A Brief Introduction to the Types of Control Room Video Walls by Jerry Herrington

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Those familiar with the operations of a control room, or command center would affirm the importance of a video wall to the overall success of their operation. As the name suggests, this visual system comprises multiple video screens that are tiled to create one large screen. As opposed to a single large screen with fixed native resolution, the matrix of screens allows for customization in terms of size and overall resolution.

Modern video walls are designed to meet specific operational, space and budget requirements. In this article, we shall discuss the various types of videowalls and their application to different types of control room operations.

Digital light processing (DLP) video walls: These are essentially a plug-and-play solution that is best suited for military environments, emergency management and systems monitoring. Such walls are made of interlocking rear projection cubes driven by a video processor. Since they have high resolution and the thinnest frames, they are preferred for larger video walls where the highest resolution is necessary and large images span multiple displays. This video wall system is expandable, which means that it can grow as the operations grow. The DLP rear projection cubes have 9,000 hour lamps, which have to be replaced, but change is infrequent and relatively easy to do.

Light emitting diodes (LED) video walls: As the name suggests, this system uses light emitting diodes as its light source instead of a lamp. However the LED rear projection cubeâ€™s physical characteristics are basically the same as the DLP lamp based projection cube. While the initial investment in a DLP/ LED video wall is more, these projection cubes require less maintenance and care. The picture quality and consistency is also better in comparison to the lamp based DLP rear projection cube. If you have 24x7 operational needs, this could be a suitable choice. Of course, a lot depends on your budget.

Liquid crystal display (LCD) video wall: These video walls are comprised of commercial grade flat panel screens that are tiled and aligned to form one large screen, or palette. An integrated video processor controls the wall by allowing the operator to select the source, size it and place it anywhere on the wall. LCD video walls can be either wall mounted, or integrated into a self-supporting cabinet. However, a video wall cabinet system is the best choice if you have structural safety concerns. The typical depth of a cabinet system is twelve inches. If you need a compact yet high definition display solution, you should consider an LCD videowall.

While these suggestions are intended to give you a brief overview of control room video walls, itâ€™s best to seek the professional opinion of an experienced video wall integrator. Itâ€™s also important that you select a modern video wall that makes your operations faster, effective and dependable. While quality should certainly be a deciding factor, a firm that offers you competitive pricing would be an optimal choice.

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I have over 20 years experience helping people design and outfit their control rooms. In todays market a video wall is most commonly used in control rooms and command centers for controlling and managing informations. Check out online for right a dispatch console and free needs analysis, space planning and cost estimate.

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