

Section Meetings

Australia North, July 31, 1991 — Approximately 22 people assembled in three classrooms at IBM's Interactive Satellite Education Network (ISEN) studios for a session that included a satellite hookup for viewers in Perth, a region in Western Australia. Chief engineer John Maizels demonstrated the ISEN system.

The computer-controlled system normally carries two video channels, both displayed in each classroom, which typically show the instructor's face and a choice of videotape, IBM PS/2 computer displays, slides, artwork, or film. Audio is carried in all classrooms and back from the classroom to the presenter. A control channel carries data from Student Response Units (SRUs) fitted on every desk, allowing students to respond to multiple choice questions and to request an audio link.

Maizels explained that the signal data was compressed to a 140:1 ratio before transmission, with a resultant delay for compression and decompression, together with the satellite link time of approximately one second. Audio was delayed to match this, and was further processed using a system of automatic echo cancellation to eliminate feedback of sounds from the classroom. The encrypted signal is carried via the Aussat satellite system on a 2-Mbit/sec digital link resulting in a cost-effective and secure transmission.

The Australian ISEN system is completely independent, serving all capital cities in Australia and New Zealand. In addition to in-house training and briefing applications, Maizels said that the ISEN has been used by a number of other organizations for product announcements, conferences, and management sessions. Following the presentation, attendees were given a tour of the facility, including two presentation studios, hardware areas, and a computer graphics laboratory. — Dominic Case (Section Manager), Consultant.

San Francisco, August 29 — The meeting, which featured a large number of speakers and demonstrations of the latest equipment in Hi8 and S-VHS recording technologies, was attended by 200 people. Adam Wilt, Borland International, opened with an interesting and informative account of Hi8 equipment. He was followed by Dennis Cannataro, Sony Corp., who spoke on Hi8 camcorders/editors. Daniel O'Rourke, Panasonic Broadcast, discussed S-VHS camcorders/editors and S-Video mixers/DVE. Mark Dziekan, Toshiba Amer-

ica, also gave a presentation on Hi8 camcorders/editors. Stephen Kreinik, Nova Systems, spoke on transcoding digital TBSs.

As most technologies get smaller and cheaper, videographers today can get near-broadcast quality with S-video gathering and posting equipment. The meeting featured speakers who provided engineering presentations covering the three S-video technologies that represent the growing low-end professional or desktop video market: S-VHS and Hi8 videocassette recorders/decks and Y/C-358 digital time-base correctors. JVC, Panasonic, Sony, Toshiba, and Nova each provided Y/C-358 principles and practices, including future improvements within the confines of these for-

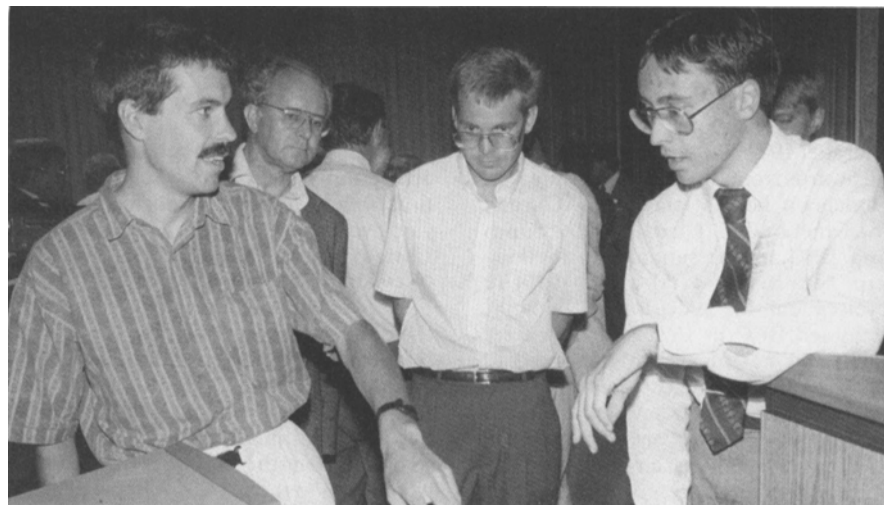
mat. Demonstrations of multigeneration videos were exhibited and provided impressive results for audience examination and comparison.

Joshua Wallace, Force of Habit Productions, showed a video and gave a commentary on comparisons between various video and film formats. Roy E. Moore, KPIX-TV, exhibited outstanding videos of undersea photography and scenes of nature where more expensive equipment could not have been risked.

Section Manager Christin Hardman, Hardman Associates, provided a video that showed remarkable nature scenes that were made with low-end video equipment. The meeting, which was held at Ampex Corp., was organized by Peter Hammar, Hammar Communications, and Adam Wilt. Gordon G. Schaeffer, Photo and Sound Co., donated a loudspeaker to enhance the audibility of the speakers. — Vernon L. Kipping (Chairman), Consultant.



John Maizels, IBM, demonstrating the ISEN instructor-controlled studio console during the Australia North Section's July meeting.



Adam Wilt, Borland International (right), discussing Hi8 video technology at the San Francisco Section's August meeting.