

PowerPoint Projection

I admit that I am not technically minded. I have a lap-top (not a Mac) and want to hook it up to a projector in order to show a Power Point presentation that is on the laptop, at a meeting at a location away from my office.

1. There may be a projector available at the meeting site. I need to know what sort of connector I need to go from the lap top to the projector.

What is this called? Brand to look for?

2. If there is no projector available, and I decide to buy one, what should I look for?

Thanks.

Depends on the projector, but most likely a USB would do just fine.

Sterling L. DeRamus, Alabama

1. The cable is called a VGA cable and both connectors should be "male."

The connector on your laptop and the projector (often colored blue) are female.

2. For the projector, what is your budget? Low-end projectors start around \$300. Unless you plan to routinely use the projector to show movies, a

budget projector should suffice for common Powerpoint presentations. Also, if the site doesn't have a projector, chances are they don't have a screen either. Screens start at about \$95.

'Hope this helps.

Chris G. Bernabe, California

You guys are over-thinking it!

While Sterling was right - the cable you likely need = VGA cable (looks basically like a cable that runs from a desktop monitor -> tower with a little screw on each side of the connector) -- there may be a cheaper/better way for you, if it's feasible: a TV (or a computer monitor) with HDMI inputs and, obviously, an HDMI cable. I stream Netflix and various other shows this way at home and is quite awesome - super convenient and excellent quality (HDMI > VGA)

Seth Combs, Kentucky

I second the vote for HDMI. I would be surprised if any projector didn't have an HDMI port. Just make certain your computer has an HDMI port as not all low end computers do.

Best honest bet is to rent a projector, but you could also buy from Staples and return.

If you're looking to invest in something you will use again then look here:

<http://thewirecutter.com/leaderboard/projectors/>

Roger Traversa, Pennsylvania

The answer really depends on what video port or ports your laptop has. Newer laptops don't all have VGA ports. Many are HDMI or Displayport - especially the thinner laptops because the VGA port is fatter than many laptops these days. Also, it depends on what input ports exist on the monitor or projector. Large TVs often have multiple ports you can hook in to. Monitors generally have a choice of one or two. Projectors are mostly VGA. However, some newer projectors are coming out with HDMI.

If you're not a techie, it might be best to find someone around who is and have them tell you what ports you have that you can use - on both ends. Sometimes you will have to use a converter - i.e. Display port to VGA or DVI.

If you don't have anyone around, I can help if you give me the model number and serial number of your laptop (or service tag number, if it's a Dell) and a photo of the inputs on the projector or monitor.

If you need to buy a projector, there are a few things you need to pay attention to. Lumens is the biggest factor. If you want it to work in conditions where you can't dim the lights all that much, you will need higher lumens. If dimming lights isn't an issue, then you can go with lower lumens. Resolution is another factor - ideally you should try and

match the resolution that your laptop is set to so that you don't have to mess with things. Using a lower resolution can mess up the way things look, unless you fiddle with your laptop settings. Portability is the third factor.

Good luck.

Susan H. Borgos

Been there done that and learned a lot, the hard way.

Whether you do this a few days in advance, preferably, or before the presentation time, and when nobody is around, set up and do a dry run.

Setting up means checking electric outlets, cables, projector mount, projection surface, lighting switches, etc.

Then do a dry run with your slides. Should be good to go at that point.

Have some duct tape or wide masking tape to use with cable on floor or other uses which inevitably pop up.

On top of that you are in California where folks expect studio quality work so there is even more reason to be prepared, smooth, etc.

PowerPoint slides. You may want to have the slides printed and then be able to pass out the copies. I like to get copies at the start of the presentation so that I can annotate them as the presentation progresses.

If you hand out copies be sure your name, contact information, and date are printed on each piece of paper.

Have an extra projector bulb on hand. You will find they are costly but your luck will be that you will have a failure.

You may want to have critique sheets/report cards for the attendees to fill out. The results can be painful but you can build on that.

Good luck on your presentation.

Rob V. Robertson, Texas

I bought a cheap projector. It came with a USB cable in the box. I did not like the resolution.

USB will naturally be a lesser resolution than an HDMI which is slightly less resolution than a VGA.

It may be the projector, but I would see if a cable upgrade is possible/works first.

Roger Traversa
