

The StarPanel

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Introduction

The StarPanel is an interactive flat screen computer monitor in which you can display the Instructor’s computer to the screen and perform interactive presentations while using the StarBoard’s software functions. The StarPanel is used with a stylus “pen” which acts as a mouse as your input device. The StarPanel allows drawn data to be stored as digital data and it also allows data to be written over digital content such as pictures, movies, slide shows or just about anything shown onto the computer screen. Together, the StarPanel acts as a teaching tool which enhances the classroom experience by increasing instructor and student interaction through the use of technology.



The Hardware

The StarPanel is composed of two main devices: the screen and the pen. As seen above, the Starboard is a flat panel computer monitor with technology enhanced features that incorporates input technology to allow you to interact with an instructor’s computer.

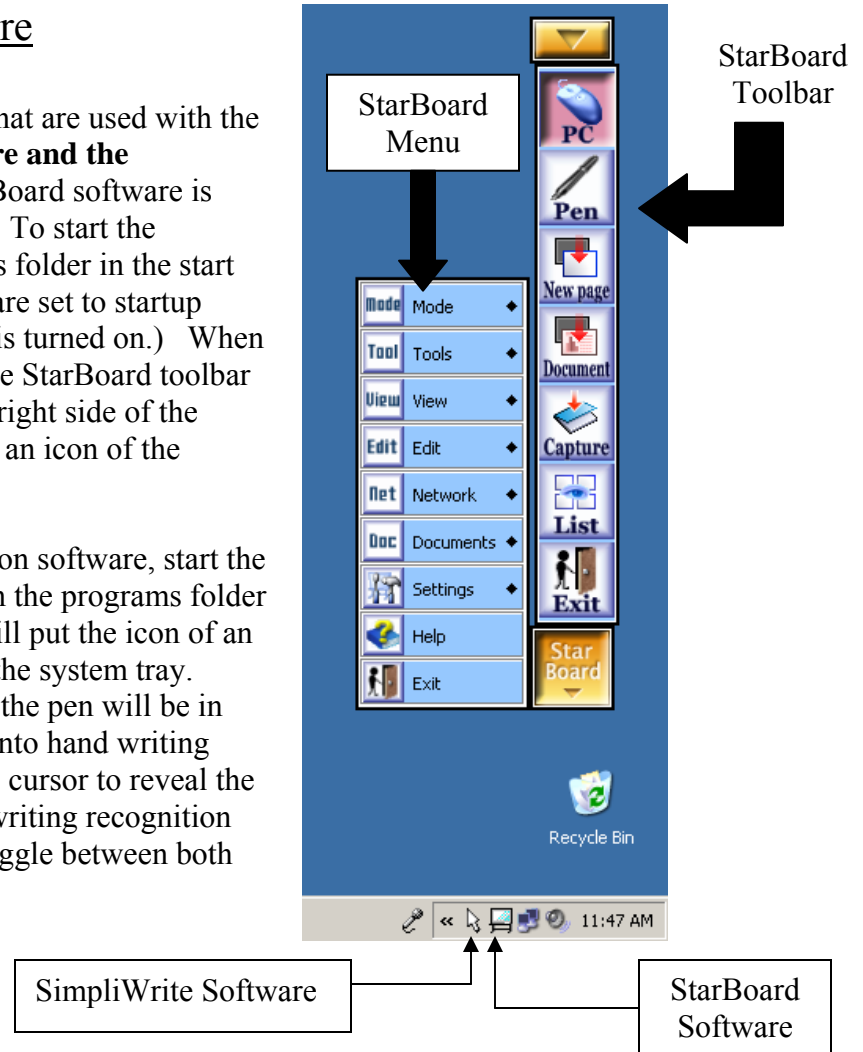
The pen (seen right), is used as an input device to duplicate as a mouse to control the instructors station and a writing pen to annotate on the StarPanel. The tip of the pen also acts as the left click of the mouse. You can single and double click with the pen by tapping the pen on the Panel.



The Software

There are two pieces of software that are used with the StarPanel: **the StarBoard software and the SimpliWrite software**. The StarBoard software is located on the instructor's station. To start the program, choose it in the programs folder in the start menu. (By default, the programs are set to startup automatically when the computer is turned on.) When the program is finished loading, the StarBoard toolbar will appear usually on the bottom right side of the screen. The program will also put an icon of the StarBoard in the system tray.

If using the hand writing recognition software, start the StarBoard SimpliWrite software in the programs folder in the start menu. The program will put the icon of an arrow mouse cursor or red pen in the system tray. When the mouse cursor is visible, the pen will be in mouse mode. To change the pen into hand writing recognition mode, click the mouse cursor to reveal the red pen. The pen is now in hand writing recognition mode. This step is important to toggle between both functions.



Basic Operations

The Toolbar

All operations can be done from the Toolbar! The toolbar houses all the menus and frequently used items in the software. The toolbar be customized in any way to accommodate your teaching style. It can be moved anywhere on the screen, it can open and collapse, and you can add/delete/rearrange the items in the toolbar. The menu section of the toolbar is where all of the software's functions reside. (See above)

StarPanel Use

Navigation, Annotation, and Input. These are the three basic functions of the StarPanel.

You can navigate through the computer at the StarPanel with the pen just as if you were using the mouse. You can execute the same mouse functions like highlighting and drag/dropping etc. **To do so, you must be in PC mode, which can be selected in the Toolbar.**

Annotating is done in Pen mode, which can also be chosen from the Toolbar. Annotation is done on top of the screen image. You can annotate just as if you were writing normally. You can change the color and width of your writing, the template you are writing on, create multiple pages, undo or erase your actions, create objects, copy and paste, save your work and much more.

Inputting your annotations into an application requires the SimpliWrite Software. When the software is running, by default, you will be in PC mode indicated by the mouse arrow cursor in the system tray (see page 2). PC mode enables navigation and annotation. When you click on the mouse cursor to enter pen mode, you can now write and your work will be transferred into the application you are using like MS Word or Excel etc. You must accommodate your writing to the software so that your writing will be recognized. This can be accomplished through practice in using the software.

To use the pen as a temporary annotator:

1. Make sure that “Mouse” mode is selected in the Starboard software.
2. Change the SimpliWrite software to “Pen” mode by clicking the “Arrow” icon in the system tray. The arrow icon will change to a Pen icon.
3. Proceed to draw on the board/screen. Notice that when you finish drawing a section, your annotation disappears.
4. When done annotating, go back to “Mouse/Cursor” mode by clicking on the “Pen” icon in the system tray. The “Pen” icon will change back to an “Arrow” icon.

Saving your presentation data:

To save your presentation data:

1. Select the “Starboard” toolbar button
2. Select “Exit”
3. Give a “Title Name” to your presentation
4. Click “Save” and the program will exit

To get to your saved data:

1. Select the “Starboard” toolbar button
2. Select “Documents”
3. Select “Saved Data”
4. Select the down arrow button next to your work on the left
5. Select “Open” and your presentation will now open

To save your presentation slides individually into a picture format:

1. Follow the “To get to your saved data” instructions
2. When done, click on the “Starboard” toolbar button
3. Click on “View”
4. Click on “Page List”
5. Select your slide that you want to save
6. Click on “Save”
7. Select one of the 4 options:
 - a. **Save As:** To save your whole presentation under a different name.
 - b. **Export to a File:** You can save a selected slide into a .html format, for web publishing.
 - c. **Export Selected Topic as Images:** Saves your whole presentation as a picture file (.PNG, .JPEG, .BMP)
 - d. **Export Selected Page as an Image:** Saves an individual slide as a picture file (.PNG, .JPEG, .BMP)
8. Close the window by selecting the “X” on the top right portion of the window. Select the “Starboard” button and the program will exit.

Tips

- ▶ Since you may customize the Toolbar, you can save to a personal profile so that you have the same setup every time you use the software. This profile can be loaded into any StarBoard software in any classroom that has the StarBoard or StarPanel.
- ▶ Any data created during a StarBoard session can be saved. It is saved as a Portable Network Graphics file, which can be imported into any other application.
- ▶ It is important to note that during the course of a SmartBoard session, you may have to switch between operations to accomplish a task, such as switching between PC and Pen mode. This can be learned from practice with the software.

Other Uses

- ▶ The StarBoard has other advanced uses such as movie playback, slideshow (PowerPoint) manipulation, and teleconferencing. These areas can be covered at the user’s request.

Frequently Asked Questions and Troubleshooting

- ▶ The position of the pen and cursor are not aligned. What do I do?
 - When the position of the cursor and the position of the electronic pen are skewed for operations done on the StarPanel, making such operations difficult, perform a [Pen Calibration].
 1. With the pen, press the [StarBoard] Button from the [Toolbar], then select [Settings] > [StarBoard] > [Calibration] from the menu. The [Calibration] dialogue is displayed.

- **To calibrate the electronic pen and position shown on the screen**
 1. Press [OK] on the [Calibration] dialogue.
 2. Press the electronic pen on the symbol in the upper-right, perpendicular to the screen. This will cause the red blinking symbol to become green. Repeat this operation for the other marks, proceeding in counter-clockwise order.
 3. Once calibration has been completed for the symbol at centre, the process will complete after a short interval. If calibration fails, please redo the process.

- **To Cancel Calibration**, Press the [ESC] key on the keyboard.

“Who to Contact...”

- For classroom documentation and training:
Contact Jeff Potocki at x4069 or find reference materials at:
www.fairfield.edu/cnstraining

- For equipment issues (computer, media console, projectors, drop down screen, removable wall panel, **StarPanel**):
Contact AMES at x2593