HINTS & TIPS

WHY AND HOW TO NETWORK YOUR PROJECTOR

Many projectors these days come with the feature to connect them into your computer local area or wireless network. Normally this feature is there to provide the capability to check the maintenance and status of your projector, but it also allows a level of desktop streaming via your network.

Many schools I meet with do not see the value of utilizing this feature. It is interesting to note that of those schools that have taken the plunge and setup their rooms in this way, how many have then appreciated the benefits and rarely install a room again without also getting the projector on the network.

Many projectors are promoted as wireless capable, that meaning you can connect directly to them without the need for cable. In our experience thus far, these features can be good, but are not presently a replacement for cables due to their limited effectiveness when you start to deal with full screen motion as in the case of watching video's or other animations.

The cable is still very much so a requirement for most installations. The other miss understanding here is how to best setup your projector onto the network. Although the projector might be wireless capable you don't want to have it such that the laptop connects directly.

" The optimum solution is to normally plug your projector into a physical network socket and then have the laptop authenticate through your normal wireless network and browse to the projector that way. " By using this approach you also allow the users to access the internet and other network resources that they would not see if they simply connected directly to the projector.

Increasingly projectors do not need any special software on the laptop for them to connect with the projector. Many can take advantage of the built in features under operating systems such as Windows 7. As users learn how to use these features it can allow the teacher to be mobile in terms of where they locate themselves in the classroom, they might

even be using a tablet PC to great effect with no wires to their projector.Increasingly projectors do not need any special software on the laptop for them to connect with the projector. Many can take advantage of the built in features under operating systems such as Windows 7. As users learn how to use these features it can allow the teacher to be mobile in terms of where they locate themselves in the classroom, they might even be using a tablet PC to great effect with no wires to their projector.

The people supporting the projectors can monitor the health of the units, predict maintenance problems and even check on the usage. Those in charge of allocating resources

to departments can be most interested in just how much use the projectors are getting as it helps them determine whether or not to put resources into areas later.

The other aspect of networking projectors which is likely to provide a benefit in the future is in respect of future signal connection. I believe it is increasingly likely that ultimately images for projectors or other display devices could be delivered via the network. With this in mind that connection serving the benefits it has now may also be your primary signal connection method in the future.

For audio visual systems consultation and advice please contact a D.I.B. Solutions Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.
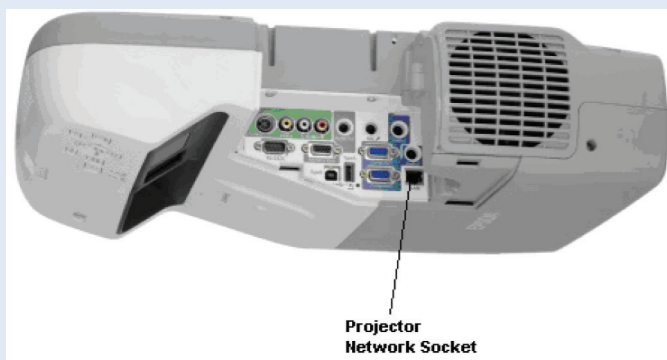

ABOVE: Having the projector connected to the network, users can access the internet and other network resources that they would not see if they simply connected directly to the projector

Projector Network Socket

INVITATION TO INSPECT A RANGE OF CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGIES

D.I.B Australia is pleased to invite you to inspect a range of classroom technologies at our interactive learning space.

- Epson EB455Wi Ultra-Short Throw Interactive Projector
- 2Touch 2.4m wide Touch Screen Interactive Whiteboard
- NEC Digital Signage
- RM E-Pads Interactive PC Tablets

- Epson ELP-IU01 USB Interactive Unit
- Epson ELP-DC11 High Resolution Document Camera
- Joey Micro Touch-Screen Control Panel
- RM Easy-teach Next Generation

- Education Software
- 2Touch Workbook & Wordwall Software Suite
- Wordwall pad student/teacher voting system

Call us today on (03) 9457 4800 or e-mail lgan@dibaustralia.com.au to arrange a time for an 18 – 30mins technology demonstration

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D.I.B AUSTRALIA
Audio Visual Systems

NEWSLETTER

Marian College Lead The Interactive Technology Revolution

Marian College, located in Sunshine West, is one of the seven Brigidine Secondary Schools located in Victoria and South Australia. Since opening in 1957, the college has always been determined to provide its 760 young women with the opportunity to develop fully as individuals as well as contributing and respectable members of the community.

Marian College prides itself in holding true to its central values expressed best through its Vision Statement. The College is continuously looking for new ways to establish the best possible learning and teaching environment by providing staff with the tools to be able to offer exemplary teaching practice.

After receiving some information regarding **"the new Epson EB-450Wi Interactive Projector – a cost saving, wide screen ultra short throw projector that can turn any wall into an interactive workspace"** – and wanting to keep up with the latest in classroom interactive technology, the Learning Technology Team approached DIB (An Epson Premium Dealer) to learn more.

Having one of the first of the EB-450Wi projectors already installed at D.I.B's Demonstration room, DIB invited members of the Learning Technology Team to come in and trial this new technology for themselves
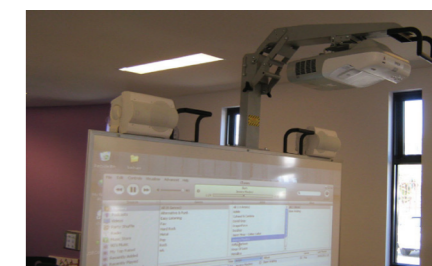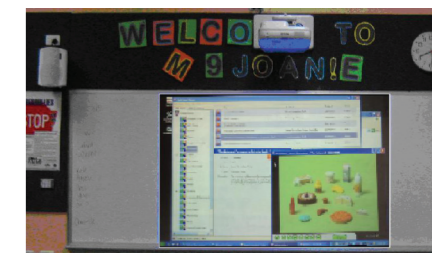
and see how it compared to their existing interactive whiteboard and projector set-up.

The Learning Technology Team where impressed with the instant response rate and elimination of calibration drift which had been a common issue in the past. Also being able to install the projector straight onto their existing whiteboards meant that nothing had to be moved or altered in the classrooms prior to install and teachers would not have to worry about losing their whiteboard space. Finally by choosing to install a Joey control panel which simplifies the operation of the whole system with its easy-touch buttons, teachers at Marian College never have to worry about misplacing remote controls again.

The College initially installed the Epson EB-455Wi Interactive Projector system into three of their classrooms in November last year along with one portable system on a Gilkon FreeFrame.

Marian Collegehave now installed a further eight interactive projector systems into their classrooms and are looking forward to their training sessions provided by DIB at the beginning of term 2, were they will learn how to best utilise this revolutionary new technology to facilitate the learning and teaching process.

For more information on interactive projectors please contact a D.I.B Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

TOP: The Epson EB-450Wi Interactive Projector Install
ABOVE: The Epson EB-455Wi Interactive Projector system installed on the Gilkon Freeframe

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John Fawkner College - Teacher Review System

TOP: Wall mounted plate to enable teachers to plug their own USB
ABOVE: Classroom self review recording system with locking system

John Fawkner College located in the Northern Metropolitan region is a college on a mission. As part of "Project Excellence" an initiative developed and supported by DEECD and NMR aimed at lifting the standards and outcomes the school has undergone a transformation. Reopening in 2010 with a new name, high percentage of new staff and a clear vision the college has embarked on a raft of changes and improvements.

In order to achieve the objectives the college established a mantra that in order to lift student standards teachers must constantly reflect on their practices. To support the development of this professional culture Principal Gus Napoli contacted DIB in the possible use of technology to assist teachers in self assessment of their teaching. Gus's ideas were clear from the outset. He wanted a system which enabled teachers to self review their role in the classroom and how their actions and methods were helping them achieve their learning outcomes and/or how they could improve them.

Gus is supportive of the triad model of peer review whereby a teacher has the company of two teachers for review and professional development purposes. However the

downside is that this is resource intensive and in many schools these resources are hard to come by.

When Gus contacted DIB he was looking for a technical solution to reduce the reliance upon teacher resources. Through consultation with DIB Solutions Consultant, Sam Garden, a unique classroom recording system was developed.

" Pivotal to the system was the exclusive ability for the teacher to control the recording. Gus was adamant this was not to be a recording system for critical review by others, but a self reflection and evaluation system."

In order to achieve this aim a system was designed which featured a simple USB slot at the front of the room. The one and only method of recording the lesson was to insert a standard USB memory stick. When the recording was started and stopped the recorded lesson complete with video and audio was then only available as a video file on the teacher's own USB memory stick. In order to achieve this aim a system was designed which featured a simple USB slot at the front of the room. The one and only method of recording the lesson was to insert a standard USB memory stick. When the recording was started and

stopped the recorded lesson complete with video and audio was then only available as a video file on the teacher's own USB memory stick.

From there the teacher is able to review it on their own computer at their own pace. They can delete it or share it with others - but it is within the teacher's control only. Essential to the system was that it be discrete with high quality recorded audio. To this end DIB installed sensitive and discrete tiny microphones mounted above the teachers and students on the ceiling. This audio is recorded with the video from a specially located camera at the rear of the room. The camera is designed to capture the students and their body language and interaction with the class as well as the audio.

The simplicity and quality of the system has assisted Gus in his decision to include it as a part of every teacher's performance plan and self review process. With the Teacher Self Review system in place it's just another step in John Fawkner College's process of significant reflection and self improvement all with the objective of improving student outcomes.

For more information on teacher review systems please contact a D.I.B Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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LILYDALE HIGH SCHOOL – NEW IDEAS WITH THE LEARNING CENTRE

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Lilydale High School first opened in 1919 and has always had a tradition of providing excellent educational programs for Secondary students 7-12.

92 years on and Lilydale High has continued to encourage the highest standard of achievement by keeping up with the latest in educational technology.

After learning about the new Epson Interactive Projector and wanting to explore ways to better engage students, the ICT team at Lilydale High School approached D.I.B to see how this could best suit their large "Learning Centre" space which can be opened up into one large area or sectioned into 3 separate classrooms.

The ICT team and D.I.B came up with a unique idea which involved an Epson Interactive Projector system to be installed into the centre classroom along two large 55" LCD displays to be mounted in each of the adjoining rooms.

This means that **"when the room is opened up for special occasions such as information evenings, the LCD screens are set-up to be able to display whatever is being shown through the projector"**, therefore providing a visual for anyone standing anywhere in the rooms. However if the LCD's and Interactive Projector are required to all be displaying different things at once, a teacher simply has to plug their laptop into a conveniently located VGA input at their desk and the LCD will automatically switch over.

As well as being an extremely neat and professional looking installation, this solution has been a fantastic way to utilize the Learning Centre space and will no doubt be getting a lot of use from teachers and students.

The staff members at Lilydale have just completed their first PD session with one of DIB's Solutions Consultants, Gabi, and are all very keen to begin using their new Interactive Projector and LCD system.

DIB Australia and Lilydale High School look forward to working together in the near future to keep this driven and distinctive school ahead with the latest in educational technology.

For more information on how D.I.B Australia can assist you with the design and installation of audio visual solutions for your learning centre please contact a D.I.B Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

1: The learning centre at Lilydale High School
2: The projected image has been shown on the 55" LCD displays
3: An 55" LCD display panel has been installed in the room adjoining the learning centre to the left
4: The 55" LCD display panel in the room adjoining the learning centre to the right
5: The EPSON EB455Wi projector has been with intergrated wall mount.

Discover a simple way to create an engaging lesson with Easiteach Next Generation!

RM Education has recently launched the latest classroom software suite, RM Easiteach Next Generation (NG), the latest whiteboard software application designed for creating motivational and engaging lessons in the classroom. It is now easy for both teachers and students to create multi-modal activities that can include animation, video, sound, text and Flash files all on one page with Easiteach NG.

Easiteach NG has added on a number of features to allow you to work quickly and efficiently in creating whole-class teaching activities to fit with your class learning objectives. Two key features that have been regarded as quite remarkable are the toolbar feature and the widget bank.

The toolbars within Easiteach NG have been designed to make the functions you want easier to find and aid cross-curricular use. Widget bank gives you access to a range of mini-applications that allows you to add extra tools such as calculator, clock, periodic table, word builder cards and much more. There are currently 20+ widgets available in the bank with more to be added with each new release!

Easiteach NG allows for existing lessons to be adapted from Excel, Word, Powerpoint and video files. If you don't have existing lessons, Easiteach NG have made it even easier by including pre-designed content packs covering a range of subjects such as Maths, English and Science. Extra downloadable materials and free upgrades can also be found on the company's new resource site, RM Easilearn, recently launched to coincide with the release of Easiteach NG.

The new Easiteach NG has broadened its practical feasibility beyond the windows based systems so now the Mac users can also enjoy the benefits of this fantastic software. It is also a single platform software which can integrate with any interactive whiteboard, student voting system and other classroom technologies.

For further information on the Easiteach please contact a D.I.B Solutions Consultant on (03) 9457 4800