

Projecting From the Cloud: What You Need to Know About the Future of Projection

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When I first heard of the “cloud” a few years ago, I wondered what it meant and how it was going to affect my everyday life. It took awhile for the concept to take hold and become a part of the vernacular, and now most people think of it as an amorphous place that stores your files, music, video and photos.

When you connect to the cloud, you’re accessing a server where your content is stored. That server resides in a computer that is in a secure and climate-controlled location, so you can connect to it anytime, from anywhere, and if your phone or tablet or computer is lost, your content is still there, safe and available.

Back in the day, computers were huge monstrosities, and a person could access that computer through a “dumb terminal” which was a simple interface between the user and the computer. This terminal consisted of only a monitor and keyboard.

Since then, computers have become tiny, amazing and sophisticated. It’s even said that the computer in a smart phone is more powerful than the ones that sent our astronauts to the moon. There are now so many possibilities with computers, in so many areas of life, and as usual, the tech industry is discovering ways to use the cloud even more effectively and cost-efficiently.

So the engineers at Mitsubishi Electric focused on displaying the content you find in the cloud – and have discovered that you can use a projector and a keyboard as a dumb terminal, and connect to the cloud without using a computer.

This concept – using a projector without a computer – is revolutionary, and we expect that it can change the way people use projectors today in classrooms, boardrooms, auditoriums, churches and meeting rooms across the country.

At the moment, teachers and presenters face a number of issues every day that are just a fact of life. You walk into the room, connect your computer to the projector, turn the computer on, turn the projector on, and then wait for them to “see” each other. Sometimes you have trouble because you have a Mac and the room has a PC; sometimes you have to download software to make the projector work; sometimes you have to press F keys to make it work; sometimes you have to plug and unplug both computer and projector in different sequences to make it work. Sometimes, it’s just not that easy to use a projector.

And you have to carry your content with you – on your own laptop, in a flash drive or something similar. What happens if you’re giving a big presentation and you forget your files? Or they’re incompatible with the projector and computer you have in the room? It’s a disaster for sure.

But imagine that you could simply walk into the classroom or meeting room, turn the projector on, and start displaying – and it doesn’t matter what platform or OS you used to create your original content – PC, Mac, or even Linux– you simply connect to the network, to the Internet, to your own files in the cloud, and you’re ready to roll. You could even update files on the fly.

And imagine the time you save with essentially instant projection. Imagine the money your company, or school, or university, has saved because you don’t need a computer in every room.

Now imagine that you’re the IT person for your company, and think of the time you’ll save because you don’t have to install a computer with every projector; you won’t have to spend a lot of time training users because all they need to do is log into the network with a user name and password, just like they do every day. And you don’t have to copy and distribute files to each teacher or manager – you can simply put the files in one place on the server, and anyone with a password can access them.

You’ve heard it before, and I’ll say it again: The future is now, with Cloud Projection from Mitsubishi.