FLEX

INTRODUCTION TO CONTROL SYSTEMS

There are many small control systems on the market, but none that are as feature rich, easy to use, and as affordable as the Flex Control System from FSR.

WHAT IS A CONTROL SYSTEM?

A control system is a device or devices that provide a simple, easy to understand and operate user interface to a more complex system. We have all seen the home theater system with six different remote controls, one for each piece of equipment. Basically, a control system takes all of the functions of all of the remotes and *combines them into one easy to use interface*.

WHAT CAN A CONTROL SYSTEM DO?

The short answer is: *almost anything.* The long answer is that a control system can control nearly every aspect of a room. It can turn the display on or off, change sources, raise and lower a screen, raise or lower drapes, control the lighting, turn the volume up or down and much more. In addition, any or all of these functions can take place automatically on a preset schedule for example to make sure that a room is ready to use in the morning and is powered off at night.

WHY INSTALL A CONTROL SYSTEM?

To make life less complicated. Consider a classroom with a ceiling mounted projector, motorized screen, DVD player and document camera. Without a control system, the teacher would have to use wall switches to control the screen, IR remotes for the projector and DVD player and perhaps a third for the document camera. Each of these remotes run off of batteries that may run down, and just like in the typical home, remotes have a way of disappearing. A control system eliminates all of the remotes and combines the functionality into one easy to use touchscreen that can be placed at the most convenient place in the room.

To find out more about how a Flex Control System can help you, contact FSR at (800) 332- 3771, send an e-mail to sales@fsrinc.com or visit our website at www.fsrinc.com.

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HOW DOES A CONTROL SYSTEM WORK?

Think about a classroom with a Computer, DVD Player, Projector and Motorized Screen. When the teacher arrives, they must turn on the computer, use the remote to turn on the projector, use another remote to turn on the DVD player and walk over and turn on the document camera. They also must go to the wall to press the button to lower the screen. If the classroom has a traditional voice lift system, the teacher must go to where that is located, turn down whatever the last source was and turn up whatever they will be using to start the day. This really doesn't take long, but it is tedious and steps tend to get missed, especially when it comes to turning things off at night.

A control system takes all of the steps outlined above and, in effect, places them under one button for the teacher to press. When the teacher presses the On button, a signal is sent to each piece of equipment to turn on. Another signal is sent to the screen to lower it. One button press, and the classroom is ready for instruction. Better, when the teacher wants to switch between sources, such as from her computer to the DVD player, a single button tells the projector to change inputs, tells the audio switcher to change inputs and can even adjust the volume. The teacher still has full control over the Document Camera and DVD player but she no longer has to point a remote control hopefully in the right direction.
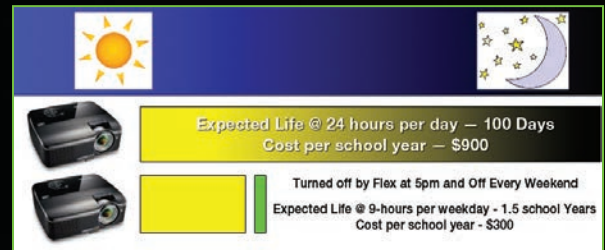
Three remotes and four knobs to adjust volume

A BETTER SOLUTION

One FLEX system controls everything

CAN A CONTROL SYSTEM SAVE MONEY?

Yes it can. After the initial capital expenditure, the large cost of an AV system is maintenance, and the largest single expense is the projector bulb. Without a control system, the projector is often left on by accident overnight and sometimes through the weekend. This can cut the useful life of the projector bulb by 2/3 or more, and at $400 or more each the costs add up.

Expected Life @ 24 hours per day — 100 Days
Cost per school year — $900

Turned off by Flex at 5pm and Off Every Weekend
Expected Life @ 9-hours per weekday - 1.5 school Years
Cost per school year - $300

A control system can help in two ways. First, by making the turn-off process a single button press, it is unlikely that the system would be left on. As an added benefit, the control system's internal scheduler can be set to automatically turn the system off at a preset time. In this way, even if the system was left on by accident, it is turned off automatically. The control system pays for itself in the cost of projector bulbs and the savings in the electricity to run them.

WHY INSTALL A FLEX CONTROL SYSTEM FROM FSR?

The Flex control system is easy to use, loaded with features and affordable. It is small, can fit on a wall, desk or podium and can control nearly any piece of equipment you wish. You can even install the Flex Remote Software on a computer and remotely control a panel, quickly adding a second control point to a room.

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