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introduction



So, this is your first time in an “ICN” classroom? Well, don’t worry, you’ll soon get the hang of things. First, let’s go through the basic layout, how the equipment operates, and some general principles to help get you started. Then you can practice for a few minutes until you feel comfortable with the controls.

If you are a teacher and will be using the system regularly, it would be advisable to attend a short workshop to learn more “tricks of the trade”. There are some ideas contained in this booklet, but they don’t cover everything you need to know to be an effective distance educator. Ask at your community college, Regional Telecommunications Council or AEA about interactive television workshops.

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Iowa Distance Learning Database
www.iptv.org/iowa_database/

the classroom basics

All ICN distance learning classrooms have the same standard equipment, and are designed to hold 18-20 students. Information about each operational site can be found on the Iowa Database web site in the clickable map section.



An ICN classroom

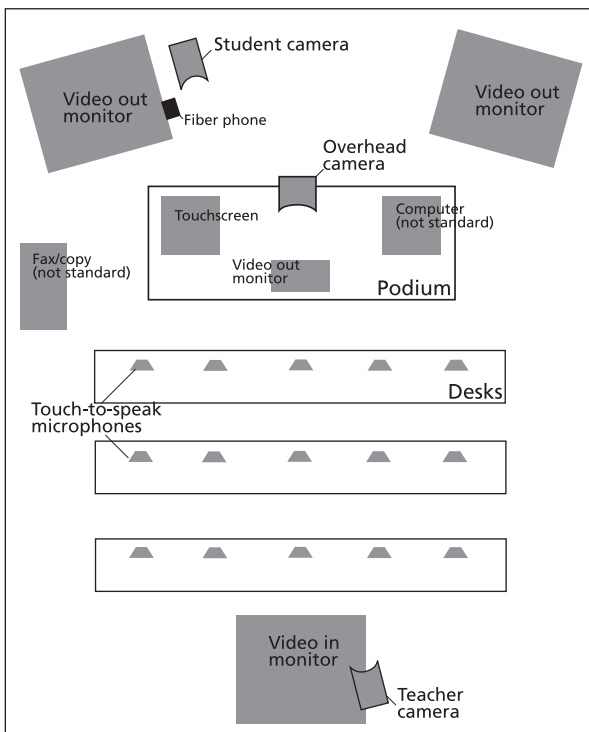
Standard Equipment

- a touchscreen computer which controls the system and is used for switching between sites and system inputs
- three large TV monitors, two at the front and one at the rear of the room
- one small output monitor set on the front podium
- three cameras - called Teacher, Student and Overhead
- lavalier (open) microphone for presenter
- student microphones (touch-to-speak) for audience/students
- fiber phone - usually hung on a front monitor stand, provides a phone connection to all other distance learning classrooms and the technical assistance Operations Center
- podium - the front desk.

Optional Equipment

In addition, classrooms may have other equipment, such as:

- videotape player
- videodisk player
- cassette tape player
- satellite or cable input
- slide projector
- fax/copier machine
- additional cameras
- computer - with Internet access



■ = Monitor ▲ = Touch-to-speak microphone

■ = Camera

A typical classroom layout