



Crestron DigitalMedia™ Technology Helps Make Shaw College Theatre Renovation Seamless

Background

The Chinese University of Hong Kong recently renovated Shaw College Lecture Theatre, a 500-seat multipurpose room used for lectures, conferences, seminars and cultural activities.

The theatre is the center for the school's Audio Visual Services Unit. The objective for the new hall was to create a useful lecture space, as well as an ideal venue for conferences, seminars and cultural activities. The goal was to provide an extraordinary event space for students and professors to experience and enjoy.

Crestron DigitalMedia™ was selected as the single platform solution to distribute, control and manage the array of multimedia technology in the theater.

“We selected Crestron because of its high performance products and reliability,” said System Designer, Jeff Ng. “The ability to distribute all media content at the highest level was reassuring.

As a single wire solution, DigitalMedia uses significantly less cable and installation time than the original system which would have required multiple systems.

DigitalMedia is also the only solution that seamlessly handles true high definition signal routing, switching, and long distance distribution of all digital and analog AV sources.



The Challenge

Timing was the biggest challenge of the project. The system needed to be ready for the new school semester. The systems integrator had three months to complete the project which typically takes six months from design to installation. Every technical resource needed to be utilized to meet the deadline.

Systems at a Glance

The core of a DigitalMedia system is the switcher which is flexible, expandable and card-based, featuring a variety of input and output cards to select. The DM-MD16X16 matrix switcher was installed and served as the backbone of the system, performing flawless routing, switching and distribution of uncompressed digital and analog signals over a single-wire cable to the seven displays, reducing cabling runs substantially.

The team used Crestron software, DM[®] Tools to test the system hardware. Crestron DM Tools is a free, user-friendly setup and troubleshooting software platform, allowing installers to configure systems quickly and reliably, while also giving controllers remote access to the system.

DM Tools 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.

The lecture theatre features a Crestron TPS-1700 tabletop touch panel at the lectern which provides an intuitive user interface with one-touch presets that enables effortless control of monitors, Blu-ray player, visualizer, projector, video conference, I/P video mixer. The system also allows for seamless routing from HD video mixer inside to plasma displays and LCD displays located outside of the venue. Control of audio is executed with push button simplicity.

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Jeff Ng, System Designer

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

Conclusion

The University has developed into an academic institution of international standing, well-known for its excellence in both teaching and research. The renovated Shaw College Lecture Theatre helps enhance the learning experience for faculty and students, while also providing a grand venue for community events.