Remote Observing:
Remote observing enables college students and professors to do astronomical research in the night while working during the day. Six years ago, a group of students supervised by Dr. J. W. Moody set up a remote observatory (called ROVOR) in central Utah and pioneered using it for quality, remotely run research. We desired to transfer lessons learned at ROVOR to the larger, more sophisticated West Mountain Observatory.

Our project:
West Mountain is home to three telescopes, two of which (the 12" and 20") are similar to ROVOR. Over the course of the summer we made the following improvements to these telescopes getting them ready for remote control:
- Upgraded the mount on the 12" to a newer model.
- Upgraded the 12" control computer with new software for the focuser, camera and telescope control program.
- Installed a new filter wheel on the 12".
- Upgraded the software on the 20" and installed a telescope control power supply.
- Researched the requirements for automating the 20" dome.
- Wired up an all-sky camera
- Nightly took data with the working 36" telescope for professors at BYU and other universities.

Current Status:
- Both telescopes are under the control of PCs running Windows, TPoint, CCDSoft, Orchestrate, The SkyX, and our own coordinating software written in LabView.
- We expect to shortly establish a communication uplink via a satellite dish. Using ROVOR as experience speeds should be enough to operate the telescopes using remote desktop software.
- The All-sky camera is functioning and will soon be able to furnish sky transparency data.

Site:
West Mountain is a mountain located 4.7 miles west of Benjamin, Utah and 15.3 miles southwest of Provo. It is home to the West Mountain Observatory owned by BYU with three telescopes: a 36", 20", and 12".