THE EVOLUTION OF A CLASS

The analog class

Some of us can remember the glory days when a professor would walk to the front of the room, grab a piece of chalk or dry-erase marker, and proceed to make unintelligible scribbles that would have contained vast wisdom had we been able to decipher them.

In those days of the Analog Class, the tools of the trade were simple: chalkboards, flip charts, overhead projectors and dry erase boards among the most popular. To prepare for a class frequently meant printing and handing out a packet of documents…and then realizing that you had left out something important. To document and share the lecturer's content meant transcribing the written scribbles into copious notes which would then be sent to class participants via snail mail.

These weren't the best of times.

The digital classroom

The arrival of the laptop computer in the 1990's ushered in a new era of collaboration. The mainstay of the classroom during this period was the combination of a laptop, a projector, and a deck of PowerPoint slides. Again, many of us have fond memories of this combination, and of enduring such frustrations as not being able to get the image to focus or fixing the keystoning, not knowing the function key combination to transfer the image from the laptop to the projector, and trying to recover from the sudden burnout of the projector's bulb.

Despite all the frustrations, this era did help establish a new type of collaboration where class participants could evaluate and modify content as they discussed it. Content in classrooms became more fluid, more flexible. And PowerPoint was crowned the King of Content.

The Evolution of Classroom Technology:
Class Technology Goes Digital

The multimedia classroom

Over the many years of enjoying PowerPoint presentations delivered via a laptop and projector, lecturers and students increasingly wanted to leverage more types of content: A clip from a DVD. Real-time stock reports. Broadcast audio and video. Files from the campus network. Classes were slowly evolving beyond PowerPoint and into a new age where content was rich and diverse.

This evolution from Laptop + PowerPoint to a wide variety of content sources represented the final step in the transition from digital classrooms to multimedia classrooms. The differences are outlined below.

	Digital Class	Multimedia Class
Content	PowerPoint slides and other Office documents	Office documents, PDFs, video clips, audio clips, web-based content, broadcast audio & video
Devices & other content sources	Laptop	Networked PCs, web-based storage apps, laptops, tablets, smartphones, USB drives, DVDs, Blu-Rays, CD-ROMs
Room technology	PCs, overhead projectors, speakerphones, video conferencing systems	LCD displays, networked room PCs, dedicated presentation systems (e.g. AMX Enzo), speakers, speakerphones, video conferencing systems, document cameras, user interfaces (touch panels & keypads), VCRs, AV controllers
Expectations	Technology is a nice benefit as long as I can get it to work	Technology is a necessity and it must work

The main challenge with the multimedia class is a technical one: **How do I access all that content from such a wide variety of source devices?** How do I access files on the campus network? Where do I plug in my USB storage device? Before today, the answer has been the bane of IT departments everywhere: The Room PC.

From the AMX White Paper "The Evolution of Learning Space Technology" (www.amx.com/education)

TAKE ACTION

To learn how AMX's award-winning products can help your organization manage the new world of BYOD, BYOC and rich content, we invite you to explore the information on our website.

The **LEARN** page (http://amx.com/education/learn.aspx) includes a broad range of general resources on the AV industry, as well as Product Guides covering most major AMX products. In particular, you might be interested in AMX's classroom solutions as discussed above:

- Enzo. Describes the amazing "always on" content management device discussed in this White Paper.
- Enova® DVX Family. Describes our ultra-reliable line of All-in-One-Presentation Switchers.
- Resource Management Suite (RMS) Overview. Describes our software package for real-time remote monitoring of AV assets.
- AMX Modero® S Family and AMX Modero X® Family. Describe the industry's most awesome lineup of touch panels.
- HydraPort®. Describes our configurable architectural connectivity products.

The **PLAN** page (http://amx.com/education/plan.aspx) includes an interactive tool that allows you to visualize the typical classroom configurations that AMX offers, and to explore which room configuration is best suited to your needs.

You can always **CONTACT A SOLUTIONS ADVISOR**, who will be glad to guide you through the process of identifying, specifying and purchasing your ideal classroom or classroom AV solution. The "Contact an Advisor" link is at the top of every page of the AMX website. Options to connect include chat, phone and email.