



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

New SmartClass+ CAD Lab Management Platform Offers DVI Digital Video Quality

Montréal, Canada: January 1, 2012 – Robotel Inc. has released SmartClass+, a new generation of multimedia classroom management systems that help teachers orchestrate stimulating and challenging activities for their students.

With SmartClass+, Instructors can share their computer screen with the class, or can have a model student make a presentation or demonstration to the class. Students view the demonstrations directly on their local computer screens with total clarity. Instructors are also able to discretely view student screens from their own desktop while students work on assignments, and can intervene via chat or audio intercom to help students and/or to assure that students remain on-task.

Uniquely, SmartClass+ uses a hardware-based DVI Digital Video screen-sharing engine that lets instructors share computer screen images and video with their students with complete fidelity of resolution, colors, and refresh rates. In short, the shared screen is indistinguishable from the original. This represents a major benefit for teachers of CAD and other subjects that employ extensive use of rich media graphics, images, and video.

LAD – The Live Activities Dashboard

The system is managed from a simplified graphical user interface called a *dashboard*. One of the key development goals for SmartClass+ has been a focus on usability in the hands of non-technical teachers and instructors. This focus on usability ensures that teachers master the system more quickly and with less training. The LAD – or Live Activities Dashboard – is used for activities such as:

- **Presentations & Demonstrations** - Instructors can share their computer screen and their audio with the class, or can have a model student make a presentation or demonstration to the class. Students view the demonstrations directly on their local computer screens with total clarity and listen through comfortable noise-cancelling headsets. And, student screens can be *blanked* when the teacher needs students to direct their attention to the front of the room for a live demonstration.
- **Monitoring & Support** - Instructors can discretely view student screens and listen to student audio while students work on assignments, and can intervene via intercom or via chat to help students and/or to assure that students remain on-task.
- **Differential Teaching** – The class can be partitioned into multiple sections, and different activities can be conducted in each section. This is useful for review work and in situations where mixed classes of students have different levels of skills.
- **Student PC Management** – SmartClass+ plus includes several PC management utilities that enable teachers to power-up and power-down student computers, block access to the Internet or other applications, launch websites or programs on all student stations, etc. Additionally, teachers can use their keyboard and mouse to take remote control of any student station to resolve specific issues.

Hardware-based DVI Screen Sharing

Modern digital video standards like DVI, DisplayPort, and HDMI have been developed to maximize the quality of video from computers and audio-visual devices from the source right through to the display.

The SmartClass+ screen sharing engine uses standard DVI signals routed over a private CAT-6 based video bus to link all computers and monitors in the lab. Unlike software-based sharing classroom management solutions, with SmartClass+ video being shared between stations is not compressed, so every monitor receives full-resolution, unlimited color palette signals at the original refresh rate.

And this applies whether the image being shared is a static photograph, a dynamic 3D shaded graphic, or a 1080P HD video.

Device Independence

Because there is no software to install on client workstations, SmartClass+ is entirely transparent to computer operating systems and educational networks. This means that the system works with Windows-based PCs, MACs, and Linux platforms, and with wired or wireless networks. And the SmartClass+ private video bus assures that there is no loading of the school's data network.

SmartClass+ systems can also be integrated with audio-visual devices like projectors, large LCD screens, and document cameras.

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More Information about Robotel's Classroom Management Systems

For more information on Robotel's classroom management solutions, visit the company web site www.robotel.com, or contact Robotel at +1 (450) 680-1448 or (800) 480-1448.

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