

# What is a TeamSpot?

*TeamSpot powers learning “hot spots” where students gather to get work done*

Tidebreak’s TeamSpot software activates physical environments where student teams can “touch down” to work collaboratively with digital resources. TeamSpot enhances student interaction, enabling better use of laptop computers in group situations.

## Large “Public” Display Screen

A key to group collaboration is a common view of shared information. In TeamSpots, a large screen – such as a plasma screen or projector – is commonly used, driven by the Host computer. Students can control this computer directly as a digital work area, without requiring any specialized cables.

## Host Server Computer

The heart of the TeamSpot system, the Host server provides the advanced ubiquitous computing infrastructure that manages interaction within the “spot,” and drives the large display screen. The host is typically a standard PC or Macintosh computer that contains the TeamSpot host software as well as common software applications.

## Client Computers

These are the students’ own laptop or tablet computers. After downloading the Client software from the Host computer via a web interface, students can control the Host, share files, URLs and text with others, and keep an active record of the Team’s activities. They can use their computers privately while still interacting with the rest of the group and the Host computer.

## Local Network

A TeamSpot installation may be connected via a private local area network or simply be part of the overall site network. For maximum user convenience, Tidebreak recommends using a wireless network for the clients.

## Implications for Student Work

TeamSpot allows students to work in parallel as they work together. This can increase their involvement in authoring reports, developing presentations, and researching information online. TeamSpot supports peer learning, allowing students to explore, interact, and produce more effectively.



*Interacting with others in the TeamSpot is easy. To copy a file or URL to another user, for example, students simply drag it to TeamSpot’s mini-panel and drop it on the destination name.*

