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Cite abstracts as *Eos Trans. AGU, 84(46),*
Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract xxxxx-xx, 2003

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GeoWall-2 : a Scalable Display System for the Geosciences

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The first generation of the GeoWall was targeted at providing affordable 3D stereoscopic visualization of small- to modest-sized Geoscience datasets. Continuing the trend to take advantage of the commodity computing, GeoWall-2 is designed to cost-effectively serve Geoscience applications that require greater display resolution and visualization capacity. The full GeoWall-2 consists of 15 LCD panels tiled in a 5x3 array comprising a total resolution of 8000x3600 pixels. Each LCD panel is driven by a single PC with a high-end graphics card such as Nvidia's Quadro FX3000, at least 250GBytes of disk space, 2.5-3GHz CPU, and Gigabit Ethernet networking. The GeoWall-2 is scalable in that smaller or even larger versions can be built by adjusting the number of LCDs and computers. Applications of the GeoWall-2 include the visualization of large remote sensing, volume rendering imagery, mapping, seismic interpretation, museum exhibits and other applications that require a large collaborative screen area. GeoWall-2 was developed with support from the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Naval Research.

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