

Videoconferencing Applications



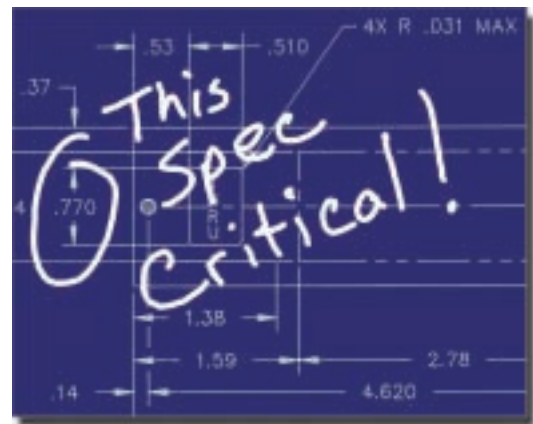
CORPORATE SHARING

We Need More Than Face-to-Face Collaboration

Willbros Engineers, Inc. (Tulsa, OK) is a multi-office engineering firm specializing in the design of pipeline and fuel storage solutions. Their videoconferencing system allows an efficient way for their remote office to plan and review major designs with fuel clients as large as Exxon.

Problem: While videoconferencing saved engineers several days of travel per month, they needed more than just face-to-face talking. They needed the ability to annotate engineering designs and computer spreadsheets that were important to the design process. An annotation tool would help focus viewer attention on details being discussed.

Challenge: Two (2) Pointmaker® multiple-sync video markers with digitizing tablet provided both sites the ability to annotate over the same image. At both the local and remote sites, a video marker was connected from its RS-232 port to the data port of a CODEC. Now both offices could view and mark over their drawings. Another "plus" – this model's multiple-syncing capability allows annotation on both high resolution computer images and standard NTSC video sources, such as those from a document camera or VCR. The teams had the flexibility to annotate formal CAD drawings, right from the computer, then switch to a document camera to annotate impromptu handwritten designs.



Annotating an engineering design.

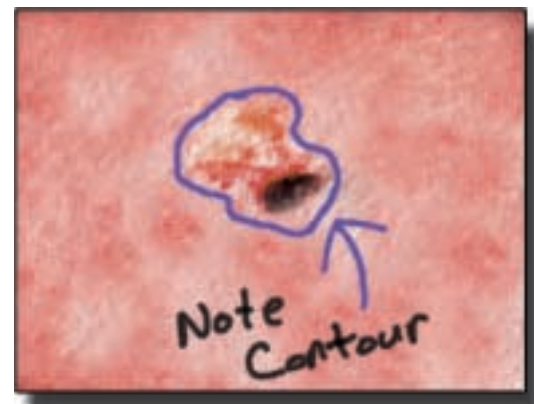
Results: The system is reported to have greatly increased the communication level and teamwork between offices, and engineers are able to have very productive meetings with their clients, while saving on resources involved in travel.

TELEMEDICINE

We Want Students to Focus on Specific Details

National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD) The NIH Center for Information Technology (CIT) developed the TELESYNERGY™ Medical Consultation WorkStation to equip the NIH Clinical Center with a multimedia medical imaging workstation integrated with a high-performance telemedicine communications system. The workstation facilitates both on- and off-campus collaboration between NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) researchers and members of the NCI Partnerships in Science program. The system will be used by the NCI to develop new cancer therapies with hospitals in the U.S. and abroad.

Challenge: While collaborators in the same room could point at details of medical images using ball point pens or fingers, videoconference collaborators needed something more. Voice commands telling doctors to look at "the dark spot in the upper left corner," weren't



*Annotating a medical image
(Boeckeler simulation).*

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specific enough for the accuracy their profession demanded.

Solution: A Pointmaker PVI-44™ compact video marker with digitizing tablet was installed within the TELESYNERGY System at the NIH hub and member sites so that collaborators could draw in color over a variety of medical video images. The S-Video images that are annotated with the Pointmaker include biopsies from a microscope, live patient images using an exam camera, VCR images, and Polaroid pictures or gross tissue using a document imager. The Pointmaker can also annotate graphs or data from patient charts – and can even annotate live ultrasound images.

Results: Developers of the \$200K+ workstation say that the marking capability of the Pointmaker unlocked the power of all of the other equipment, making the system much more interactive and valuable to collaborators.



... "add a little zap to your presentation."™



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