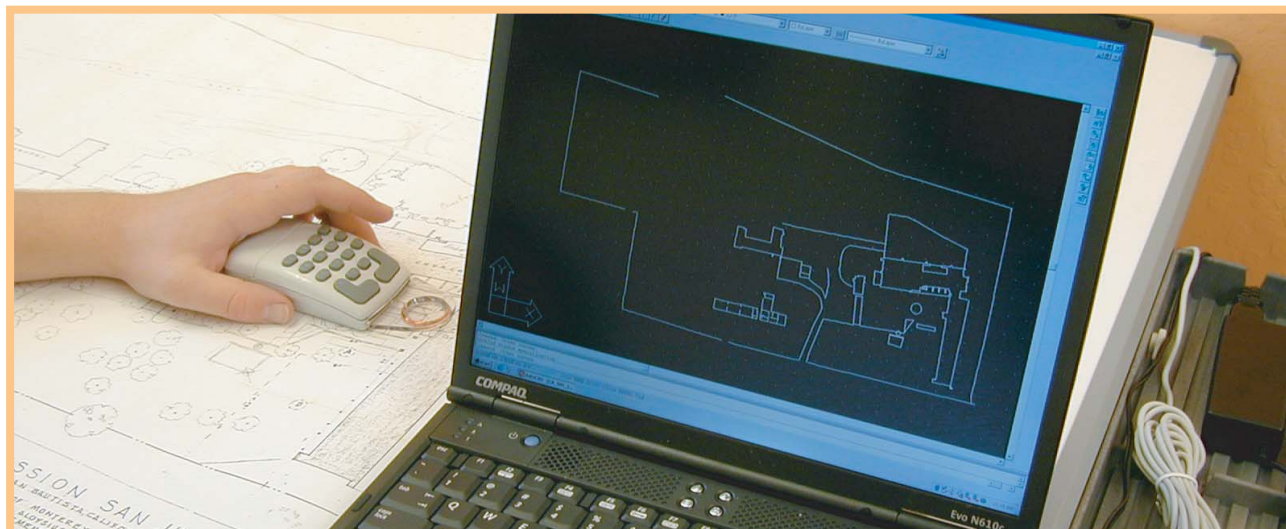


Wireless Technology in the Field

Introducing Wireless Technologies to Archaeology

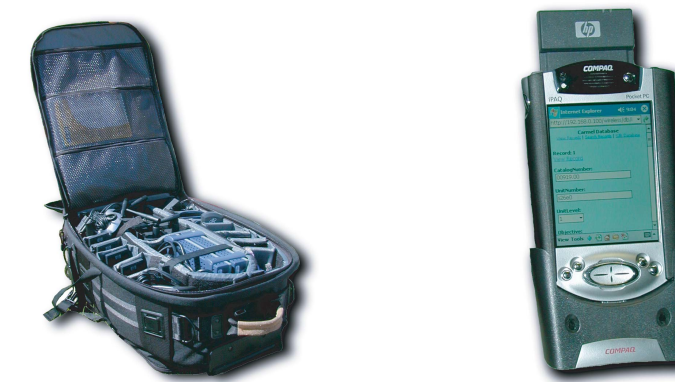
The Institute for Archaeological Science, Technology, and Visualization at CSUMB has incorporated "wireless technologies" into its programs. This technology enables students to transmit documents into a database while away from the school lab.

The Institute was granted \$48,000 in funds that CSUMB received as a part of a Congressional Award created to initiate research and demonstration projects that use wireless technologies in innovative teaching and learning environments. The money from this grant was used to purchase wireless tools and technologies. These purchases enable students and staff to post field notes, journals, archaeological data, and even instant digital images to the internet on an ongoing basis.



Where do we use these wireless technologies?

This wireless technology is currently being used at two archaeological sites. At Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo, or Carmel Mission, a satellite transmitter/receiver was placed in the courtyard garden somewhat hidden from picture craving tourists. This satellite "dish" enables archaeology staff and students to use wireless while excavating the grounds of the mission. Old Mission San Juan Bautista also incorporates



What types of wireless tools are being used?

When using wireless technology at these Mission dig sites, there are a variety of tools that can be used by archaeologists. Two different types of pocket PCs are used to transmit data from the archaeological site to the Internet. The project tested both the iPaq 3950 and the Toshiba e740 Pocket PCs in the field. This project is still in the process of determining the better pocket PC because each has its advantages and disadvantages. In addition, two Compaq Evo N610c Notebook computers are being used for the purposes of Internet-based real-time data management. The laptops enable archaeologists to transfer hand drawn maps and field notes to the wireless database.



What do the archaeology students think?

The Spring 2003 field students were very excited to use wireless technology on the Mission project. Mark Tennis, a student in the SBSC 260s/360s class participating in the excavation taking place at the Carmel Mission, explains, "I really enjoy using the wireless PCs because it lets me express my comments at that period of time. There is less chance of me forgetting about my original ideas that come while I am digging." Lee Holewarth, another archaeology student from the same class adds, "I only wish we had more of an opportunity to use the wireless technology at Mission Carmel."



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