You want to teach what?, from Where?

MARTY RONNING
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, DETS
COLLEGE PARK, MD  20742
Background (setting the mood)

Collaborative Program
Paragraph text (select text then press tab to format as paragraph text).

Players
UMCP – University of Maryland College Park
FSU – Frostburg University (USM)
CSM – College of Southern Maryland (Community College)
SMHEC – Southern Maryland Higher Education Center
USN – United States Navy
Locations

Existing Administrative support

There are a variety of remote locations around the state of Maryland where DETS maintains equipment and connectivity and the local group provides admin support.
Steps to success (or not)

Identify student space at UMCP
Find a room with technology that can support this activity

Identify delivery platform
Try to choose a platform that meets the program needs (running to a moving goal line)

Test and seek departmental approval
Once the platform is chosen, a test needs to be conducted and only then does the department add additional functionality to the design.
First Try

Scopia by Radvision

- Scopia is a hardware videoconference bridge optimized for web based connections.
- Up to 40 concurrent seats
- 512 Kbps max connection speed
- Supports audio, video, graphics, chat, screen share
- Has limited audio echo cancellation capabilities

Classroom

- Hard ceilings, walls and floors. Projector display and room PC with no camera or microphone.
- Need to supplement equipment and provide staff for each meeting
Second Try

SeeVogh

• Seevogh is a web based application that is interoperable with H.323 conferencing and adds a record ability feature.
• Unlimited seats and multiple screen shares are possible as well as chats.

Classroom

• Same room as first try, same deficiencies.
Third Try

Real Vision by Polycom

- Use Web App at remote side to connect to existing facility on campus
- Requires support at remote side
- Web app not designed for classroom application
- Allows easy recording on the UMCP side
- Connection is kluge and we use two PC’s to separately connect video and graphics
Finally VTC platform for holding a VTC
• Moved the remote class into the SSU classroom and connected to SLC.
• Ceiling microphones tied to CODEC and have full echo cancellation.
• Multi-camera set up allows for student interaction
Moving Forward

Classroom modifications
Modified new classroom at SMHEC during term
• Identified shortcomings of existing classroom
• Installed/moved equipment into a full two way controllable space.
• **Design upgrades:**
  • Rack location
  • Microphone location
  • Display size
  • Speaker design