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Computer corner

Reviewed by **Bill Gillespie** and
Rosemary McDowall

The rate of change in technology never ceases to amaze us. Just when you think something can't get any better, engineers make radical changes to improve an already excellent package. A case in point is the range of products from Mimio.

Mimio encompasses a range of products that can turn any classroom into a digital environment for less than the price of a standard interactive whiteboard. The *MimioClassroom* comprises: *MimioTeach*, *MimioVote*, *MimioCapture*, *MimioPad* and *MimioView*.

The software behind the whole system is MimioStudio 7. The new MimioStudio 7 for Windows allows educators to get the most out of *MimioClassroom* products. MimioStudio software delivers the automatic integration that lets Mimio tools work flawlessly either on their own or together. The software offers full compatibility with virtually every popular software application, including Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat.

themselves when returned to the recharging tray, a convenient and time-saving feature for both teachers and students.

The rechargeable *MimioCapture* ink recording system allows real-time capture of whiteboard notes and drawings. Handwritten whiteboard work can be instantly captured in their original marker colour and converted into the desired file format. Handwriting can be converted into font-based text. This is an excellent way of capturing your lessons and saving them for your students. As an added bonus, the system automatically switches between *MimioTeach* and *MimioCapture* when using the pens and *MimioTeach* stylus.

One of the major criticisms we have about interactive whiteboards is they can be very teacher-centric, with the teacher at the front of the classroom imparting "knowledge" to their students. The *MimioPad* helps overcome this issue. It is a wireless tablet that can be added to the *MimioTeach* system to allow students and teachers to collaborate on whiteboard lessons from up to 40

Central to the *MimioClassroom* suite, the *MimioTeach* system transforms any classroom whiteboard into a fully-interactive one. Infrared and ultrasound sensors fit neatly into a small, unobtrusive bar that attaches easily to a board. Roughly the size of a ruler, the lightweight yet durable *MimioTeach* system is easy to handle and transport.

The rechargeable *MimioVote* system provides real-time assessment and flexible testing options. The *MimioStudio* software and intelligent illuminated response buttons eliminate student error, making assessment, testing, grading and analysis much easier and more time-efficient for both teachers and students. Tests can be created with custom or standardised content, and results gathered in real time. The *MimioVote* assessment system allows for teacher-led and self-monitored assessments. The software automatically configures and illuminates only the appropriate responses. Unlike conventional assessment systems, the *MimioVote* handsets automatically renumber

metres from the classroom computer. The rechargeable tablet works with a slim pen stylus and features 16 custom-tailored shortcut keys for ready access to the most popular *MimioStudio* software features.

The *MimioView* camera allows teachers to capture and instantly share live video and images of dimensional objects and flat documents for easy display, annotation and manipulation. The *MimioView* camera easily integrates with the *MimioTeach* and *MimioVote* systems through the universal *MimioStudio* software.

Looking at turning your classroom into a digital environment on a limited budget? Have a look at the *Mimio* range of products; they could be just the solution to your problem.

Bill works at Mt Colah PS and Rosemary works at The Forest HS. They can be contacted at computer_corner2000@yahoo.com. Hardware and software supplied by DYMO/Mimio and ICON International Communications.
