

THE NIGHTMARE MEETING: A MEETING IN A CONFERENCE ROOM WITHOUT AUTOMATION

It truly is a nightmare: *Why did those jokers in IT buy this lousy equipment? Where's the remote that operates this thing? Why won't that thing turn on? Call Tech Support now!*

To demonstrate the value of conference room automation, let's look at how a typical meeting might take place in a room with no control or automation. This is simply a meeting room with a laptop projector, a display, a DVD player and a video conference system – all with a separate remote control.



The first thing that happens is that people start showing up, not really sure if they're in the right place at the right time, since there's no calendar displayed outside the room. Once that's resolved, the first presenter connects her laptop to the projector, only to find that she can't get her presentation to show up on the display. She reaches for the three remotes sitting on the table and starts pressing buttons, not even certain which remote goes with which device. Somebody turns the projector on and off. Finally, through blind luck, they get the presenter's content to show up. Or, they call for tech support.



But then another participant wants to show their content on the screen, so the first participant unplugs her laptop from the projector and hands the cord to the second participant. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. It's another opportunity for a call to tech support.

Then another participant wants to show a video clip from the room's DVD player, which is connected to a small display. Time to shut down the projector, turn on the display, turn on the DVD player and dim the lights. This all takes considerable time, because these

devices need time to warm up.

When the meeting's finally over, the participants file out of the room, leaving the lights and equipment powered on and draining energy. I think you get the picture: A conference room without control is a conference room out of control.

From the AMX White Paper "Ending the AV Tech Support Nightmare" (www.amx.com).