



Crestron DigitalMedia™ Technology Helps Make Shaw College Theatre Renovation Seamless



Background

Shaw College Lecture Theatre in The Chinese University of Hong Kong was newly renovated in 2010, accommodating nearly 500 people. As the Audio Visual Services Unit in such a prestigious university, they have a high technology requirement for AV systems. They would like to make the new hall not only a basic lecture hall but also an ideal venue for conferences, seminars and cultural activities, hence, letting the students and professors have an extraordinary event experience.

Why Crestron

Why was Crestron technology selected for this advanced lecture theatre? "Crestron DigitalMedia™ (DM), and the overall high performance of Crestron products," says Jeff Ng, the system designer. "Crestron is reputed for their products' reliability; that, along with the ability to distribute all media content at the highest level, was assuring." Additionally, as a single-cable solution, DM uses significantly less cable and installation time than the original system which



multiple system design would have required. DM is also the only solution that seamlessly handles true high definition signal routing, switching, and long distance distribution of all digital and analog audio/video sources.



The Solution

One major challenge was time. The project started in July 2010 and projected to complete in August 2010 before new semester started. This sort of project usually takes about six months from design to conclusion, so this was fast-tracked. Every technical resource had to be tapped to meet the deadline, including Crestron DM Tools software.

Crestron provides DM Tools, a free, user-friendly setup and troubleshooting software platform that makes it possible for installers to configure systems quickly and reliably, as well as for controllers to master the system remotely. DM Tools also graphically displays the flow of all signals and data, while automatically performing HDCP and data rate checks plus EDID resolution management, providing a simple reference for troubleshooting and commissioning a system and ensuring trouble-free installation and operation.

Just like traditional AV distribution systems, the core of a DM system is the switcher which is flexible, expandable, and card-based, with a wide variety of input and output cards from which to choose. Depending on the number of sources to be routed, DM-MD16X16 matrix switcher



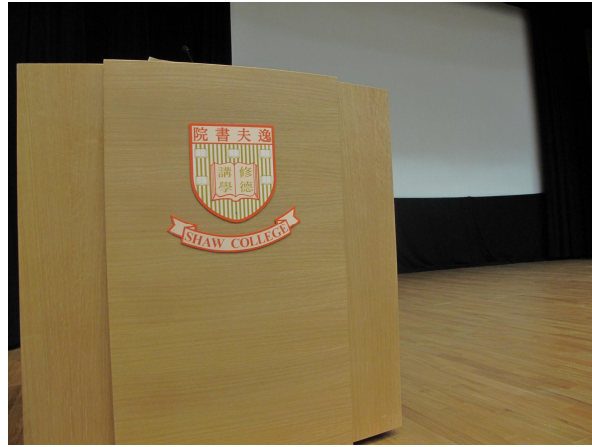
was installed and served as the backbone of the system. The DM-MD16X16 performs flawless routing, switching and distribution of uncompressed digital and analog signals -over DM cable - to the seven displays, reducing cabling runs substantially.



The lecture theatre features Crestron TPS-1700 tabletop touchpanel at the lectern which provided an intuitive user interface with one-touch presets that enable effortless control of a Blu-ray player and a visualizer, projectors and environmental setting.

The TPS-1700 touchpanel in the control room enables the control of monitors, video conference, I/P Video Mixer, as well as seamless routing from HD Video mixer inside to plasma displays and LCD displays located outside of the venue. Control of audio is also executed with push button simplicity.

An advanced CP2E Control System manages all audio/video technology and system control behind the scenes, providing high performance automation and control of the truly digital theatre.



Crestron DigitalMedia was released in March 2009, the culmination of five years of unprecedented research and development. DM has also won SCN (Systems Contractor News) "Most Innovative Video Distribution or Switching Product" in InfoComm 2010 at Las Vegas and CE Pro Magazine "Best Commercial Networking Product" in CEDIA 2010 at Atlanta.