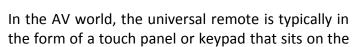


## ROBOTS IN THE ROOM: WHAT IS CONFERENCE ROOM AUTOMATION?

To properly define conference room automation, it's good to start by envisioning a universal remote control for all the equipment in a conference room. On this remote you could press buttons to make your system take specific actions like show content from a laptop on a certain display, change the volume, or dial a number for a video conference. Such a remote control is valuable because it provides a simple way for a meeting participant to take command of all the room's technology.





conference room table. For example, a typical conference room touch panel might include specific icons for turning on the projector, switching between a laptop computer and room PC, and a button (or sequence of buttons) for activating and controlling the video conference system. By providing an intuitive interface for controlling the meeting, you're reducing the number of IT support calls and dramatically improving user satisfaction.



What we've described so far is wonderful, isn't really conference automation - it's conference room control. Conference room automation is the next logical step that wraps a layer of intelligence around the control system by combining multiple tasks into a single automated action. It's also where you add the valuable concepts of scheduling and macros to your control system. With automated scheduling, you can book a room and integrate its overall schedule with the schedules of meeting participants. You can also pre-configure a room so that the system is ready to use

when attendees arrive so that there's no time wasted on waiting for a device to warm up.

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With macros, you can combine several tasks into a single push of a button or scheduled command, as seen in the table below.

<b>Desired Action</b>	Series of Commands	Automated System
Prepare the room's	1. Dim lights to medium	Prepare lighting (Single action
lighting for a typical	2. Close window shades	that encompasses steps 1-3)
meeting	3. Turn on table lighting	
Start Video Conference with West Region	1. Raise light level to all on	1. Video Conference: West Region
	2. Turn off table lighting	(Single action that encompasses
	3. Power on VTC system	steps 1 – 8)
	4. Power on LCD display	
	5. VTC audio volume to loud	
	6. Move camera view to center	
	of table	
	7. Display phone keypad	
	8. Dial 1-800-555-5555.	
Shut Down the Room	1. Power off display	1. Perform Room Shutdown (Single
	2. Power off projector	action that encompasses steps 1
	3. Reduce VTC audio volume to	<b>–</b> 8)
	low	
	4. Power off VTC system	
	5. Power off DVD player	
	6. Turn off lights	
	7. Raise blinds	
	8. Display "Room Available" on	
	panel outside door	

An automated conference room gives users the absolute best meeting experience, and eliminates most of the problems that result in support calls. It helps meetings start on time, and provides an easy way for participants to check room availability and book rooms. And it gives users confidence to use technologies like video conferencing that will provide immediate benefits to the bottom line.

From the AMX White Paper "Ending the AV Tech Support Nightmare: All About AV Control and Room Automation" (www.amx.com)

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