



Presentation Tools Quarterly

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Interactive Whiteboards: An Intelligent Decision

Interactive whiteboard technology allows a teacher or presenter to develop and deliver a computer-generated lesson that effectively stimulates student or audience collaboration, which in turn increases retention. Interactive whiteboards connect easily to a PC and an LCD projector, creating a large interactive projection screen that becomes the control center for the presentation and the focal point for the class. Interactive whiteboards produce a “wow factor” that is hard to dispute. In time, perhaps all classrooms will employ this dynamic curriculum delivery mechanism. Here is what you need to know to make an intelligent whiteboard purchasing decision.

Where do I begin?

As with any important purchasing decision, you should research the different interactive whiteboard technologies currently available. There are three principal competing technologies in existence, represented by a variety of manufacturers and resellers. Trade shows offer the most cost-effective way to view the available products.

What are the most important features of interactive whiteboards?

Interactive whiteboards should be evaluated on the basis of both the physical hardware and the software components.

HARDWARE

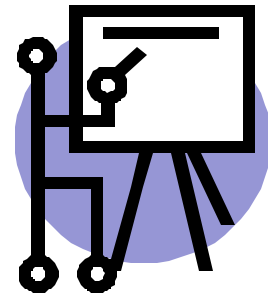
- **Make sure the surface material is durable and stable.** Can the surface be easily scratched or damaged? Is it susceptible to temperature and humidity fluctuations? Will the product function if the surface material is damaged?
- **Look carefully at the image quality of the screen.** Glare or hot spots are very distracting and hard on the eyes. Matte finishes will produce the best image.
- **Can you use dry erase markers on the surface material?** As long as dry erase markers are part of a classroom, students will write on a whiteboard surface without thinking. Make sure the surface is erasable.
- **What is the warranty period and what does the warranty cover?** The total cost of the product includes the warranty period and the terms and conditions. Of course, the longer the warranty period the better, and

don't forget to ask about shipping costs.

SOFTWARE

- **The user interface should be easy to understand and use.** If you can use the product in an intuitive manner rather than spending hours with a manual, the product has a reasonable user interface. Examine the toolbars and menus for clarity and logic.
- **Is there a virtual whiteboard function?** If you takes notes, you will want to ability to easily switch from the Windows or Mac environment to one that permits drawings and notations. The notes should be saved automatically so they may be retrieved and distributed electronically or printed locally.
- **A right mouse-click function is essential.** Windows programs demand the ability to access a right mouse-click so you may access pull-down menus and toolbars. Right mouse access should be natural and easy.
- **Setup should be easy and recalibration fast.** The initial setup of the interactive whiteboard

[Continued on Page 3](#)



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| DPA 1000: Simple & Easy | 2 |
| IPM Version 6.5 | 2 |
| Advantages of the MM Pen | 3 |
| Free IPM Web Training | 3 |
| User testimonials | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- DPA 1000—The simple interactive whiteboard
- IPM Version 6.5—new software release
- MM Pen— the advantages of one multi-media pen
- Free web-based training for IPM Windows OS users

DPA 1000

Ideal for the user who wants a cost-effective, simplistic interactive whiteboard with room to grow.

The DPA 1000: As simple as 1-2-3...

Are you new to the world of interactive whiteboards? Do you want a simple and easy-to-use product that isn't overly complicated with features? The DPA 1000 is your answer!

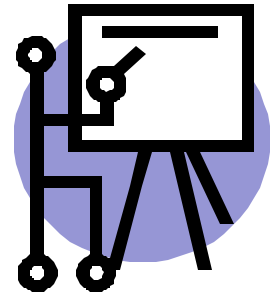
The DPA 1000 is a cost effective interactive whiteboard that is as easy as 1-2-3. This new addition to the Interactive Products Division is a 62" diagonal board with 14 Softkeys. These 14 Softkeys are pre-defined, making it an

intuitive and easy product to learn. Helpful and fun Presentation Tools like the Annotation Pen, the Eraser, Reveal Screen, and Spotlight are available at the touch of a Softkey.

Once the user becomes comfortable with their DPA 1000 and wishes to have greater flexibility and functionality, two software upgrades are available (depending on the desired level of complexity). Consult with your sales repre-

sentative to determine which software version will best suit your needs.

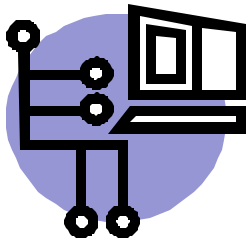
At the Suggested Retail Price of \$1395, the DPA 1000 is ideal for the Windows-based user who wants a cost-effective, simplistic interactive whiteboard with room to grow.



Having Technical Support Issues?

Call our Tech Support Hotline for **FREE** at 800-523-6716

IPM Version 6.5 Software—Coming Soon!



Coming soon...

IPM Version 6.5

The latest IPM software version 6.5 will be released on June 1, 2002. Lots of hot new features have been added to Virtual WhiteBoard (VWB).

Virtual WhiteBoard has been enhanced to include drawing tools, the importation of bitmap images, a cut and paste function, and a new preset background called "Music Sheet."

Users will be able to create straight lines, rectangles and circles with the help of the new drawing tools. Each of

these shapes can be drawn in the color of choice.

With the new software release, it will be possible to import any Bitmap image into VWB. Also, a "Select" tool will make it possible to choose an area of the VWB page so it may be Cut or Copied and then Pasted to a different area or new page.

Music Sheet is the latest addition to the family of preset backgrounds. Music teachers will soon be able to conduct lessons with the pre-defined background of three

staffs.

If your IPM board currently has 20 Softkeys, you may download IPM 6.5 from the Numonics website after June 1, 2002 at www.numonics.com/drivers.htm

If your IPM board has 10 Softkeys, contact the Numonics Sales department at sales@numonics.com or 215-362-2766 to receive your FREE upgrade kit.*

*To receive a free upgrade kit, you must sign-up for a FREE web training class.

Come see us at a trade show near you!

[Click here](#) to see if we will be exhibiting in your town.

Little facts about the Multi-Media Pen

Did you know that the Numonics Multi-Media Pen (MM Pen), which is used with both the IPM and DPA products, is essentially a desktop mouse?

The MM Pen has both left and right mouse buttons. The tip of the pen functions as the left mouse and the red side button functions as the right mouse. These two buttons allow the user to always have complete control of their computer.

This ONE MM Pen allows the user to perform single or double left mouse clicks, as well as right mouse clicks. This ONE MM Pen also serves as your annotation pen. Pen colors are determined by the software, so the user holds the same pen in their hand at all times.

The MM Pen has a rechargeable battery embedded in the casing. Since the battery is rechargeable, you will never

need to replace it! Charging the MM Pen overnight will provide the user with 8-hours of constant use. A two minute "quick charge" will supply enough power for 45-minutes of constant use. And it is possible to leave the MM Pen tethered to the 100" recharge cable during use.

The most important fact to remember about the MM Pen is that it has a 4-Year Warranty!



Free IPM web-based training for Windows users

Since June 2001, Numonics has offered FREE weekly training via the Internet. The new schedule for the second half of 2002 has been developed and is now available.

The training sessions run approximately 45 minutes long and cover topics like the basic operation of the board, using the Multi-Media Pen, the Virtual WhiteBoard (VWB) software, the Softkey Editor

and Presentation Tools.

Sign-up today to take advantage of the FREE training. Email or call Julie Morgen at juliem@numonics.com or 215-362-2766 to register.

Become proficient with your IPM today! Sign-up for a FREE web-based lesson. All you need is your computer and a phone!

(Continued from Page 1) Interactive Whiteboards: An Intelligent Decision

requires mapping the screen to the computer, called *calibration*. If the projector or interactive whiteboard are moved during a presentation, the calibration function must be repeated. The calibration function should be available regardless of what programs are actively running and it should be fast and easy.

What about licensing requirements? Many vendors price

their product according to the license you purchase, thereby restricting the use of the product and driving up the acquisition cost. However, some vendors provide their product without license restrictions and no additional fees. The major benefit of no licensing requirements is that software can be shared by everyone.

How do I get trained and stay current with the product?

While on-site training is the

most desirable method, it is also the most expensive. Some companies offer on-site training and web-based training for free. Good user manuals, tutorials and online help files are a good standby as well.

The final test should be made in person to insure that you are comfortable with the total product. In this case, the old adage is really true: Try it before you buy it!

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"The Interactive Whiteboard People"

We're on the Web!

www.interactivewhiteboards.com

User Testimonials

Mahopac School District is a prestigious Blue Ribbon K12 public school district located about 40 miles north of New York City. The district has recently won the Pioneer Award for Innovation in Educational Technology from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (which represents over 75 districts in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties) for its excellence in utilizing technology in the classroom. The 18 IPM boards are scattered in every building but are used heavily in the high school science department. "The ability for a teacher to stand in the front of the classroom maintaining control while providing exciting interactive information is a strong plus. Additionally, many teachers like to provide students with printed notes or have the capability to send their notes to students via email. This can be accomplished quickly and easily with the IPM.

"Some teachers are even experimenting with presenting and annotating digital video content to further excite and motivate students," says Don Beverly, Director of Information Tech-

nologies for the district. "We are excited about using our IPMs and look forward to upcoming new capabilities which will increase the value and benefit to our school district."

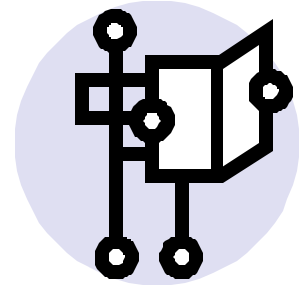
Cranford Public Schools is a K-12 suburban community school district located in Central New Jersey. The school district first implemented the Interactive Presentation Manager (IPM) as a distance-learning tool for part of the state's [Pairing and Sharing](#) videoconferencing grant, Round 1, 2000-2001. Two Numonics' boards were placed in each of the district's eighth grade social studies classes and the district has since grown to 16 IPMs.

Teachers have found some interesting uses for the IPMs, which include student PowerPoint presentations, showing and discussing Internet sites and displaying notes and interactive CDs.

According to Joanne Mullane, Supervisor of Technology, teachers

Numonics Corporation is located in Montgomeryville, PA, just outside of Philadelphia. We have been manufacturing computer peripheral equipment for over 30 years. In 1994, the Interactive Products Division of our company was formed and we entered the presentation graphics and education markets with an innovative product designed to revolutionize interactive computer generated presentations.

Numonics products are available through an international network of systems integrators, OEMs, resellers and distributors throughout the United States, North and South America, Europe, Africa and the Far East. European sales are supported by a full range of capabilities from offices in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.



have stated that the benefits of the IPMs are "...when it is connected to the video microscope, the IPM allows students to better visualize and understand what they should be observing in their own scopes..." Or "...the different colored pens, highlighters, and graph paper backgrounds have made the pre-algebra concepts of graphing linear equations something students can do with ease."

"Students seem to gain a clearer explanation of the material they are being taught. Our IPMs are valuable teaching tools. No one wants to go back to just using the old blackboard now, especially since the IPM offers a blackboard background in the Virtual WhiteBoard software."

To submit your comments, email Sandi Plosa at numonics@numonics.com

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-Joanne Mullane, Supervisor of Technology, Cranford Public Schools