

Overview:

Multimedia software has had a dramatic effect on the way in which information is communicated via public messaging systems. Affordable and relatively easy-to-use programs, such as PowerPoint®, Scala® and Macromedia Director®, allow for text, graphics, animation and video to be integrated into dynamic, attention-grabbing presentations. Visit most airports, hotels, museums, conference centers and other large public gathering places and use of these presentation tools will become quickly apparent.

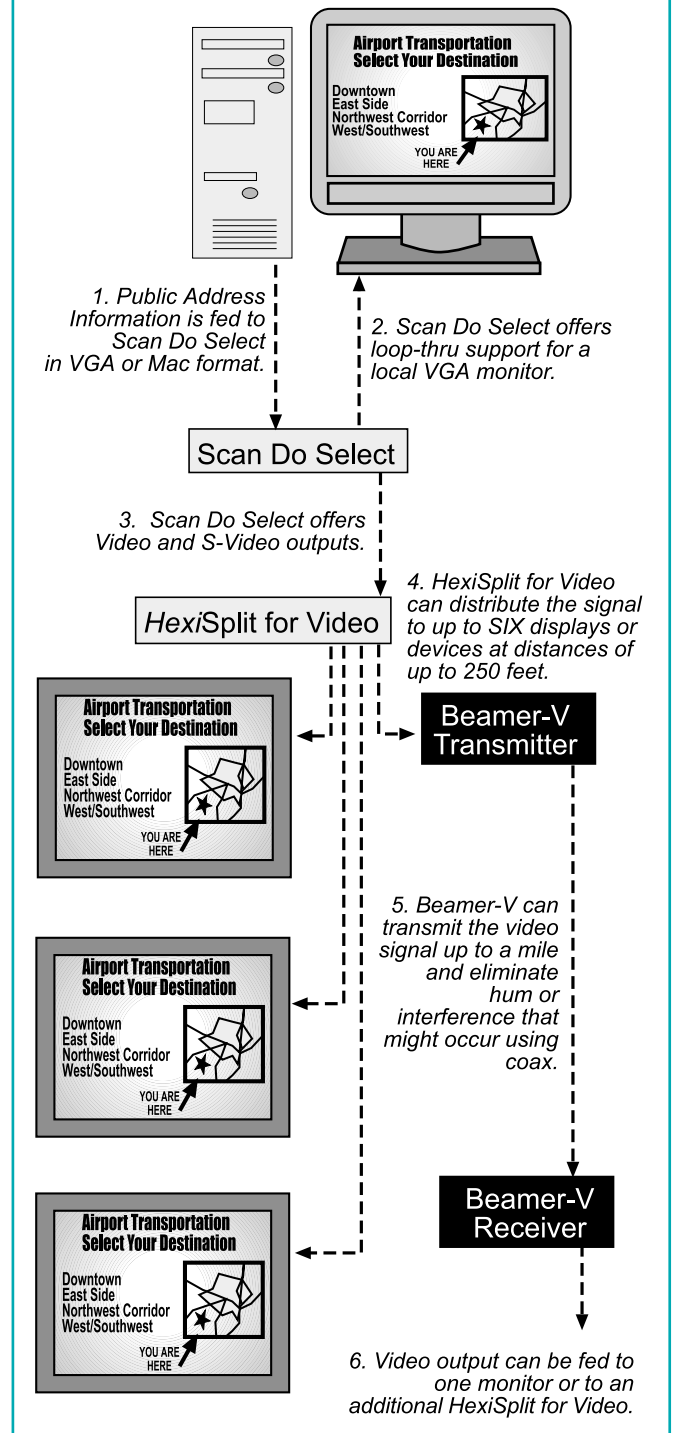
Unlike earlier-generation public information systems, which may have used simple character generators and been "video" based, newer systems that rely on multimedia presentations use computers to generate source material. The output from these computers are often not compatible with the installed video (NTSC or PAL) equipment available for display purposes throughout the public areas. This TECHnique will describe how Scan Do® Select, one of many scan converters available from Communications Specialties, enables public information messaging systems to make use of both newer presentation software and older, less expensive and often "already installed" video display equipment. It will also discuss how other products from Communications Specialties may be used to distribute the video signal to multiple displays for public viewing.

Details:

In order for computer-generated presentations to be displayed on standard video equipment, the computer video format in which the presentations originate must first be converted to lower-resolution, non-interlaced NTSC or PAL format. In the case of public information systems, where the information being disseminated may be of vital importance, it is particularly important that the conversion process result in a clear, crisp picture with no noticeable loss of critical detail.

Scan Do Select, a scan converter developed specifically for presentation purposes, is an ideal

Example of Public Information Messaging System Installation



Page 2: USING SCAN DO® SELECT WITH PUBLIC INFORMATION MESSAGING SYSTEMS

device for use in this application. Scan Do Select supports resolutions as high as 1280 x 1024 (at 60 Hz), will automatically “lock” onto any VGA or Mac computer video input, and has an extremely effective three-line anti-flicker filter that provides a crisp and stable image. Offering both video and S-video outputs, the unit features a convenient, internal power supply and can be easily rackmounted. A five-step zoom control with horizontal and vertical positioning ensures that displayed output will be correctly sized and centered on all monitors.

Suggestions:

Once Scan Do Select has been used to convert computer video to TV video, CSI’s distribution amplifiers for video or S-video may be used to distribute the video signal to multiple monitors or displays that are part of the public information messaging system. (See diagram on previous page.) CSI’s distribution amplifiers offer 300 MHz bandwidth, are fully buffered and can transmit up to 250 feet.

For distribution of the signal over extended distances, a fiber optic video transmission system might be considered, such as Communications Specialties’ easy-to-use Beamer-V™. Using Beamer-V, the signal may be transmitted up to a mile over standard multimode fiber and will be immune to hum or interference. This would be particularly helpful in industrial environments.

CSI Products Used In This TECHnique:

- Scan Do® Select 1290
- HexiSplit® for Video 1806
- Beamer-V™ System 3105

Related TECHniques:

- Educational Guide: *Scan Converter Buyers' Guide*