

Kidz GUI Design London

Corporate | **Residential** | Education | Government | Hospitality | Transportation | Health Care | Cultural and Event Centers | Commercial Lighting

An eye-catching touchpanel interface specifically designed for young children has won the 'Creative GUI' category at this year's Crestron UK Integration Awards. Created by T&T Communications, the innovative and user friendly GUI template 'Kidz' is perfect for use in child-centric environments such as a bedrooms or playrooms.

In today's world, it is pretty much assumed that whenever anyone sits in front of a computer operated device it will operate with a graphical user interface (GUI). But, if you think that typical GUI design lacks creativity: rarely deviating from the basic desktop, windows, mouse, icons, and pointer concept; then this child-friendly offering will make you think again!

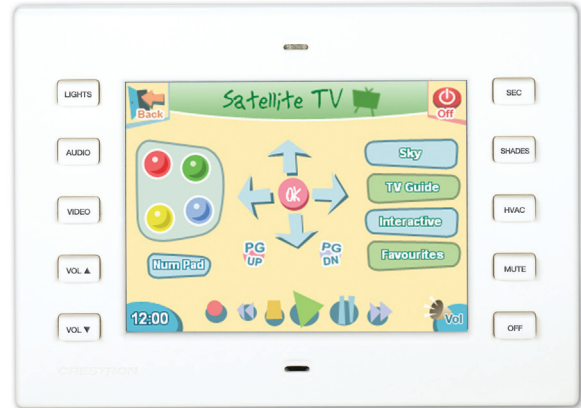
The main aim was to create a design which was simple yet eye catching and in a style that children could relate to and understand

With many of their residential clients having families, T&T Communications were quick to realize that touchpanel templates suitable for children were limited, so they set about to readdress the balance with a Crestron GUI designed specifically for them.

The main aim was to create a design which was simple yet eye catching and in a style that children could relate to and understand. Above all, it needed to meet that most essential of children's requirements – to be cool!

Research was carried out into design trends for children by studying and reviewing a number of successful child orientated websites, with several recommended by children themselves.

It was clear kids would respond positively to a bright and bold interface, so this became a strong part of the design with the style being derived from inspiration gained by researching current trends within kid's media.



As the GUI was for a very specific group of users the challenge was to create something which would meet their needs for a touchpanel. These were identified as simplicity of use and visual appeal.

Visually, the designer opted for the use of strong colours to appeal to young minds. The controls on a GUI which are necessary for a child to use, and those which could be left out, were identified thereby simplifying and reducing the number of required functions. The amount of text on each page was also reduced to an essential minimum and put into the most simplistic terms possible.

To accommodate differing personal tastes, the template contains many different coloured elements which can be interchanged to provide a large number of possible screen layouts and colour combinations.

T&T's Mike Benton, designer of the Kidz template said; 'We are very pleased to have received this prestigious award. It recognises our efforts at T&T to create unique and engaging interface designs that not only look great but provide the basis for functional and intuitive control.'

