

Digital signs get technological boost

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New technology from Minicom Advanced Systems unveiled Monday allows users to operate a keyboard, mouse or other peripheral from up to 1,000 feet away.

The main application for the CAT5 UTP/FTP cable, which enables the long-distance control, is "delivering real-time, high quality video media to plasma (or) LCD screens at greater distances than ever before" -- for instance, on digital billboards, according to a statement from Jerusalem-based Minicom.

"For digital signage applications, the system facilitates high quality video transmission, and allows the IT administrator to power on/off and query the status of the extended display installation from the player," the statement said.

The product, called KVMS Extender, "represents an unprecedented leap in potential for production lines, clean-rooms, banks, schools, museums, training centers, and digital signage installations," the company's product manager, Amir Ginossar, said via the statement.

"To eliminate the risk and impracticality of exposing valuable PCs and players at the site of the plasma screen or KVM workstation, our customers can now connect them 1, 000 feet away -- keeping their PCs and players in a secure, environmentally controlled operations room," Ginossar continued.

The extender requires no installation software or changes to the network,

the company said, and the technology allows for two users to be simultaneously connected on the transmitter end.

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