



INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARDS FREQUENTLY ASKED TEACHER QUESTIONS

Why would I want to use an interactive whiteboard?

- Interactive whiteboards bring the power of your computer, its software and the internet into the classroom environment effectively and easily.
- You can demonstrate ICT whilst still maintaining the attention of the class. Any application can be operated on your whiteboard from your computer, for example tables in excel could be brought up in maths lessons to make graphs and tables or even try and connect a microscope to your computer in Science lessons and display on your full screen what flowers and insects look like through a microscope. You can then even annotate over the pictures and videos you get from the microscope to save or print or to aid you in teaching!

Where else could i use an Interactive whiteboard ?

- In any of the following places; Meetings, Dynamic presentations with improved meeting productivity, Training, Trade Shows, True video conferencing.

How do I control my computer through the interactive whiteboard?

- On membrane boards such as SMART every time you touch the surface with your finger the computer interprets the touch as a 'left mouse click' enabling you to move your mouse around the screen, open programs and do basically everything you could do before with your mouse. On SMART boards a right mouse click is achieved through first pressing a button on the tray below the screen and then touching the board.
- On other boards using electro-magnetic technology simply touching the boards will not work, these boards need to be touched with a special pen that gives you the function of left and right mouse clicks. Electro-magnetic technology gives you extra security, as the board cannot be used without the pen however the usability is exactly the same as the membrane technology boards just a different input interface.

What's the difference between membrane and electro-magnetic boards?

- Membrane technology is like pushing two layers of metal mesh together to cause a circuit where you press. Membrane technology has the advantage that you can use anything to control the board eg, a pointer, your finger or even your nose!
- Electro-magnetic boards generally have an electro-magnetic pen that sends out a signal or field that the screen uses to pinpoint where you want to draw or click. Some electro-magnetic pens need a battery and

What can I do with an interactive whiteboard?

- The board can be utilized on several different levels. At its simplest level, the interactive whiteboard can be used as a traditional whiteboard. When using any interactive whiteboard as a traditional whiteboard you should only use 'dry erase markers'. Combining the interactive whiteboard with a projector and computer you effectively get a massive touch screen monitor.
- By touching and interacting with the whiteboard you are controlling the attached computer just the same as if you were sitting in front of the monitor at your computer. Using the pens on the SMART Board or software on other boards you can effectively draw virtual ink over your screen and any applications to either erase or to capture for later, annotating over your screen at any time is a very valuable feature.

What software do I need to bring my Interactive Whiteboard to life?

- Each and every interactive whiteboard comes with its own drivers and software included in the price. Additional software however can really add value to your lesson through using the whiteboard. In geography lessons you can pull up maps from the Internet and easily annotate save and print, these maps can often be found free.
- In science lessons why not view videos of experiments on your whiteboard as these can also be found on the Internet? Microscopes and other scientific equipment can also be connected to your computer to bring to life images in real time of close up images of insects or plants, or even real time pulse monitors! Remember that its very easy to then annotate over these images to save and print for the class.
- Maths lessons can really be brought to life in all key stages. There are masses of maths software available at very reasonable prices. In early key stages you probably have CD Roms of maths software already that you use on individual PC's, and these are ideal to use on the board, not only do you not have to buy additional software but the windows software you already have will work on your interactive whiteboard.

What about the projector shadow?

- A shadow is very common in using a front projected interactive whiteboard, this is simply because you are putting your arm in the way of the light from the projector causing a shadow to be created behind it, sometimes falling in front of where you want to press. The shadow effect is common when using a front projected interactive whiteboard however shadow can be minimised nearly completely by ceiling mounting the projector, thus causing the shadow to be cast under your arm instead of directly behind it.
- If you want to irradiate shadow completely there is a way. Rear projection interactive whiteboards are available They look effectively like a big tv or plasma screen with a cabinet behind that houses a projector and mirrors. Basically in rear projection whiteboards the projector will use mirrors inside the cabinet to form the image on the screen so there is no need to put a projector far behind the board. Rear projection interactive whiteboards are a little more costly than front projection units however you don't have any shadows cast by using it. Rear projection interactive whiteboard prices are constantly dropping and are sure to replace front projection interactive whiteboards in the near future.

Is there a mini board I can use with my class to pass around instead of getting students up touching the board?

- YES! There is an InterWrite SchoolPad available, that is a wireless pad you can carry around the classroom and use to interact with a computer. You can also hand out up to seven InterWrite SchoolPads, allowing groups of students to interact
- The InterWrite SchoolPad was designed with the teacher in mind. It's a wireless pad that gives the teacher the ability to use the pen like a mouse to annotate and highlight any computer image. With the SchoolPad a teacher can interact with a projected image at the front of the room while standing anywhere in the classroom. You can be at a student's desk while pointing out something on the board, or write problems and make notes while standing at the back of the classroom.

http://www.projectors-online.co.uk/products/whiteboards/iwb_faq/iwb_faq.cfm