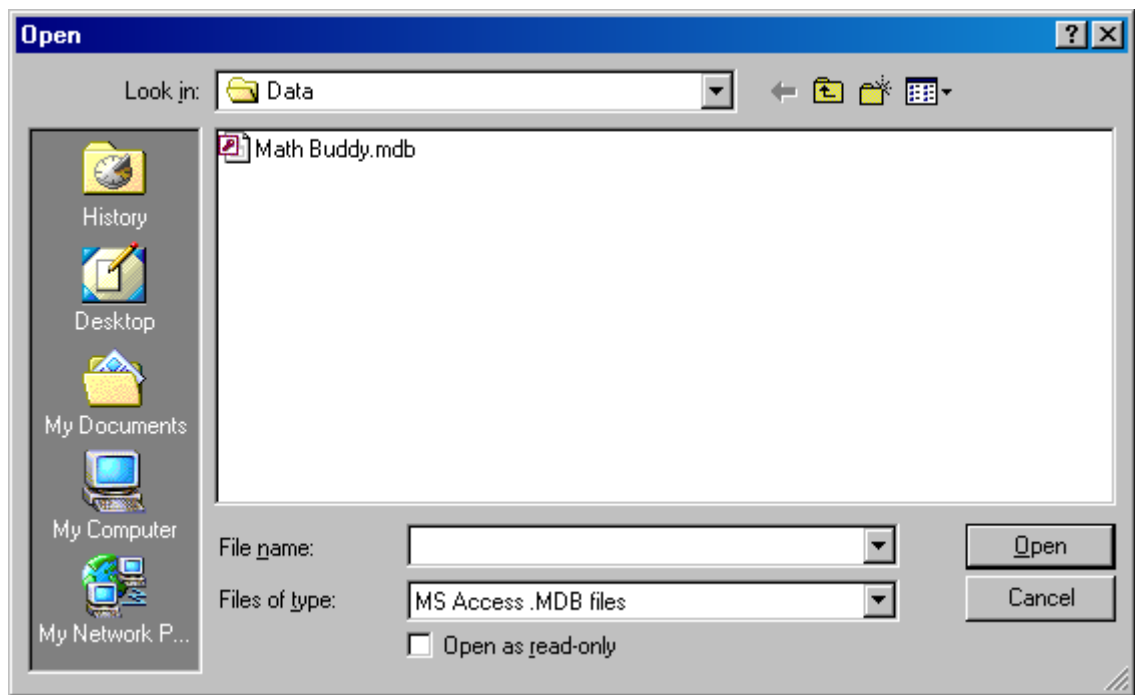


Figure 1-2

To locate the new database file, select the dropdown labeled “Look in.” As shown in Figure 1-3 the local area network is displayed.

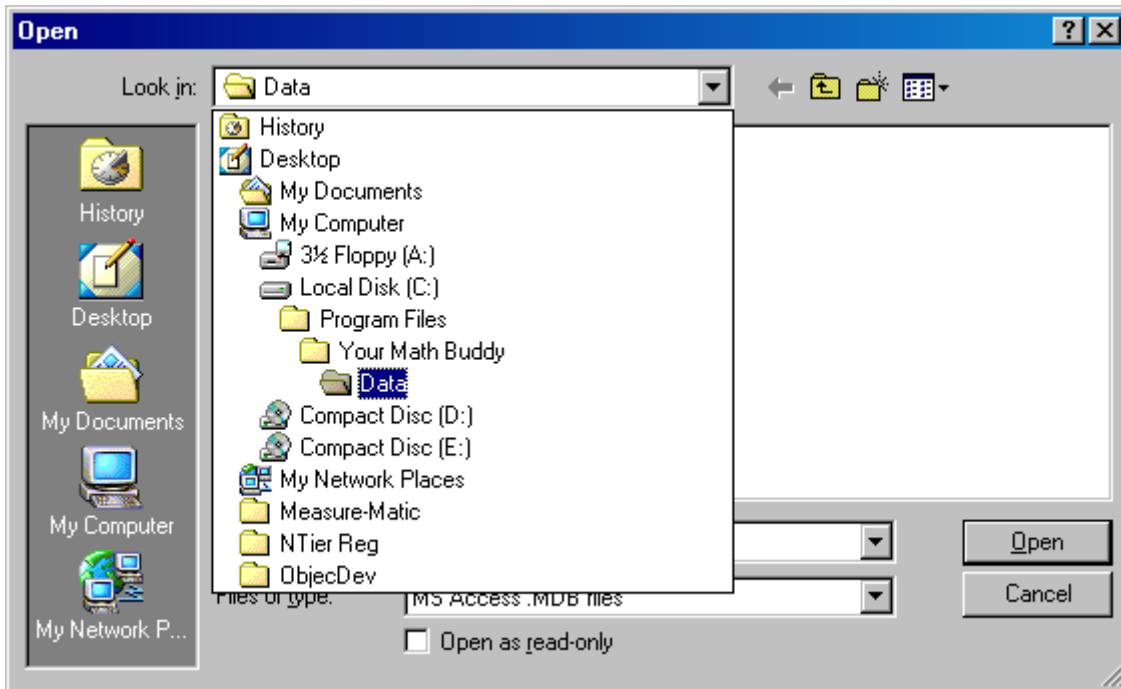


Figure 1-3

After you locate the new database file, select the file and click “Open” to set the new location. Before the new location will go into effect, a message box dialog will display making sure you want to continue. As shown in Figure 1-4 the message box dialog.

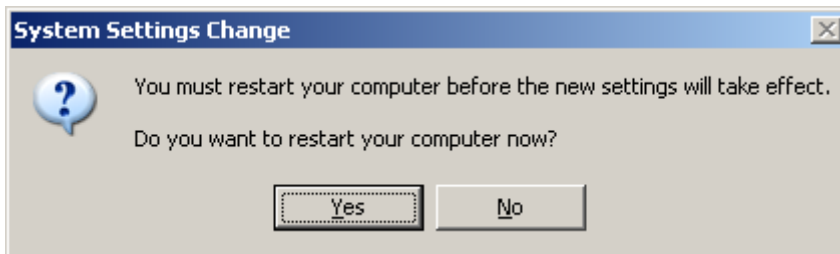


Figure 1-4

If the operation is completed, Your Math Buddy will connect and re-start the computer activating the new database location.

At any time, an instructor can copy this instance of the database for remote administration. It is very easy to locate and store the database file on a floppy or CD disk. Locate and select the database file. Once the file is selected, select the menu option “Edit/Copy” to put the file into memory. Open the drive and paste the database to a disk. This database can be used off site on another computer system. The database file located on the school network, can be overwritten with the new database file.

At any time, a user attempting to use Your Math Buddy on a network and the system cannot locate the network database, a message box will display as shown in Figure 1-5 informing the user that the network database could not be found. The system will use the database located on the local workstation. When setting up Your Math Buddy on a network (LAN), do not remove the local area database for each workstation.

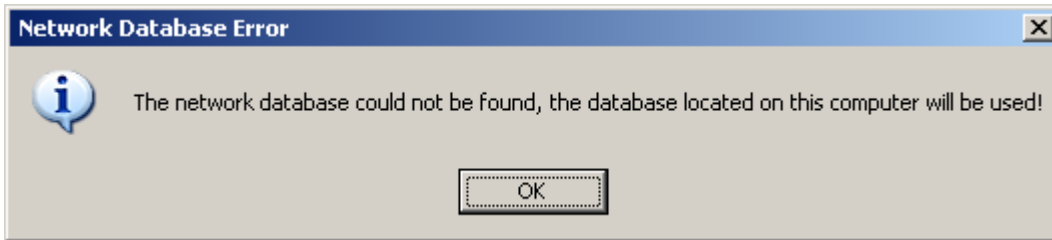


Figure 1-5