

What is Conference Room Automation? A Quick Description of AV Equipment in Collaboration Spaces

A simple and intuitive room automation system is essential in all types of meeting room.

In a recent Verizon study, 89% of respondents said that “technology is a primary way to make meetings more successful.” In addition to common sense approaches like starting on time, keeping to an agenda and formalizing action items, technology is a key factor that can bring people, content and ideas together to ensure that time in meetings is time well spent.

Today’s best room control and automation technologies include everything a meeting organizer needs to take command of all of a meeting’s content and information sources, easily and effectively. With the right technology, companies can dramatically improve the efficiency of their meetings, saving them time and money.

Conference room automation is the technology that can empower you to manage multiple collaboration tasks via a simple and intuitive user interface – usually a touch panel or keypad. The system manages all of your audio and video inputs and outputs, enabling you to easily control where and how your content is displayed on your projection screens and displays. More sophisticated systems can control virtually any analog or digital input or output, including video conferencing systems, Blu-ray players, document cameras, lighting and even screens and blinds - all from a single user interface rather than a bewildering collection of remotes.

Types Of Room Automation Equipment

What it is	What it does	Examples
Display	Displays content for attendees to view	LCD Display Display Projector
User Interface	Enables users to control equipment by pressing buttons or icons	Control Panel Keypad
Switching & Control	Manages inputs & outputs behind the scenes	All-In-One Presentation Switcher Controller ControlPad
Connectivity	Provides a place for people to connect laptops and other devices	AMX HydraPort
Content Presentation System	Enables attendees to present content from mobile devices, web and other sources	AMX Enzo
Monitoring & Maintenance Software	Software that centrally monitors and maintains AV systems	AMX’s Resource Management Suite (RMS)

The newest addition to the arsenal of meeting room technologies is the new class of content presentation systems that include AMX's Enzo®. These devices are designed to make it easy to present content from virtually any mobile device, including tablets and smartphones. One popular technology within this family is "screen mirroring," which duplicates whatever content is shown on the tablet or smartphone onto the room's display or projection screen.

TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION

Here's an example of conference room automation in action. Without a system, you would need to complete an encumbering series of steps in order to initiate and control a standard video conference. These steps might include:

1. Adjust room lighting to "ALL ON"
2. Adjust table lighting to "ALL OFF"
3. Power "ON" the video conferencing system
4. Power "ON" the LCD display
5. Set the video conferencing system volume to "LOUD"
6. Adjust the video conferencing system camera view to "CENTER OF TABLE"
7. "PAN OUT" the video conferencing system camera
8. "DISPLAY" the video conferencing system phone keypad
9. Initiate video conferencing system dialer to "DIAL 1-800-555-5555"

With conference room automation, this entire sequence of nine steps could be executed by simply touching "START VIDEOCONFERENCE" on your touch panel or keypad.

This is just one example of the many ways in which room automation can simplify technology and make meetings much more efficient.

From the AMX White Paper "Wasting Time Together" (www.amx.com).

