



A Brief History of the Mobile Interactive Whiteboard in Classroom Instruction

A White Paper by:
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The development of the first mobile interactive whiteboard designed for the classroom is a story of the right technology in the right place at the right time. In the late 1990s, GTCO CalComp – the company that would become eInstruction – was successfully marketing an interactive whiteboard product to the K-12 market. The company had pioneered the underlying electromagnetic digitizing technology, and the interactive whiteboard was beginning to catch on as a mainstream classroom tool.

Teachers recognized the value of having an interactive whiteboards as compared to a static whiteboard or traditional blackboard. They saw the interactive whiteboards as a way to bring a growing array of digital resources into the classroom. These interactive resources could better engage the “digital natives” now occupying the classroom.

There were important limitations, too. Teachers wanted to be mobile, to be free to teach from anywhere in the classroom, yet still be able to control their computers and deliver their lessons. Teachers also wanted a way to directly involve their students.

With extensive input from thousands of interactive whiteboard users, eInstruction began “imagineering” a different way to approach classroom interactivity. eInstruction wanted to develop a tool that would provide digital interactivity, while also giving teachers full classroom mobility. The company sought to create a device that would also enable students to get more involved and more hands on with instructional material. In 2001, the research and development came to fruition in the SchoolPad, the world’s first mobile interactive whiteboard.

A request was filed for a U.S. Patent on November 9, 2001, and formally granted on August 16, 2005. This patent, No. 6930673, is known as the “Collaborative Input System” and secured eInstruction’s unique position as inventor and leader in this product category.

Mobile interactive whiteboards are now becoming a standard tool in every teacher’s toolkit for the 21st Century classroom. “This product has fundamentally changed the way I teach,” said one user. Other typical comments about the SchoolPad include: “I can’t imagine teaching without my SchoolPad,” and “When I bring out my SchoolPad, the students get totally engaged.” Today, that same patented technology lies at the heart of eInstruction’s next-generation mobile interactive whiteboard, Interwrite Mobi®.



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Launched in January 2009, the Mobi System is the first and only mobile interactive whiteboard that combines teacher mobility, interactive whiteboard functionality, classroom collaboration, and “Know-What-I-Know” (KWIK) instant assessment reporting, all in one affordable mobile system. The system also comes with a patent-pending charging and security station called the “Mobi Dock.”



CPS™ Student Response System



Interwrite Mobi® system with Mobi Dock

The Mobi System has given teachers an even more powerful means to teach from anywhere in the classroom while monitoring real-time assessment results. Using Mobi’s color Know-What-I-Know (KWIK) LCD display in conjunction with eInstruction’s market-leading student response system makes it easy for teachers to identify students who need special attention and topics that require further explanation. A second student version of the tablet called the “Mobi Learner” allows students to collaborate and contribute to lesson materials concurrently, either in separate windows or in a shared space, using the Mobi’s new multi-user interface.

A recent quote from a review in the April issue of Teaching & Learning magazine sums up the Mobi nicely. “This is the best tablet I’ve seen so far. Since multiple students can participate at the same time in their own workspace, this system makes the idea of expensive interactive whiteboards obsolete.”

ABOUT eInstruction

eInstruction is a leading provider of interactive learning solutions designed to help educators achieve academic progress every day. Our Interwrite DualBoard™ is an extremely durable interactive whiteboard that provides dual input functionality and includes thousands of images and resources to create dynamic and exciting lessons. The mobile interactive whiteboard Interwrite Mobi® works like an interactive whiteboard, but gives instructors the mobility to teach from anywhere in the classroom and displays real-time assessment results when used with eInstruction® CPS™ clickers. CPS™ is a powerful student response system that combines interaction and assessment to enhance classroom productivity. It allows teachers – from elementary schools to universities – to accurately and instantly assess student comprehension and quickly grade quizzes and exams. All eInstruction® products integrate with high-quality content and have been proven to increase student engagement, facilitate collaboration, and improve student achievement.

Durability of Interactive Whiteboards – The Full Story

HARD SURFACES ARE MORE DURABLE

Some manufacturers of soft whiteboards claim that their flexible surface is just as durable as a hard surface. Let's concentrate on the hazards that an interactive whiteboard might face in the learning environment.

Sharp Objects – Pens, pencils, rulers and scissors are the most likely tools to touch the front surface of the whiteboard. A hard surface will resist tears, scuffs and marks better than a soft front surface.

Impact Forces - Objects may strike the surface of the whiteboard and produce a large force. Since it doesn't easily deform, a rigid front surface will better protect the internal components of the electronic whiteboard.

DAMAGE CONTROL

For the sake of argument, let's assume that the front surface of an interactive whiteboard has been accidentally cut during use. The damage on a hard whiteboard will remain a constant size, since the front surface is made of rigid melamine. The performance of the whiteboard will not be affected.

On the other hand, a cut on the flexible front surface of a soft whiteboard will most likely grow worse as pens and fingers are pulled across the board. This will result in poor performance for that section of the whiteboard.

CLASSROOM CHALLENGES

The student environment is filled with frequent tests of an instrument's ability to withstand the "elements." By "elements" we mean the students. Sometimes purposefully....sometimes by accident, they put all educational equipment through the harshest of tests.

That's why you need to adopt a technology that is as robust and student-proof as possible. The Interwrite Board features a rigid front melamine surface that is optimized to reduce glare from a projector and to allow ink from dry erase markers to be easily erased. The rear panel of the Interwrite Board is a thick aluminum plate that provides extra rigidity to the entire board. Holding the board together are four aluminum extrusions that form the rigid frame around the internal components of the whiteboard. These carefully designed components work together to make sure your Interwrite Board provides many years of service.

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

High-value products have been the hallmark of eInstruction for over 30 years. We work hard to make sure that products reach our customers both ready to use and built to last. Here are just a few examples of the work we do to insure your investment in our products is maximized:

- The Interwrite Board's surface was developed with the help of chemists and material specialists to optimize performance in the learning environment
- Standard shake and vibration tests
- Standard drop test
- Materials used in the manufacture of the Interwrite Board must meet finish standards from ANSI/NEMA Publication LD 3-2000
- Interwrite products are designed and manufactured under ISO 9001:2001 certification
- Each product is rigorously tested for accurate performance prior to shipping
- All eInstruction products are backed with a full one-year warranty

CONCLUSION

We know that educational technology funding is difficult to find. That's why we build Interwrite learning solutions to provide industry-leading durability. Whether you purchase the Interwrite Board, Pad, or Panel, rest assured that the resolution and durability provided by eInstruction products will protect your technology investment for many years to come.