



## Networking Projectors Can Save Time and Money

During the past several years, one of the most popular features in computer projectors has been the ability to network. Like desktop or laptop computers, certain projectors can "speak" to each other by being connected over a LAN or WAN.

There are benefits that can come from networking computer projectors. First, a unit on a network can be administered remotely, meaning that an IT professional can monitor its use. As the unit is never left unattended, this greatly reduces the likelihood of lost or stolen projectors and, many times, can help to detect problems before they cause a malfunction.

Second, from an end-user standpoint, a networked projector can help save time as it allows presenters to easily exchange information. With lessons or presentations uploaded onto a network, accessing these files is simple and, depending on the networking protocol, may not even require that a computer be connected to the projector.

### Networking Options

There are several options for networking projectors. For example, some newer, higher-end units are starting to offer internal networking cards as optional accessories. Before you agree to purchase one of these, it is important to make sure that the card is compatible with your pre-existing network—that is, whether your organization is run under a LAN or WAN. Additionally, if your network is wireless, it is also necessary to check to make sure that the card utilizes the same 802.11 protocols, which can include a, b, or g, and are not backwards-compatible. If the projector is going to be networked, please discuss these issues with your school's IT department before making a purchase.