

When The Whiteboard And Classroom Converge:

University Creates Enhanced Learning Environment For Students Through Use Of eBeam Technology

The user.

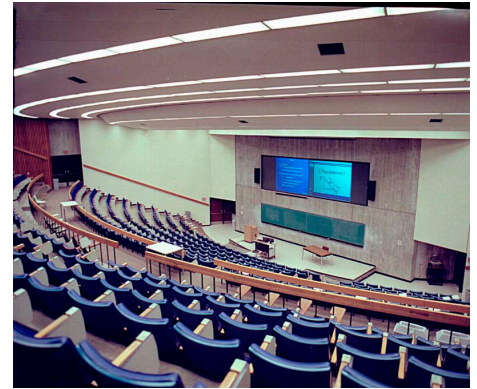
The Department of Economics at York University, a dynamic, metropolitan and multi-cultural educational institution located in Toronto, Canada.

The problem

Professor Landis wanted to free his students from note taking and turn his 400-seat classroom into a more interactive tutorial. If students did not have to copy down notes, they would be free to listen and engage in the subject matter at hand. Rather than a roomful of bowed heads, the lecture experience would be more interesting and engage students to participate in the learning experience. The department began searching for an affordable and advanced solution to the old chalkboard or whiteboard they used before. The solution would have to be able to save hand written notes, broadcast them via a data projector and make them available online to students following the class.

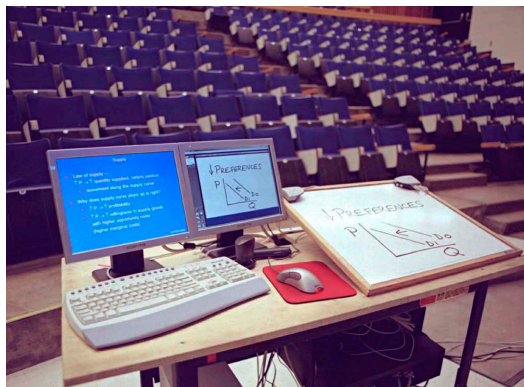
The solution

Professor Landis found eBeam™. The eBeam system turns any whiteboard into an interactive workspace. eBeam allowed him to save notes to his PC and later post them for individual viewing on his website. The Technology Center devised a special cart for the professor that allowed him to run both PowerPoint slides and whiteboard notes on the same PC and project the information for all students to see.



"No more illegible notes, no more transcribing onto your computer. The eBeam system makes ... presentations easy & more importantly, interactive."

Discovery Channel, Canada



By bringing the eBeam whiteboard solution into the classroom, the professor is now able to face his students all the time, even when writing notes on the board – an important benefit for any teacher in a large hall. Because the professor no longer needs to turn to write notes, he is now able to make direct contact with students and know they're listening.

"Bringing the whiteboard and eBeam to the classroom is a wonderful tool," says John Briggs, manager of Instructional Technology Center at York University. "Students still take notes, but know that everything will be on the Web site later where they can print it out. "

Benefits and results

Briggs further notes that the ability "to enhance the learning experience for students who are studying difficult first year material and help them enjoy the lecture experience" is an invaluable asset for professors teaching those courses. Both students and faculty have enthusiastically responded to the technology. As the University commences the building of a new business school, eBeam is being evaluated as a tool to be built into all classrooms – possibly putting an end to the old chalkboard.

