A More Thorough Explanation of How I Suspend the Hubs for Navigator

February, 2006

An Alternative Navigator Classroom Set-Up

I love integrating Navigator into my Advanced Math (precalculus and trig) classes. But my classroom is very old and not built for all the technologies that I like to use. When I first started using Navigator 18 months ago, I tried attaching the hubs to the student desks in groups of four. But I had wires all over the place and the desktops slanted and did not support the hubs effectively. Students could trip on the wires and I was afraid the hubs would fall or slide off the desks. I tried just having the hubs on the floor, but that was a mess, too.

And then there is the issue of having to continually recharge the hubs. Gathering the hubs and placing them back into the chargers every day became a bit of a pain. I did not want these minor irritations to prevent me from utilizing the wonderful technology, so I had to problem solve.

How did I address both inconvenient issues?
I suspend the hubs from the ceiling!

And I have done it so that the hubs are charging continuously. Now when I use the Navigator system, all I do is just un-velcro (is there such a word) the black cables from the hubs that are suspended overhead, and the students immediately plug in and turn on to the technology. At the end of the day, I simply gather up the black link cords and re-velcro them above the students' heads. (see attached photos)

How was this accomplished and what did it cost?
Since you can charge a hub directly with the AC adapter, I purchased an AC adapter for each hub. I ran wire above the ceiling tiles from the suspended hubs to a power strip on the front wall of my room. Since you cannot run 110 volt wire

above the ceiling tile, our tech person, John, had the excellent idea of using 12 volt wire. He extended the 12 volt wire instead of the 110 volt wire by just splicing additional 12 volt wire. Which is cheaper, but also safer.

The cost?

The cost of the 12 volt wire is minimal. Your school probably already has it. The AC adapters actually consist of two parts and when you order them, make sure you give both part numbers. Below is listed the part number and price for each type of hub:

Type 1 Hubs

Part Number	*Price Each*
AC adapter AC 9930	$14.95
Present/CA/D	4.99

Type 2 Hubs

Part Number	*Price Each*
AC adapter AC 9926	$14.95
Present/CA/D	4.99

These prices do not include tax or shipping.

To order, call 1 – 800 – TI CARES (1-800-842-2737)

See for yourself.

Attached are pictures of students engaged in Navigator activities. Wires are not in the way and it is so easy and quick to put away. I spend my time on creative uses of the technology, and not on the set up of the hardware. And remember, my hubs are always completely charged.

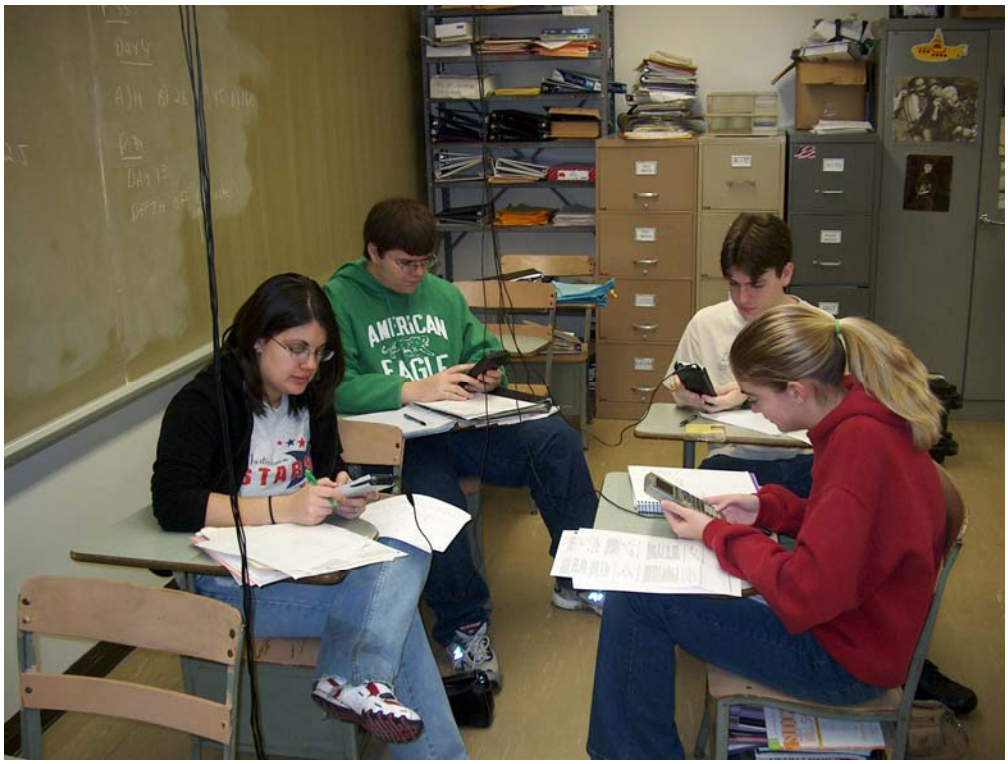
For more information, contact Tom Reardon at aust_tr@access-k12.org or visit my website: www.TomReardon.com

"Mathematics is the garment that we continuously alter with our students, and technology should be seamlessly interwoven throughout its fabric."

- Tom Reardon

The Hubs …

The students are engaged …



No messy, tangled wires …