optimas® School

EUROPEAN PATENT

TECHNOLOGY THAT OPTIMIZES YOUR COMPUTER CLASSROOM

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LANGUAGE LABS & MULTIMEDIA CLASSROOMS

A world of possibilities
in every classroom

What is Optimas?

Interactive learning, communication and control

Everything combined in the same intuitive, easy to use package for teachers and students

Optimas is a system that combines hardware and software to optimize and fully exploit any computer classroom.

We started from the premise that computer classrooms in educational centres lack the tools to create environments where the students can fully participate. In these classrooms the students do not interact, nor do they communicate orally amongst themselves or with their teacher.

Optimas, besides enabling a high level of communication within the classroom, also gives the teacher complete control over everything in the classroom. A wide range of resources and didactic material can be used, including audio and video in real time through the computer network.

For these reasons, as well as its special functions designed for language learning, Optimas is the most complete and up-to-date digital language laboratory on the market.

It is easy to install and use. And, as it uses the existing classroom computer network, it does not require additional networks or cabling.

Roycan technology

A Spanish company which leads the way in educational technology

Optimas is the result of many years of development and a high level of investment in R & D. Roycan, which has its origins in teaching, and which has been dedicated to teaching throughout its 25-year history, is the only Spanish company dedicated exclusively to designing and building language laboratories and multimedia classrooms.

From the very start of this project hundreds of teachers have participated, lending their ideas. These teachers have been the true architects of this system which is revolutionizing educational centres.

Nowadays, Optimas, a Spanish technological breakthrough, is known throughout the world; a fact backed up by more than 3,000 classrooms in 20 countries.

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Advantages

For the educational centre

○ Optimas can be integrated into any computer classroom using the Windows or Linux operating systems, allowing the centre to fully exploit the new technologies available for educational purposes.

○ A small additional investment means a greater return on equipment already in place, adapting the computer system to real teaching needs, and turning the classroom into a multi-discipline, multimedia area, or a fully functioning language laboratory.

○ As it is available in 3 different scalable versions, it can be adapted to any centre, discipline, teacher or group of students, whatever their specific needs. Additionally, there is a wide range of optional extras available.

For teachers

○ The system allows new and interesting multimedia tools to be used from day one, without the need for advanced computer knowledge or highly specific training.

○ Everything is under the teacher's control. The students can work alone, but the teacher can speak to them over their headsets, control the activities they are involved in and monitor each and every one of them from his/ her work station.

○ The teacher no longer has to waste time preparing the classroom and setting up the equipment. In a very short time the classroom is up and running and the students can begin work immediately.

○ The interface and Optimas software are highly intuitive and easy to use. The system also works with touch screens.

For the students

○ Studying and carrying out activities in the classroom with Optimas turns everything into an attractive, enriching, enjoyable multimedia experience.

○ At all times, the students can communicate orally with their teacher and the rest of their classmates, speak amongst themselves, share experiences, ask for help, or work in pairs or groups.

○ The students have an infinite number of teaching resources available to them, including activities and multimedia exercises based on the internet, audio and video, adapted to their needs and to the digital world we live in.

- **Return on investment**
- **Adaptability**
- **Modular Design**

4 systems in **1**

Audiovisual Broadcasting

Optimas allows high quality audio and video to be sent in real time through the classroom's computer network without interference or delays.

Send channels
Depending on the version, up to 10 channels can be broadcast simultaneously. On each of the channels available, the teacher can send different audiovisual resources to different groups of students.

Resource Diversity
The material used in the class can come from a wide variety of sources, be they analogical or digital; computer software, DVDs, the Internet, VHS videos, cassettes, etc.

Practical demonstrations
The teacher controls the broadcasting of these resources so that the students receive them individually at their workstations. The teacher can show his/ her screen to the students, or any of the student's screens to the rest of the class, add his/ her voice to the material being sent, as well as a limitless number of other possibilities.

Communication

The communication factor is a fundamental part of Optimas. Oral communication allows the students to be in contact with one another and their teacher at all times.

Work Groups
Due to differences within the classroom, Optimas allows up to 8 groups to be configured simultaneously, depending on the version being used. The teacher controls the students' microphones to allow the students to talk amongst themselves, or communication with the whole class.

Pair work
Pair work encourages interaction and collaborative work between two students. The teacher can create different types of pair groupings in the class to allow the students to participate in oral exchanges.

Chat
This system allows the creation of written interchanges at class level or in groups.

Help
The communication system allows work time in the classroom to be optimized, since the students can call on, and be attended by the teacher individually, without having to leave their work stations and without interfering with the work of their classmates.

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Control

Being able to maintain discipline in the classroom means being able to fully exploit the time dedicated to each group in the multimedia classroom. The teacher does not need to be a computer expert, nor dedicate time to solving problems in the classroom. The teacher only has to dedicate him or herself to giving the classes.

Supervision
The teacher can see the students' screens from his/ her workstation, and listen to the students taking part in conversations, pair work and group work, and at the same time record them if he/ she wishes. The teacher can focus on individual students, monitoring the students one by one or get a general overview of the whole class.

Remote access
The teacher can remotely take over control of the student's computer without having to leave his/ her workstation, switch the computer on or off, or block the computer in order to get the student's attention.

Guidance
The teacher automatically executes the programmes on the students' computers, denying them access to software they are not authorized to use, or sending files with exercises for the students to complete. In this way, the organization, sending and receiving of work is simplified in a personalized manner.

Management and Personalization

To make teaching and learning easier in the classroom, Optimas has several different management tools which facilitate and personalize these tasks.

Identification
Depending on the version, the students input their names or passwords, so the teacher knows precisely who they are. This makes the tasks of supervision and remote access to Optimas, and the other classroom tools, easier as the teacher can see which student is seated in front of each computer.
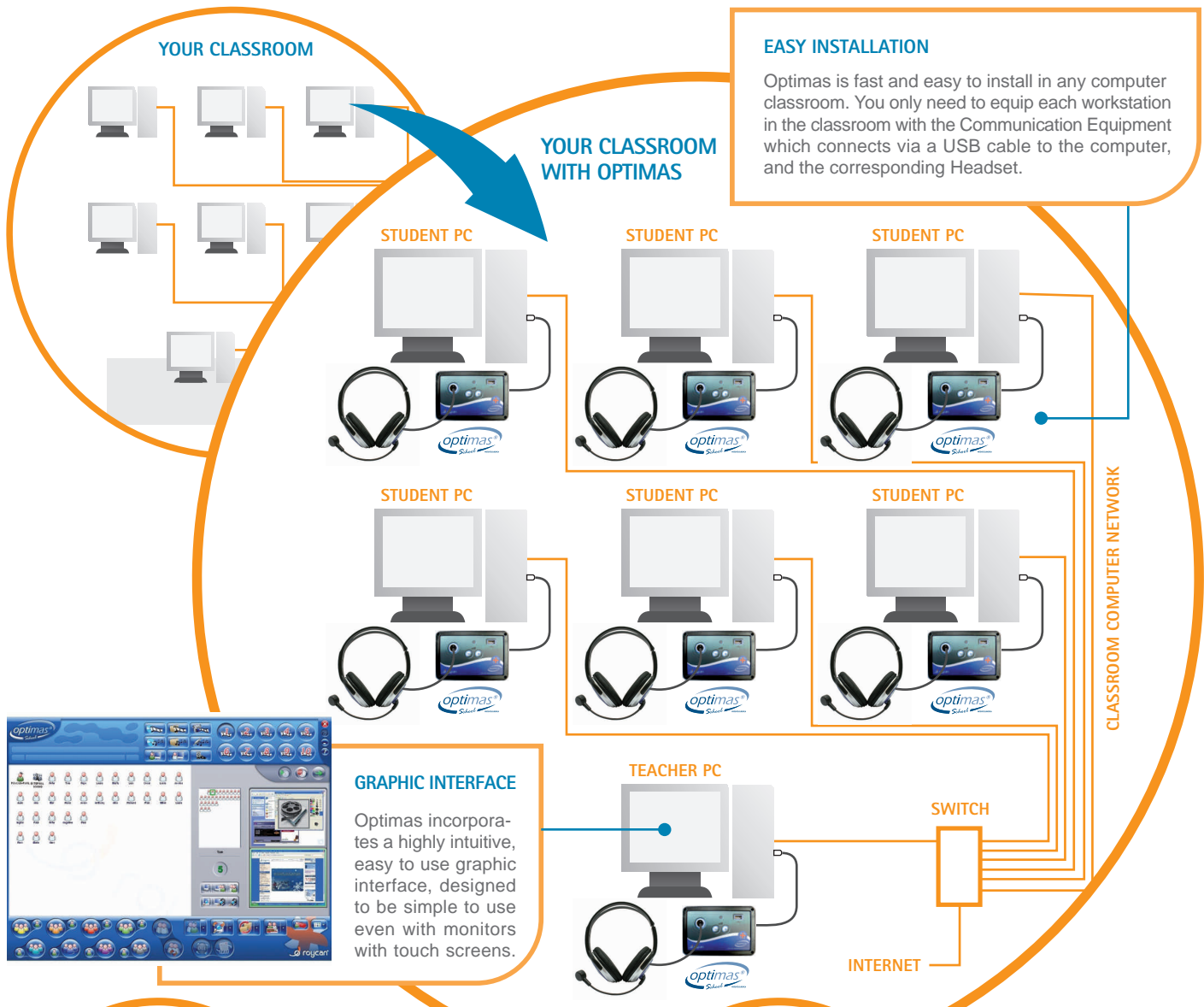
Library
The teacher has an advanced, shared classroom resource management system, which enables him/ her to easily store teaching material and make it available to the students, establishing access privileges if necessary.

Profiles
Each teacher can create their own configuration profiles, save them and retrieve them in later classes. This configuration includes the way the classroom is set up, the groups, channels created, etc.

The **Optimas classroom**

YOUR CLASSROOM

YOUR CLASSROOM WITH OPTIMAS

EASY INSTALLATION

Optimas is fast and easy to install in any computer classroom. You only need to equip each workstation in the classroom with the Communication Equipment which connects via a USB cable to the computer, and the corresponding Headset.

STUDENT PC

STUDENT PC

STUDENT PC

STUDENT PC

STUDENT PC

STUDENT PC

CLASSROOM COMPUTER NETWORK

GRAPHIC INTERFACE

Optimas incorporates a highly intuitive, easy to use graphic interface, designed to be simple to use even with monitors with touch screens.

TEACHER PC

SWITCH

INTERNET

Communication Equipment

This connects to each computer via USB to provide optimum levels of communication. It has its own volume control, a socket for the Headset, and an additional USB port to allow external equipment to be connected.

Roycan Headset

Specially designed for Optimas, this headset has a highly sensitive microphone and special ear pads for acoustic isolation. Its safety pressure connector means damage due to tugs on the cable is avoided, as it easily separates without damaging the equipment.

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Optional Equipment

Sound Pack

This is a special piece of equipment which adds additional sound capabilities. These increase the functionality of the classroom, especially if it is to be used mainly as a language laboratory. It contains an amplification system which connects to speakers in the classroom and a bank of additional connections, which allow other pieces of audio equipment to be connected at the teacher's desk. This additional equipment can then be integrated with Optimas.

Global Master

Global Master is a central control system which houses, in one piece of equipment, all the classroom control and management functions, freeing up the teacher's computer from these tasks. This piece of equipment can be run in the classroom under Windows and Linux simultaneously. It has additional multimedia storage, and includes the Sound Pack sound system and all its many other functions, making it perfect for turning the classroom into an advanced digital language laboratory.

DLL Digital Language Recorder

This is a virtual cassette which has numerous language learning capabilities. It functions much like a traditional active audio cassette player, but it also includes several interesting innovations such as being able to include images and video, as well as allowing bookmarks, comments and even subtitles to be added. The portable version, DLL Mobile connects directly to the computer via a USB port*.
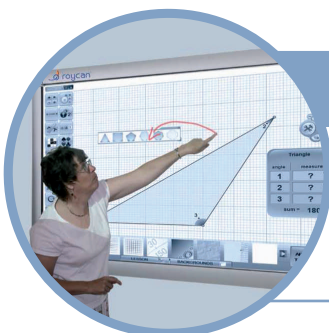
*DLL Mobile can be used with any computer independently of the Optimas system.

Exam Module

This allows the teacher to create, edit, and manage different types of exercises, such as exams, multiple-choice tests, written tests, etc. The teacher can use this tool to design activities specifying different control parameters, such as a time limit to complete the exercises, automatic correction by using predetermined solutions, and, at the end of the exercises it can provide statistical results in the form of tables and graphics.

...and an endless number of other possibilities!

Optimas can be connected to a large number of audiovisual and other peripheral devices, increasing the number of possible uses and allowing all kinds of teaching resources to be used.

Any piece of equipment, whether analogical or digital, can be easily connected to the Optimas classroom: for example a digital whiteboard, a VHS video player, a cassette recorder, an iPod, a video camera, etc.

Optimas versions

Standard Equipment

	OPTIMAS BASIC	OPTIMAS STANDARD	OPTIMAS PREMIUM
Optimas Communication Equipment for the students	●	●	●
Students' Headset	●	●	●
Optimas Communication Equipment for the teacher	●	●	●
Teacher Headset	●	●	●
Optimaster analogical/digital Converter	●	●	●

Operating Functions

	OPTIMAS BASIC	OPTIMAS STANDARD	OPTIMAS PREMIUM
Audiovisual Broadcast Channels	Up to 3	Up to 5	Up to 10
Send Teacher's Screen and Voice	●	●	●
Send Student's Screen and Voice	-	1	Up to 10
General Call	●	●	●
Teacher to Students Oral Communication	●	●	●
Teacher – Student Private Oral Communication	●	●	●
Student groups	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 8
Chat groups	-	-	●
Pair work	-	●	●
Request for Help	Basic	Basic	Advanced
Individual Monitoring of the Students´ Screens	●	●	●
Sequential Monitoring of the Students´ Screens	-	●	●
Selective Listening to Students´ Voices (spy mode)	●	●	●
Remote Recording of the Students´ Speech*	●	●	●
Remote Access to the Students' computers	-	●	●
Individual Call (blocking)	-	●	●
Remote Application Execution	●	●	●
Denying Access to Applications	-	●	●
Switching Computers On and Off Remotely	-	●	●
Student Personal Identification	-	●	●
Send files to students	-	-	●
Configuration of Personalized Profiles	-	●	●

* Available only with Sound Pack or Global Master (optional equipment)

Optional Equipment Available

	OPTIMAS BASIC	OPTIMAS STANDARD	OPTIMAS PREMIUM
Sound Pack	●	●	●
Global Master Central Unit	-	●	●
Optimas DLL Digital Recorder	-	-	●
Optimas DLL Mobile Digital Recorder	●	●	●
Exam module	-	●	●

Operating Systems

	OPTIMAS BASIC	OPTIMAS STANDARD	OPTIMAS PREMIUM
Windows	XP, Windows 7 (32/64)	XP, Windows 7 (32/64)	XP, Windows 7 (32/64)
Linux (Ubuntu from August 2010)	-	Only with Global Master	Only with Global Master

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