ISSUE 39

D.I.B AUSTRALIA
Audio Visual Systems

NEWSLETTER

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CAULFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL – A MEETING SPACE BEYOND COMPARE

Caulfield Grammar School is an inclusive learning provider based in East St. Kilda. The school's been serving its community for over 100 years and has been at its current site for 101 years. It offers state of the art facilities for students in years 7 through to 12.

To support teaching that is truly relevant to the world of today, they have built strong links with Nanjing, China to ensure that 300 Year 9 students get to take part in activities on the mainland.

In keeping with their commitment to delivering excellence in education, the school recently redeveloped their administrative building. In the heart of this lies a modern space for meetings and video conferencing. This led to the school deciding to open up this space for more effective meetings with projection and audio visual technology.

Meeting room space at Caulfield Grammar School

The job was not entirely straightforward. In keeping with the building's usage, it was necessary to maintain the style and appearance of the room, whilst providing an AV solution that could "disappear" when not in use. In particular there was a focus on keeping wires to a minimum so that the floor space wasn't encumbered by a maze of cables. Desks were also to be kept free of cabling so that there was no sign of wiring dangling from them.

One especially challenging problem was that in order to store the AV system the cabinets needed to be able to fold out into the room. However, that meant the doors were in danger of damaging the screen when it was in position for projection. The cabinet was constructed with sensors that prevent the doors from being opened when the screen is in place. The screen was also recessed to offer optimal placement.

The school chose to go with the Epson EB-G5450WU and this was supported on a lift mechanism that allows it to be withdrawn into the ceiling so it remains unobtrusive when not in use. It has an added benefit that it also keeps the unit secure so that it remains at much less risk of damage or theft when the building is not staffed. The room also has quite a bit of ambient light but this problem was resolved by the projector's power. The projector is fully HD compliant so that if and when the school upgrades to HD Video Cameras, it will be able to support that use.

There's a central control system that allows for the easy integration of a variety of input methods, and importantly it supports the wireless integration of iPads so that it's easy for staff to get working quickly and deliver presentations without technical fuss.

The Epson EB-G5450WU supported on a lift mechanism

The Bose sound system makes it easy for someone to be heard throughout the environment and to supplement their talks with audio clips.

Importantly the whole system was able to support the existing Video Conferencing solution from Tandberg, to keep additional costs at a minimum.

Overall, Caulfield Grammar School has a system that makes meetings simple to conduct, and for people to see and hear exactly what they should. When it's not in use the room is easy to use for any other purpose as the equipment remains hidden and secure.

For more information on Audio Visual equipment for meeting rooms please contact a DIB Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

KOONUNG SECONDARY COLLEGE - INTERACTIVE PROJECTORS

Koonung is a modern college dedicated to excellence in education and has a diverse student body. There is a strong commitment to providing high value digital learning through the college's programs.

The college had used interactive whiteboards in the past and found that they weren't getting the level of interaction from the tools that they had anticipated. So when they decided to develop their projection capacity throughout the college they initially wanted to examine options for non-interactive projectors. It was clear that this might not be the best value for their budget.

An Epson EB-485 WI interactive projector was taken out to the college for a demo session. This allowed the college to get a feel for the benefits of interactivity via projection as well as being able to set the equipment up to function in the same way as their existing whiteboards thus eliminating any learning curve for teaching staff. These projectors are only slightly more expensive than their non-interactive counterparts and thus the college could get the maximum value for its spend. In fact in most cases the projector is set up to project onto the existing interactive whiteboards so there was no need to change the set-up of any of the rooms.

One thing Koonung wanted to achieve during the exercise was to future proof their investment and make sure that as additional technologies become more cost effective they can be easily integrated within the environment without additional costs. This meant that each room was provided with HDMI cabling for when the college makes the move to high definition solutions.

The Epson EB-485 WI projected onto an existing whiteboard

The Epson EB-485 WI projected onto an existing whiteboard

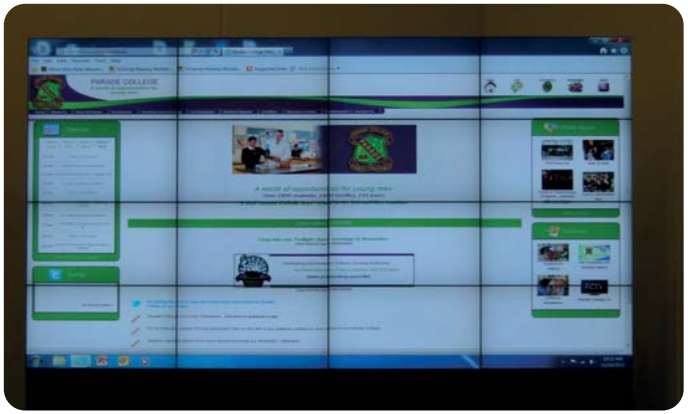
The college felt that in order to support their 1 to 1 e-learning commitments that staff and students needed to be able to access reliable, high-quality multimedia facilities in every room in the college. This was to meet the needs of "anytime, anywhere" ICT delivery. The solution had to be sustainable and efficient and needed to minimize the use of cables, remotes, etc. to keep it orderly.

The final solution met these needs by ensuring that every room had a projector; that older, unreliable equipment was fully replaced and that a four-year maintenance and replacement cycle was developed to ensure that budgetary requirements can be planned years in advance.

The school really likes the Epson EB-485 WI interactive projectors. The projection is bright enough to be used in a fully lit teaching space. The wall mounted control systems have eliminated the problem of lost and damaged remote controls. They were also happy that DIB could work with their preferred finance broker to allow for leasing terms that kept the financial elements of the project on track.

For more information on the EPSON EB-485 WI interactive projector please contact a DIB Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

Also Inside This Issue ...



The Video Wall in 4x4 format

The Video Wall in 4x4 format being used in a college assembly

Parade College – Video Wall

Parade College is a Catholic Boys' School with a reputation for excellence. The college has been serving the community for over a hundred years with the focus of its educational program having always been the development of young boys into valuable members of society through intellectual and physical education.

They have a large multi-purpose basketball stadium that they use for large school meetings including assemblies. The school uses a sizeable double basketball court area and brings together all of its students on a regular basis for assemblies. The space is beautiful with plenty of skylights for natural light to fill it in a warm and welcoming manner. **One of the key design requirements of their project was that they needed projection facilities which could be used in an environment filled with that bright natural light.**

The nature of the room also meant that they needed projection facilities in several parts of the court as well as being able to move these screens so that they wouldn't impair physical activities in the space. It also needed to be a very simple setup that the school could use easily without dedicating a full-time audio-video specialist to monitoring the equipment when it was in use. Of course, there was also a focus on value for money and keeping the costs within the school's budget.

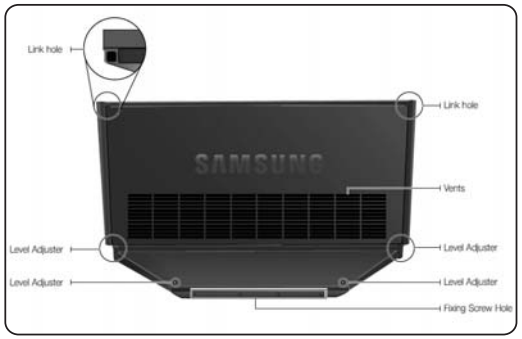
The initial focus was on finding projectors to do the job but it quickly became apparent that projectors weren't going to be the right solution for the budget and the space. Projection equipment would struggle to remain visible in the brightness of the basketball court and would be greatly more expensive than a better alternative – the video wall.

The video wall meant that by breaking down the image into separate parts we could create a very large image at a much lower outlay than using a single screen. The video wall would break down into component parts (rather like a lego set) to be used to construct smaller screens if necessary (the 4 x 4 wall will break down into 3 sets of 2 x 2 to be used in different locations in the basketball court). In the end the screen offers a 184" diagonal space with more than 5,000 pixels of horizontal resolution – offering unbelievably good picture quality that can be seen from anywhere within the room.

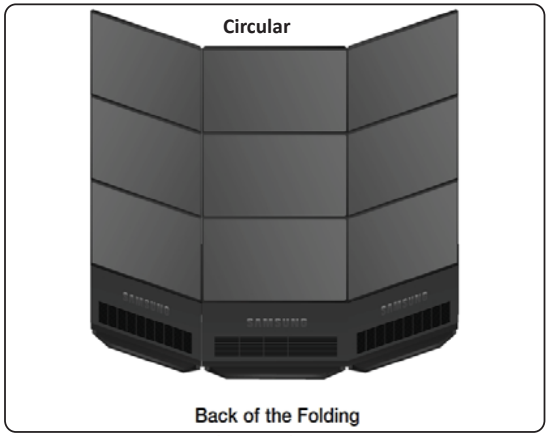
The equipment was a mixture of Samsung Matrix ID video wall panels (including some clever use of dummy panels and floor stands to ensure that it is kept at the right height) and an integrated Kramer VP-728 presentation scaler to allow for a single input device and to keep image transitions crystal clear.

The school is amazed at the quality of the picture; they feel that the size of the final image is so good that any one of their 2,000 students and staff can clearly see what's going on – no matter where they are sitting in the assembly.

For more information on video walls please contact a DIB Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.



Samsung 460UX floor stand



Alternate 3x3 layout

CommBox Interactive LED Touchscreens

CommBox has done it again with its new Interactive LED touchscreens.

The CommBox Interactive LED touchscreens are now large enough for use in the classroom and affordable enough to replace projectors and Interactive Whiteboards.

The CommBox screens allow users to connect devices such as laptops, PCs, Apple TVs and more and then use them just like you would an interactive Whiteboard. The difference is that the LED display screen is built-in rather than being projected - just like a large iPad.

The advantages of a CommBox Interactive LED touchscreen over traditional Interactive Whiteboard and projector set ups are:

- Higher Definition (True HD)
- Brighter
- No shadowing
- No replacement lamps
- Less energy usage
- Lower installation cost
- More aesthetically pleasing

Up to 10 users can touch and control whatever application or software you are displaying on the screen at once. Users can use their fingers, stylus or even standard whiteboard markers if they wish.

CommBox use the latest Samsung commercial LED panels along with camera touch technology, 4mm toughened non-glare glass and an anodised aluminium frame. Standard colours are black, silver and gold, yet can be produced in any colour if colour matching for room requirements is needed.

The use of LED vs LCD means that screens are thinner, lighter, use less energy and most important – are lower cost to manufacture.

The screens come in 3 sizes, 60", 72" and 85". The 85" is over 2m wide and can certainly be described as 'impressive'. The CommBox panels are thin, super bright, display both text and video crystal clear and vibrantly and are aesthetically pleasing enough to be installed in any boardroom as well as classrooms.

Best of all, the new CommBox Interactive LED Touchscreens integrate seamlessly with Joey Smart Classroom Control Panels so that CommBox Touchscreens become even simpler to operate and control.

For more information on the Commbox Interactive LED Touchscreens please contact a DIB Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

HINTS & TIPS

CAN'T GET YOUR NEW EB-485 WI TO WORK INTERACTIVELY?

Here at DIB we're big fans of the EPSON range of products including the EB-485 WI; however there is a common trip hazard for new users when it comes to getting it to work interactively.

Many users get the unit installed just fine, they run their VGA cable and maybe an audio cable and they run the USB cable ready to plug into their PC to get the interactivity happening…. Things are all good.

However the problems can start when/if they install or plug in the projector with more than one computer signal input. By this we mean, say you installed the unit with both VGA inputs cabled to different computers or input plates. Or maybe you installed a VGA and audio and then a HDMI ready for those new laptops that don't sport their VGA connector.

The issue is that with the current EB-485 WI series of interactive projectors, you must set within the projector menu which of the three possible (Computer 1, Computer 2 and HDMI) computer inputs will be used with the computer interactivity. By this we mean you must select which input you will plug you PC or MAC into that you intend to then drive using the projectors interactive pen.

So if you leave it as the default setup it will be set to Computer 1 (VGA 1). If you then plug your PC into Computer 2 (VGA 2) or the HDMI and you plug the USB and grab a pen and leap into interactive action you may be surprised to find you have no mouse and no interactivity. The answer per the above will be to adjust which input is your interactive input and or plug your computer into the input which is.

We hope this helps as you will not be the first person to be caught out by this little setup nuance.

For help with setting up an interactive projector space, please contact a DIB Solution Consultant on (03) 9457 4800.

Introducing The interactiveprojectors.com.au Website

We would like to introduce interactiveprojectors.com.au, a website full of information, tips and advice on everything relating to Interactive Projectors and how you can get the best use out of them. We regularly update the website with posts on the latest technology options and trends that we have observed in the interactive projectors space.

So log onto www.interactiveprojectors.com.au and see how you can get the most out of your interactive projectors.

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