

# Into Integration – the 600i

by Nancy Knowlton

People in technology companies can sometimes fall into the habit of using jargon that is specific to the industry. Some of the language evolves in an effort to take big concepts and reduce them to single words or short phrases to help our customers understand our products. However, using a single word to cover some of these big concepts may not do them justice, and more detail can often provide greater depth of understanding. Here goes.



At SMART, one of our favorite words (and concepts) is *integration*. Integration is about more than just stapling components together – it's about making 2 plus 2 equal 5, or even more. It's about the whole experience of using combined elements. Integration is another way to make technology products easier to use and more effective in any classroom.

## The 600i interactive whiteboard system

In 2006, SMART introduced its integrated front-projection system, following on from its integrated rear-projection systems, which have been available since the mid-nineties. The new system builds on the power of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard (the world's leading interactive whiteboard), and short-throw projection advances that have made it easier to mount a projector on the wall instead of in the ceiling.

## The Integrated Whole

The 600i combines a variety of hardware and software elements into an integrated whole. How the hardware, software and firmware (software embedded in the system components) all work together make the 600i system truly integrated. Here are some highlight features.

## Built-In Speakers

Two 20-watt speakers are built into the projector base that attaches to the wall. They are unobtrusive, yet powerful enough to fill a standard classroom with all of the sounds to make learning come alive.

## Speaker Volume Control

A control knob for speaker volume is built into the control module in the pen tray of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

## On/Off Button

The control panel on the pen tray has one button for easy system startup and shutdown. This button controls the projector, interactive whiteboard, computer and other connected components.

## Extended Connection Panel

The extended connection panel makes it easy to connect other multimedia devices to the interactive whiteboard. Whether it's a guest computer, a DVD player or document camera, it's simple to plug in additional elements.

## ScratchPad Software

ScratchPad software is built into a chip in the projector base, so a user can start whiteboarding right away – without a computer attached to the system. This whiteboarding software offers multiple pages, screen capture from other connected devices and saving to a USB key.

## Onscreen Menu

The control panel launches an onscreen menu that makes it easy to choose among computer-free whiteboarding with ScratchPad software, computer whiteboarding or other audiovisual devices connected through the extended connection panel.

## Installation

While you may only install a system once, the integrated elements of the 600i mean that it installs in about an hour or so. This is an important consideration when installing systems in every classroom and taking a room out of commission for a day or more is out of the question.

## What's Missing?

Remotes, for one thing. There are no controls on the system that have to be accessed by a remote so no worries about losing the remote or dead batteries. The projector also doesn't require regular filter cleaning. And 2,000 hours of bulb life mean that you won't be regularly changing bulbs either.

## The Result

The simple push of a button puts you in control of a powerful multimedia environment. SMART pays attention to all the little details, so this integrated system is easy to use. And when you need to focus on getting your message across to students, *easy to use* makes all the difference.

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