



## Free software enables single PC to run network of touchmonitors

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Anyone looking to squeeze more functionality out of PC systems and cut the cost of buying, deploying, and maintaining touch-activated networks will want to consider the latest free offering from Elo TouchSystems. Elo's MonitorMice for NT touchscreen software takes advantage of the multiprocessing capabilities of Windows NT™ so that users and developers can run a network of up to 32 touchmonitors from a single PC. The software can run on any mix of Elo touchmonitors, and makes possible tiled monitors for very large displays.

Previously, each touchscreen needed its own PC to operate. With MonitorMice for NT, a user connects multiple touchmonitors to a single PC through a multiport video card, and each will simultaneously run separate applications or functions within a screen. Or, using a video splitter, a single PC will run identical images simultaneously on up to 32 monitors.

In the multiuser mode, simultaneous touches on multiple monitors are recognized and processed without delay, as if each user was at a dedicated PC. This could be used, for instance, to simultaneously control several production and inventory management systems.

In the single-user mode, users can drag and drop, double-click, and pull down menu functions with a finger's touch on several monitors. Users can move an item from one screen to another by first touching the item on one monitor, then touching the desired location on a second monitor.

With the new software, it's possible to configure a system with a single PC and four Elo touchmonitors for less than \$6000. As we said earlier, the software itself is distributed for free, either on disk from Elo TouchSystems or downloaded from the company's Web site ([www.elotouch.com](http://www.elotouch.com)).

### Monitors connect via USB

Elo has also introduced the first line of Universal Serial Bus (USB) compatible touchmonitors that are preconfigured

in Windows™ 98 for instant operation in a plug-and-touch environment. The new touch products may be added to existing systems or networks straight out of the box by simply plugging them into the computer; there's no need to load separate device drivers.

### The advantages of USB

USB simplifies system installation and reduces the troubleshooting costs associated with multiple device conflicts, since there's no need for serial port assignments. With USB, it's possible to attach and detach different devices while the PC system stays up and running. When a USB-compatible peripheral is connected, PCs with USB automatically install and configure the necessary drivers and system resources. USB also allows some peripherals to act as hubs that serve as connection points for other devices.

### Touchscreen technologies

Elo's USB-compatible touchmonitors are available with two different touchscreen technologies: IntelliTouch and AccuTouch, both of which are priced starting at \$800.

IntelliTouch monitors use surface-wave technology, are all glass, with no plastic layers, conductive coatings, or special CRT bezels, and are for graphic-intensive applications. They are available in 15-in. and 17-in. sizes, in case and kiosk styles.

AccuTouch touchmonitors use Elo's five-wire resistive technology, and are for use where the equipment must stand up to contaminants and liquid. They are available in 14-in. and 15-in. sizes, in both case and kiosk styles.

Also new is the Scribex signature capture pad, for use where signature verification is

needed. It goes for \$300 with software.—Elo TouchSystems, Inc., 6500 Kaiser Dr, Fremont, CA 94555, (800) 356-8682.

Circle 253 on I&CS Reader Service Card



*MicroMice for NT software allows up to 32 touchmonitors to be connected to one PC, with one or multiple operators using them.*