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NEWSLETTER

DIB AUSTRALIA

Voice, Video & Data Cabling

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THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

KISMET PARK DESTINED FOR BRIGHT FUTURE

Kismet Park is the latest in a list of primary schools to take advantage of multimedia classroom technology. Traditionally projectors have only been installed in halls around primary schools, but this is changing. Using an existing projector, DIB created a digital presentation area in their library which has incorporated their existing computer facilities. Working closely with Kismet Park though the entire process, DIB was able to design and install a specialised system, which now allows children using the computers to see exactly what actions are being performed on the teachers screen. Without having to crowd around one screen, it increases the amount of time the students have at their computers, and assists the teachers to make sure every student has an excellent view.

A large screen was also installed in the hall, allowing the staff to move a portable projector in, and display it onto a higher quality surface than the traditional fold away screens. This screen was also designed specifically for projectors, and is 4:3 ratio, the same as a computer monitor. No longer will there be empty screen at the top and bottom of the image. Kismet Park PS is an example of primary schools embracing the multimedia classroom.

DIB'S NEW SERVICE CLUSTERS

Data projectors are one of the most frequently used, yet often neglected pieces of equipment in the Audio Visual range. Some AV Managers have known they need to be regularly serviced in order to prolong their lifespan, but up until now it has been prohibitively expensive to service multiple units.

In order to overcome this, DIB have created new service clusters, designed to lower the cost of this important service. A service cluster places the school in a zone or "cluster" with other schools in the area. On a specified date, this allows a technician to drive around to all the schools in this area, and service all projectors without wasting a lot of time travelling from site to site. The result is a much more efficient service, which means the savings are passed on directly to the school. The new process is so efficient that in some cases schools would only need a quarter of their original maintenance budget.

Service can be made to portable or mounted projectors. Schools with 10 or more projectors can create their own cluster, combining great savings with the flexibility of choosing a day for the technician to visit. To find out more about this opportunity, contact a DIB solutions consultant today.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

DLP VS. LCD PROJECTORS

DLP Projector

LCD Projector

At DIB we often get asked the question "Which is the better projector, DLP or LCD?" The answer to that is it depends on you requirements. The first thing to establish is how they work.

"LCD (liquid crystal display) projectors usually contain three separate LCD glass panels, one each for red, green, and blue components of the image signal being fed into the projector. As light passes through the LCD panels, individual pixels ("picture elements") can be opened to allow light to pass or closed to block the light, as if each little pixel were fitted with a Venetian blind. This activity modulates the light and produces the image that is projected onto the screen.

DLP ("Digital Light Processing") is a proprietary technology developed by Texas Instruments.

It works quite differently than LCD. Instead of having glass panels through which light is passed, the DLP chip is a reflective surface made up of thousands of tiny mirrors. Each mirror represents a single pixel."[1]

In a DLP projector, light from the projector's lamp is directed onto the surface of the DLP chip. The mirrors wobble back and forth, directing light either into the lens path to turn the pixel on, or away from the lens path to turn it off. In very expensive DLP projectors, there are three separate DLP chips, one each for the red, green, and blue channels. However, in projectors designed for the boardroom/classroom, there is only one chip. In order to define color, there is a color wheel that consists of red, green, blue, and sometimes white (clear) filters. This wheel spins between the lamp and the DLP chip and alternates the color of the light hitting the chip from red to green to blue. The mirrors tilt away from or into the lens path based upon how much of each color is required for each pixel at any given moment in time. This activity modulates the light and produces the image that is projected onto the screen.

So which is better? Through the use of the mirror technology, excellent contrast ratio often makes DLP a better choice for video. This is not as significant with computer presentations where LCD can provider sharper, brighter images. DLP is often considered more effective in positions where the projector will be operated for long periods of time. It basically comes down to an onsite review of your requirements and applications, but the gap is narrowing between both.

[1] Technical details in regards to DLP and LCD referenced from Projector Central

PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

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FEATURE STORY

DERRIMUT HOTEL UPGRADES TELEVISION AND AUDIO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Recently, DIB had the opportunity to design and install a new television distribution system at the Derrimut Hotel. They were in the process of planning a full renovation of the hotel to bring it up to a first-rate modern standard. Having already helped the client with work in the past, we were invited to assist with this upgrade. Our consultation began with the client before the renovation had even started.

As well as a new television distribution system, a background music and audio control system was also in the design. As this was a brand new installation, complete cabling schematics and layouts had to be planned. The installation had to be planned so the old system could work while the new system was being implemented, so there was no disruption of services for the patrons. As a result of our close consultation and design with the client, the Derrimut Hotel now has a formidable video and sound system throughout their establishment.

The video system can offer a range of television channels, from the free-to-air to FOXTEL and satellite channels. Being a bonus, it is also digital TV ready. The audio system is such that the hotel has been separated into 6 different audio zones (e.g. Main Bar, TAB, Bistro etc). Controlled by touch panel you can select between audio sources - CD, Microphone, Radio Tuner, or TV sound - for each zone or all zones. For example in the Main Bar you could have the Plasma TV sound piped through the speakers at a certain volume and simultaneously in the Bistro you could have the CD sound at a different volume. Also when paging a message, you can select which zone you want to page to, or you can page all zones at once, which proves a very useful feature.

top left: Microphone station for paging.
top middle: Plasma televisions were installed in the main bar
above: Paging system base
left: The easy to use wall panel

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