The old classroom staples of chalk and slate have formidable competition from electronic whiteboards. Professors are embracing these whiteboards to enliven classroom learning by displaying and annotating digital content, such as applications and programs, maps, diagrams, or webpages. “Instead of having to stand near their PCs, professors can stand at the front of the class as they do normally, and control the application or computer by touching the electronic whiteboard,” says Kerry Best, manager for public sector telepresence at Cisco.

Extending the Classroom Outside the Walls

Now campuses with networks designed to carry video calls can use their interactive whiteboards as telepresence and video endpoints, extending the classroom beyond the physical walls. “Students on U.S. campuses can see their peers in India, or take a virtual field trip anywhere in the world,” says Scott Aukema, Cisco’s telepresence architecture manager for the public sector.

Keeping Perspective

The good news is that professors can now more easily combine presentations and video on the same interactive whiteboard. The experience used to break down if the professor made the presentation or video window larger or smaller. Then the annotations no longer aligned with the image and did not change size proportionately with the image. As a result, a circle the instructor drew on part of a diagram might no longer be around the item of interest. “This was distracting, shifting students’ focus to the technology instead of the content,” Aukema says.

The solution is Cisco Synch® technology, which works with Cisco devices used to display live video on the whiteboard (Figure 1). With Cisco Synch, professors and instructors can freely add video calls from multiple locations to their interactive whiteboard training sessions, and rearrange and resize the presentation and video however they’d like. “You can repeatedly move and resize the PC image display, and all your markups will move with it, retaining the right size and position relative to the image,” says Best. “Combining interactive whiteboards with video helps professors engage students and visually interact with people anywhere in the world.”

To watch a video showing Cisco Synch in action, visit: https://videosharing.cisco.com/vportal/VideoPlayer.jsp?ccsid=C-06d3c5-53e9-42a6-9594-5a22ab6b6ac6.1#

To read more about Cisco Synch, visit: http://www.tandberg.com/interactive-whiteboards-video-conferencing-synch.jsp
Enriching Lectures: Transform Interactive Whiteboards into TelepresenceEndpoints

Figure 1  Instructors Can Freely Move and Resize Windows

Without Cisco Synch
When the projector shows the remote site as well as the presentation, the whiteboard is no longer aligned with the PC as we have made the image smaller and moved its location. The PC however, does not know anything has changed.
Enriching Lectures: Transform Interactive Whiteboards into Telepresence Endpoints

Figure 1 cont.

With Cisco Synch

When Cisco Synch is installed, it automatically detects the changes in image layout and transposes the interactive whiteboard “x” touches to correctly match the location seen on the PC presentation.

TOUCHING ANY LOCATION ON THE WHITEBOARD’S PC IMAGE NOW MATCHES THE SAME LOCATION ON THE PC

INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARD

TOUCHING ANY LOCATION ON THE PC IMAGE NOW MATCHES THE SAME LOCATION ON THE WHITEBOARD

PROJECTOR

CISCO TELEPRESENCE CODEC*

CISCO SYNCH

USB

VGA

THE 4 CORNERS OF THE WHITEBOARD ARE SET UP TO ALIGN WITH THE 4 CORNERS OF THE PC SCREEN

REGARDLESS OF THE LAYOUT, THE CISCO SYNCH AUTOMATICALLY REALIGNS THE PC TO MATCH THE DISPLAYED PRESENTATION SIZE AND LOCATION

SELECTING THE “LAYOUT” BUTTON ON THE CISCO REMOTE CHANGES NOT ONLY THE IMAGE FORMAT BUT NOW AUTOMATICALLY ALIGNS THE PRESENTATION TO THE PC SCREEN

PC LAPTOP