

## A Brief History of the Wireless Tablet in Classroom Instruction

A White Paper by Steve Kaye, CEO of eInstruction™

The development of the first wireless tablet designed for the classroom is a story of the right technology in the right place at the right time. In the late 1990s, GTCO CalComp – the company that would become eInstruction – was successfully marketing an interactive whiteboard product to the K-12 market. The company had pioneered the underlying electromagnetic digitizing technology, and the interactive whiteboard was beginning to catch on as a mainstream classroom tool.

Teachers recognized the value of having an “interactive” as compared to a “static” whiteboard or traditional blackboard. They saw the interactive whiteboard as a way to bring a growing array of digital resources into the classroom. These interactive resources could better engage the “digital natives” now occupying the classroom.

But there were important limitations, too. Teachers wanted to be “mobile,” to be free to teach from anywhere in the classroom, yet still be able to control their computers and deliver their lessons. Teachers also wanted a way to directly involve their students.

With extensive input from thousands of interactive whiteboard users, eInstruction began “imagineering” a different way to approach classroom interactivity. eInstruction wanted to develop a tool that would provide “digital interactivity,” while also giving teachers full classroom mobility. The company sought to create a device that would also enable students to get more involved and more “hands on” with instructional material. In 2001, the research and development came to fruition in the SchoolPad, the world’s first mobile interactive whiteboard.

A request was filed for a U.S. Patent on November 9, 2001, and formally granted on August 16, 2005. This patent, No. 6930673, is known as the “**Collaborative Input System**” and secured eInstruction’s unique position as inventor and leader in this product category.



Interwrite SchoolPad

Wireless tablets are now becoming a standard tool in every teacher’s toolkit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom. “This product has fundamentally changed the way I teach,” enthused one user. Other typical comments about the SchoolPad include: “I can’t imagine teaching without my SchoolPad,” and “When I bring out my SchoolPad, the students get totally engaged.”

Today, that same patented technology lies at the heart of eInstruction’s next-generation wireless tablet system, the “Interwrite Mobi™.”



Launched in January 2009, the Mobi System is the first and only wireless handheld tablet system that combines teacher mobility, interactive whiteboard functionality, classroom collaboration, and "Know-What-I-Know" (KWIK) instant assessment reporting, all in one affordable mobile system. The system also comes with a patent-pending charging and security station called the "Mobi Dock."



**CPS student response clicker**



**Interwrite Mobi® System with Mobi Dock**

The Mobi System has given teachers an even more powerful means to teach from anywhere in the classroom while monitoring real-time assessment results. Using Mobi's color Know-What-I-Know (KWIK) LCD display in conjunction with eInstruction's market-leading student response system makes it easy for teachers to identify students who need special attention and topics that require further explanation. A second, student version of the tablet called the "Mobi Learner" allows students to collaborate and contribute to lesson materials concurrently, either in separate windows or in a shared space, using the Mobi's new multi-user interface.

A recent quote from a review in the April issue of *Teaching & Learning* magazine sums up the Mobi nicely. "This is the best tablet I've seen so far. Since multiple students can participate at the same time in their own workspace, this system makes the idea of expensive interactive whiteboards obsolete."

**About eInstruction™**

eInstruction™ is a leading provider of interactive learning solutions designed to help educators achieve academic progress every day. Our Interwrite DualBoard™ is an extremely durable interactive whiteboard that provides dual input functionality and includes thousands of images and resources to create dynamic and exciting lessons. The portable wireless Interwrite Mobi™ works like an interactive whiteboard, but gives instructors the mobility to teach from anywhere in the classroom and displays real-time assessment results when used with eInstruction CPS clickers. CPS is a powerful student response system that combines interaction and assessment to enhance classroom productivity. It allows teachers – from elementary schools to universities – to accurately and instantly assess student comprehension and quickly grade quizzes and exams. All eInstruction products integrate with high-quality content and have been proven to increase student engagement, facilitate collaboration, and improve student achievement.

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