

The Cool Factor in the Meeting Space: A Quick Description of Conference Room Automation



In a recent Verizon study, 89% of respondents said that technology is a primary way to make meetings more successful. Along with common sense approaches like starting on time, keeping to an agenda and formalizing action items, technology is a key factor that can bring together people, content and ideas to ensure that time in meetings is time well spent. Today's best room control and automation technology includes everything a user needs to manage all the meeting's content and information sources, easily and effectively – and to save them a bundle of time and money.

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

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

Here's an example of conference room automation in action. Without a system, you would need to take a long series of steps in order to initiate and control a video conference. Those steps might be:

1. Raise the light level to "all on."
2. Turn off the table lighting.
3. Power on the video conferencing system.
4. Power on the LCD display.
5. Set the VTC audio volume to "loud."
6. Move the VTC camera view to center of table.
7. Pan the VTC camera out.
8. Display the VTC phone keypad.
9. Dial 1-800-555-5555.

With conference room automation, that entire sequence of 9 steps could be executed by pressing a single button on a touch panel!

From the AMX White Paper "The Science of Meetings" (www.amx.com).