

Sent to a prospective BOARDWARE user on 10/07/09

We like the projector system for a few reasons. We used to have a Colorado Matrix system that cost \$80,000. When I first outfitted our pool with BOARDWARE in 2005, we installed 2 Sony projectors >8000 lumens at about \$10,000 a piece. Projector costs have come down significantly since then. That same type of projector is about \$5,000. I then borrowed some projectors from our A/V dept to test out and found we didn't need >8000 lumens. Our current projectors are >3000 lumens. One is a Toshiba and one is a Sony. We use 2, one for the score and one for the timing.

The pros:

1. Cost
2. Flexibility to use with whatever you can dream up to show on the scoreboard.
3. Every scoreboard breaks down. With this system you just swap out any piece (we have extra timing box, computer and harness). Even the projector can be replaced in a pinch with one from A/V. With Colorado having an extra System 5 is expensive, or just try replacing the scoreboard. Maintenance on the scoreboard used to run us at least \$1500/year. I can replace a projector for that cost.

Equipment we use:

1. TIMEWARE
2. Hy-Tek Meet Manager
3. IST Computer Timing Interface and some buttons (we go whichever is cheaper IST or Colorado)
4. Colorado Touchpads and harness because IST pads weren't available at the time.
5. Da-Lite projector screens (investigate this thoroughly it can save you a lot of money on projector if you get the right screen and they are pretty cheap). Sony even makes a "black screen" that can show in daylight. Most screens however are designed to have audience directly in front of it. In our setup the screen is directly in front of the pool so we had to be careful of angles the screen provided. Our main screen is 16' wide by 9' tall but we have a 6 lane pool so picture goes off screen where lanes 7&8 would be. You might want more of 4:3 ratio screen to fit the 1026x768 format for BOARDWARE.
6. We have 2 projectors both <\$1300, one Sony and one Toshiba. Things to look for:
 - a. contrast. (somewhat important if you want to show movies). Lumens: ours is around 3000 but we have 0 ambient light.
 - b. Can you turn the projector on and off with a light switch. Our projectors are in the ceiling and very hard to access, so being able to plug them in and turn on and off by a switch down on deck is important.
7. Cat5 extenders. Our projectors are about 200' from our computers so we go out from the computers using a VGA cord into a VGA extender which converts the signal to Cat5e (Ethernet cable) for the 200' through the walls into the ceiling and then into the receiving end of the vga extender which converts it back into vga to plug into the projector. VGA extenders are less than \$100. We use Gefen and Black Box extenders. I recently bought the

Black Box to replace a Gefen and I like it because it has the ability to plug into a local monitor as well as extending.

8. We have 2 projectors so we have a 4 port dual input Matrix VGA Video Splitter. This takes input from 2 computers and splits amongst 4 displays which allow us to show whatever is showing on either computer on either screen. If you only have one screen or one computer that will be showing things on the screen, you don't need this.
9. Scoring: we just use Power Point and enter scores manually from Hy-tek results for dual meets. For major meets like state and when we use NISCA Power Points to score a meet. I have developed a php wbe based program that grabs the scores from the bottom of live results that Hy-Tek produces. This is an example of what you can do:
 1. Show top 6 finishers:
<http://www.wildkitaquatics.com/ethsgirl/2009/EvanstonInvite/timedFinalResults.php>
 2. Show scores:
<http://www.wildkitaquatics.com/ethsgirl/2009/EvanstonInvite/timedFinalResults.php> taken from a meet we did this last weekend.

This should give you a good jump start. I have dealt with Colorado for years and they make good touchpads, etc. but service is spotty and annoyingly expensive. I haven't spent a penny on IST since our original purchase but Dick and Jane have been quick to support any questions I have had. Let me know if you have any other questions.

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