



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Cardonald College

Charged up for 2009



Our guest slot this time is based on an interview with Steve Bishop, IT Helpdesk Manager at Cardonald College. At Cardonald they've been using a very clever remote mouse/media control ([the MX Air from Logitech](#)) which can be charged for up to a week at a time and has a range which should work in large classrooms and they are in the process of rolling this technology out to departments across the college. Steve had been looking for an alternative to costly interactive whiteboards and although there are similar products on the market Steve felt that this particular model met their needs.

Steve provided a round of demonstrations to senior staff who were sufficiently impressed with the functionality to invest in more. As well as providing the tutor with the freedom to wander about the classroom rather than stand in front of the class. This means that they do not have to have their back to the class and can operate the computer and whiteboard tools from anywhere in the room. Using this type of device does mean that the irritating shadow encountered when using an interactive board is eliminated and in addition the risks associated with looking into the bright projector bulb are minimised. The ability to operate an interactive board without having to touch it means that the whole board can be fully utilized regardless of the height of both the board and the user and with a 10 meter range the MX Air can be used in larger rooms and even lecture theatres.



As well as providing the functionality of a wireless mouse, the MX Air is also a useful multimedia remote controller. Fast forward and rewind is controlled by stroking the arrowheads on the remote, jumping to different chapters on a DVD with a flick of the wrist and volume is controlled moving the MX Air to the left or right.

There are also significant accessibility gains to be made. Learners with a variety of support needs e.g. those with mobility problems or with special educational needs can benefit greatly and are able to participate more fully in classroom activities when a device like this can be passed around the group.

Steve feels however that the great advantage of using this technology is that the tutor is not standing at the front of the class, but has the scope to move around the group involving the students more in the whole learning experience.