Product Evaluations

1. Interactive White Boards
2. Photo Editing Software
3. Laptops

Interactive White Boards

1. SmartBoard 885ix
2. Promethean ActivBoard
3. Polyvision Eno Classic

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| Product Name | Company | Specifications/  Features | Price | Ease of Use | Help/  Support | Durability | Ease/ Cost of Repair | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| *Smartboard 885ix* | Smart Technologies | USB Connection.  Projector is network enabled. Compatible with Windows & Mac  Comes with 2 pens  **Accessories:** Overhead Projector, remote, student response tool, student interactive writing pad. | $1200-$6000 | Up to two users at once. Can use dry erase markers. | Online Chat, Email, Telephone, and more support options. | Made to high durability standards. | 3 year projector warranty. 5 year board warranty. | * 30 day demo of software. * Numerous Support options * Projector is network enabled. * Can use markers | * Not compatible with Linux * No wireless option. |
| *Activboard* | Promethean | USB Connnection. Can upgrade to wireless connection. Includes speakers, projector, and 4 pens. Compatible with Windows, Mac & Linux  **Accessories:** Overhead Projector, remote, student response tool, student interactive writing pad | $1000-$4000 | Adjustable Height Stand. Offers a longer stylus for shorter users. Up to 2 users at a time. Markers can be used but it is not recommended. | Online Support. Limited telephone support. | “Made to very high standards of durability” | 3 year stand warranty  3 year projector/lamp warranty  1 Year Pen Warranty  Scratches on the board cannot be repaired. | * No batteries * Compatible with any operating system * Wireless Upgrade available | * Requires installation * Only online support. * Marker use not recommended. |
| *Eno classic* | Polyvision | No cords or cables: Bluetooth connection (USB optional) to computers, ceramic/steel surface. Includes one stylus.  **Accessories[[1]](#footnote-1):** student response tool, student interactive writing pad | $1500-$3000 | “Magnets, markers & multimedia all in one” Can be used as any regular whiteboard or as an interactive board. Up to three users at once. | 24 hour phone support Monday-Friday. Online support. Customer Service Monday-Friday 8am-6pm. | Surface is ceramic/steel. No multipoint failure.  Batteries may need to be replaced monthly depending on use. Pen Requires Battery as well. | Lifetime Surface,  2 year electronic & 10 year trim warranty.  Maintenance free.  Should only need to replace a stylus which will arrive next day. | * Ceramic/Steel Surface versatility. * 24 hour phone support. Lifetime Surface Warranty. * Three user ability. * Little Installation. | * Stylus rather than finger. * Battery Rather than plug in. |

Choice:

In reviewing these boards, I believe that the best choice for an interactive white board would be the Polyvision Eno Classic. I believe that the durability of the board’s surface would make the board much less likely to be damaged, and therefore safer to use with students, especially at the elementary level. Another great part of the Eno is that it does not require cords. It uses Bluetooth which comes on most new computers. If the school is using older computers, a USB connection is available on request. The lack of cords makes instillation simple. Yet another positive for this board is that it allows 3 users at once. The other boards only allow 2 users at once. The surface of this board also makes it very versatile. It can handle magnets, dry-erase markers, and the interactive pens. A 24 hour support hotline offers help for any issues that may arise. The warranty for the Board’s elements is better than most. The only real downside to this board is that it uses batteries in both the stylus and the board. I was unable to find information on whether the board’s battery was rechargeable or needed to be replaced. This may cause an added cost, but it is cheaper overall because it will not add to the electric bill, and it is cheaper than the other boards. These are the reasons why I believe the Eno Classic is the best choice for a classroom interactive white board.

Photo Editing Software

1. Adobe PhotoShop CS5 Extended
2. Corel PaintShop Pro X3 Ultimate
3. TriScape Fx Photo

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| Product Name | Company | Specifications/  Compatability | Price | Features | Help/  Support | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| *PhotoShop CS5 Extended* | Adobe | Available as CD or Download. Compatible with Mac and Windows XP and newer. | $199-$299  Plus Shipping for CD-Rom Option | Advanced Photo Editing using layers. Edit colors, lighting, size, add text and more. | Online Tutorials, FAQs, Forums & Blogs, Phone Support, Online Support Form | * Most popular in the graphic design industry. | * Price |
| *PaintShop Pro X3 Ultimate* | Corel | Available as CD or Download. Compatible with Windows 7 | $99  Plus Shipping for CD-Rom Option | Advanced Photo Editing Edit colors, lighting, size, add text and more. | Email Support, FAQs, Phone Support, Live Chat | * Same features as PhotoShop but cheaper. | * Highest Shipping Rate * Only Compatible with Windows 7 * Largest file size |
| *Fx Photo*  *Media Edition* | Triscape | Available as CD or Download. Compatible with Windows 98 and newer. | $79.95-$99.95  Plus Shipping for CD-Rom Option | Simple Photo Editing Options for Cropping, Adjusting Color, and adding effects. | Online Tutorials, FAQS, Help Forums, Online Support Form | * Online Download is easy even on Dial-Up * Smallest file size. | * No Phone Support * Not as popular in the industry. * Not as many options. * Express shipping not available * Only Compatible with Windows |

Choice:

I believe the best choice for Photo Editing Software is Adobe PhotoShop. Although it is the most expensive, it is compatible with more systems than either of the others. It also has more options than Fx Photo. It offers online tutorials and a discount for Educational Institutions. There are also a number of different support options. The most important advantage of PhotoShop is that it is much more popular. By learning this software, they will be more desirable as employees and have more useful skill because they will be able to use the software that the company or college is likely to have. Although PhotoShop is more expensive, it works for more audiences and has more feature

Laptops

1. Toshiba Satellite A660
2. Acer Aspire 5742Z
3. Dell Lattitude Z

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| Product Name | Company | Specifications/  Features | Price[[2]](#footnote-2) | Memory/ RAM | Weight | Help/  Support | Warranty | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| *Satellite A6660* | Toshiba | Customizable. Windows 7. Triple core or quad core processor, 16” Screen, DVD/CD Drive, Webcam, BluRay Disc Drive Available, 4 USB ports, Bluetooth &Wi-Fi, Microsoft Office Available, Backlit Keyboard Available | $699.99-$1,699.99 | 320-640 GB Memory HDD/ 4- 8 GB RAM | 6.5lbs | Forums, Telephone, Email | 1 year standard warranty. 2 & 3 year warranty available. | * Customizable * Blue Ray Disc Drive * Bluetooth * Standard Warranty * Most Memory * Most RAM * Triple/Quad Core Processor | * Cost * Support is hard to navigate. |
| *Aspire 5742Z* | Acer | Windows 7 Home, 2Ghz Processor, DVD/CD Drive, Media Card Reader, 15.6” Screen, Webcam, Wireless Enabled | $529 | 320 GB Memory HDD / 3GB RAM | 5.7lbs | Email & Chat Support, FAQs | Warranty Information Not Available | * Least Expensive | * Media Card Reader |
| *Latitude Z* | Dell | Customizable. 16” Screen. CD/DVD Drive, Backup & Recovery, Windows Vista or Windows 7, Wi-Fi Enabled, Able to Add Adobe Acrobat & Microsoft Office, Able to add choice of security software | $1,999- $4,325 | 64-256GB Memory SSD /2.-4 GB RAM | 4.5lbs | 3 year pro-support, 3 year onsite service, Support Forums, Chat, FAQs, Email, Telephone, | Warranty Costs Extra | * Customizable * Backup& Data Recovery options * Software load Options * On-site support | * Highest Priced * Least Memory |

Choice:

The Toshiba Satellite is the mid-priced laptop in those I chose to research. Although it is more expensive than the Acer it has many more features. The laptop is customizable to a certain extent so the school can choose the necessary components for the computer and save money by leaving out the items they don’t need. There are many options available on the computer. A DVD and a BluRay Drive may be included if wanted. The customer can choose to add Microsoft Office. The amount of memory can be chosen from 320, 500, or 640. The amount of RAM and the processor can also be chosen, but the smallest included is the best out of all these computers. This laptop

1. Purchased separately [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Prices direct from Company Website [↑](#footnote-ref-2)