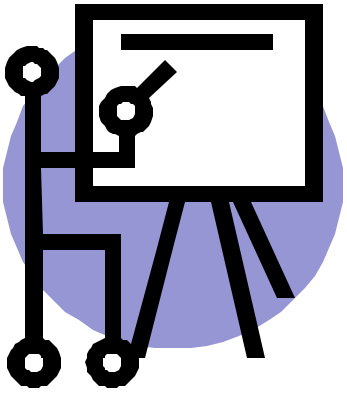
Interactive Products Division – Numonics Corporation

Presentation Tools Quarterly

Volume 1, Issue 4 December 20, 2002



Seeing the Benefits of Interactive Whiteboards

In the early 1990s, interactive whiteboards (iwbs) were introduced as the "new" technology for classrooms. They were expected to replace the traditional blackboard or dry erase boards. Nearly ten years later however, interactive whiteboards are still treated as the "new" technology for classrooms; they are not yet a mainstream. Iwbs are a fascinating tool that can truly enhance classroom learning, but they are only beneficial when teachers incorporate the technology into their curriculum.

Interactive whiteboards can positively alter the positioning and set-up of a classroom. When a classroom has all the elements for this interactive solution (meaning a computer, LCD or DLP projector and an interactive whiteboard), a teacher is able to stay in front of the classroom and maintain a greater amount of eye contact with their students. Students have one location on which to focus, instead of being distracted by multiple focal points, thereby increasing their attention rate. Teachers are able to interact directly with information in front of their students, which can positively influence their retention rate. When a student can follow a teachers hand and view exactly what is happening on the screen, that student will have an easier time of remembering the information, or at least where to locate the topic at a later date.

Interactive whiteboards help to create an interactive learning environment, where the learner is an active not a passive participant. Students have the opportunity to become much more engaged in lesson plans that involve iwbs. For example, in a science class that is researching weather patterns, the teacher can call up the day's weather map via www.weather.com. Students can then take turns coming to the board to draw the predicted high and low pressure system patterns for the next day. All the drawings can be saved and reviewed for accuracy the following day. Also, if a student was absent due to illness, the notes from the day may be saved and emailed to him or her. This way, the child will be able to catch up with the rest of his or her classmates more quickly.

The benefits of interactive whiteboards appear to be limited only by the ingenuity and creativity of the user. They help to stimulate and motivate learning. They keep the teacher in front of the class so they may maintain contact with and control over their students. And iwbs add a new level of interaction to the classroom.

Despite these obvious features, instructors have been slow to integrate this

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Special points of interest:

- The Benefits of Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom
- New USB upgrade solution for IPM Users (Windows & Mac)
- New Height Adjustable Stand for the IPM and DPA

FYI:

The IPD stand color has been changed to black to compliment the new IPM charcoal color!

USB Upgrade Solution for IPM Products

Numonics has announced a USB upgrade solution for IPM users who wish to switch from RS-232 connections. The solution is available to those using Windows and Macintosh operating systems. The Windows version requires unique factory-installed firmware, dependent upon the model number and lines per inch resolution, and it supports Windows 98SE up to Windows XP. The Mac version supports Mac 9.x operating systems and includes a CD with the USB drivers and the Mac-based software for the IPM product. The upgrade kits have an SRP of $95.00.

Safety Locking Brackets for Mobile Stands

A new safety feature has been added to prevent boards from falling off their hinges when being lifted or moved from one classroom or conference room to another. Safety-locking brackets now comes standard with each IPD stand. However, for stands purchased prior to the addition of these locking devices, retrofit brackets are available. The SRP is $29.95.

Come see us at a trade show near you!

Click here to see if we will be exhibiting in your town.

Software Engineering has created maintenance releases for the IPM, DPA and the Presentation Pro. IPM 6.6; DPA 1.1 and Presentation Pro 1.1 are now available as free downloads from the Numonics web site at the following:

www.numonics.com/support/drivers.htm

Adjustable Stand for IPM & DPA: The Height of Innovation

The Interactive Product Division of Numonics Corporation announces the availability of adjustable mobile stands for the IPM and DPA product lines (1000 and 2000 series). The basic stand offers only two positions for the board. However, the new adjustable stand uses a counterbalance gas spring to adjust the height of the board a full 8” lower than its standard height. Two locking knobs are used to adjust to any height within the 8” margin.

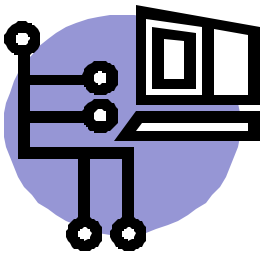
Most charcoal stands purchased within the last 11 months can be retrofitted with the new lift mechanism. To determine if a stand can be retrofitted, locate the large nutsert on the back side of each upright where the gas spring would attach. If there is no nutsert, the stand is not upgradeable. The new adjustable stand has an SRP of $650.00. The adjustable retrofit mechanism has an SRP of $199.00 and the part number is 782927.

Free Web-Based Training for Windows Users

The new free IPM web training schedule for the beginning of 2003 has been developed and will be available starting in January. DPA web training is available by appointment only.

The training sessions run approximately 45 minutes 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.



Seeing the Benefits of Interactive Whiteboard

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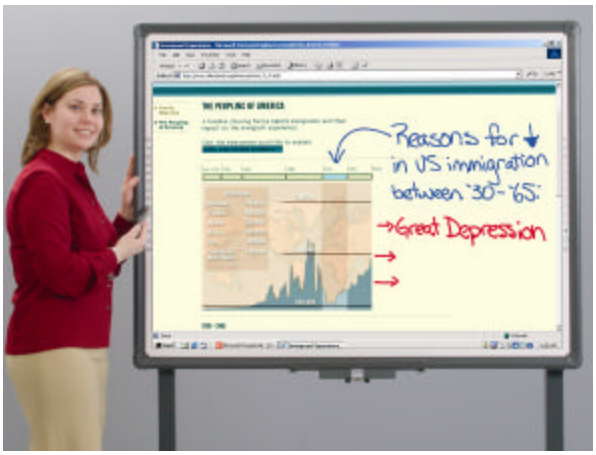
type of technology into their curriculum. There is little evidence, other then the complaint for a lack of and/or inadequate training, for why teachers are slow to accept this particular technology. It is easier to group iwbs in the general technology category to understand why teachers are in no rush to change their learning environment.



Much research has been conducted in an attempt to understand why technology integration has been slow. One of the more notable studies is the ACOT Research study. ACOT demonstrated that teachers go through stages in their use of technology and that this process takes from three to five years in a technology rich environment. The stages include entry, adoption, adaptation, appropriate, and innovation. Most teachers are either in the entry or adoption stage and many teachers will never reach the innovation level. Technology integration requires a lot of training and when an immediate payoff is not evident, often the necessary time and effort it takes to develop new ways of using technology to enhance the students' learning experience is not put forth.

When an interactive whiteboard is installed in a school, training should be mandatory and continual. Interactive whiteboard manufacturers like Numonics, produce software upgrades on a regular basis, which are usually free, and for each release, a new training session should be held. It would also be beneficial for teachers to share with one another how they incorporate the iwbs into their curriculum. This would help to reduce the learning curve and motivate teachers to continue experimenting with new ways of integrating iwbs into their lesson plans.

Word of mouth is one of the best forms of advertising because it incorporates a personal experience. When teachers become comfortable with an iwb and realize all the benefits both they and their students receive from its use, they infectiously tell their colleagues. Excitement brews interest. Interest about iwbs will hopefully encourage teachers to integrate interactive whiteboards in their classrooms,

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

Interactive Products Division – Numonics Corporation

101 Commerce Drive
PO Box 1005
Montgomeryville, PA 18936

Phone: 215-362-2766
Phone: 800-523-6716
Fax: 215-361-0167
Email: numonics@numonics.com
Web: www.interactivewhiteboards.com

"The Interactive Whiteboard People"

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.

User Testimonials:
Hear What People Just Like You Have To Say!

The Penn-Delco School District (PDSD) is located in Southeastern Pennsylvania 15 miles southwest of Philadelphia. Approximately 3,300 students are enrolled in grades K12. Barry Wilson is a middle school math teacher and real advocate of the IPM for classroom use. Barry states " My classes love to use the board. When I ask for volunteers I get 2-3 times as many hands as I did before the board. The kids are fascinated and are eager to show-off. I have my notes on PowerPoint and it is so easy to present and then highlight, annotate etc. One of the best features is the use of math software. I just put the software up on the board and students do demonstrations. We use Sunburst products "Building Expressions" and "How the West was 1,2,3,4" and again the students get very involved. "Geometer's Sketchpad" is our favorite. Whenever a question arises and we can show it on "Sketchpad", at the touch of a hotkey we are in.

Recently, we had a problem about a maximum area inside a fixed perimeter. I could have told the students we would go to the lab next week and answer the question. Instead, up came "Sketchpad" and we formed a quadrilateral with the proper perimeter and grabbed it and moved it and reshaped it until we "discovered" the square gave us the maximum area. The spontaneity and instantaneous feedback is invaluable. Since my students have seen my PowerPoint presentations, they are making their own not only in my class but I have to move the board to the Social Studies room so they can do their presentations on the "board". The whiteboard is THE motivating factor. The board also opened opportunities for 2 of my students to do a presentation to PA School Board Members in Harrisburg last spring and in Pittsburgh this past September. It was quite an experience for them and they did a great job and impressed the participants."

Hillsdale School is a small rural school located in NE Ohio with less that 1200 kids in the district. Krista Fitch was appointed as the part time district tech coordinator almost 3 years ago for the school. The school was fortunate enough to receive a Tech Literacy Challenge Fund, Interactive Distance Learning Grant and a Raise the Bar grant monies and were able to purchase some new computers and one Interactive Presentation Manager.

Krista absolutely loves the IPM and has devoted time to teach faculty members how to use it. Last summer, she held a training class for all the teachers and had each faculty member develop 10 lessons on the IPM to incorporate in their specific different curricula.

In November 2001, they made their first IPM purchase and have now purchased their 11th board with the help of another grant. Krista says, " At this point, the teachers love the boards and can not imagine teaching without them. The IPM has been used on a daily basis since the first day it arrived". Mostly all teachers are using IPMs in their daily lessons. The Spanish teacher caught on right away and would actually pull students and her peers into her room to show them a new feature she had mastered.