

mozilla

# Online Presentation Systems

Frank Hecker  
March 30, 2009

Released under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0  
Unported



# Today's topic

- **Online presentation systems**
  - Integrated systems for one-to-many presentations and associated communications to and with several people (10-20+)
- ***Not* systems for collaborative work**
  - (shared editing, etc.)
- ***Not* “do it yourself” online meetings**
  - (e.g., using IRC, other tools)

# Typical features

- **Core features**
  - share presentations
  - share screen
  - attendee chat and questions
- Other features
  - broadcast audio or video of presenter
  - VOIP teleconferencing
  - shared browsing (or other apps)
  - shared whiteboard
  - record sessions

## **Other factors**

- **Service vs. product**
- **In-browser vs. separate app**
- **Platform support**
- **Cost**
- **Open source vs. proprietary vs. hybrid**

# Representative systems

- **Usable now**
  - WebEx
  - Dimdim
- Interesting for future
  - ePresence
- Not suitable or not evaluated
  - OpenMeetings, GoToMeeting, MegaMeeting.com, Adobe Acrobat Connect, IBM Lotus Sametime, Microsoft Live Meeting, many others

# WebEx

- **The good news**
  - feature-rich
  - good platform and browser support
  - well-tested, solid infrastructure
- The not-so-good news
  - requires Java download for all functions
  - relatively complicated interface
  - relatively expensive

# Dimdim

- **The good news**
  - nearly feature-competitive with WebEx
  - simple to use, runs in-browser
  - free for up to 20 attendees
  - available in open source version for in-house install
- The not-so-good news
  - still some glitches in software and infrastructure
  - not 100% open source

# ePresence

- **The good news**

- specifically designed for instructional settings
- supports multiple media formats
- open source
- Canadian content

- **The not-so-good news**

- designed for institutional purchase, deployment
- not (yet) available in easy-to-use low-cost version
- no Ogg support



# Other systems

- **OpenMeeting**

- Google Code project, not far advanced

- **GoToMeeting**

- Poor Mac support, no Linux support

- **MegaMeeting.com**

- Costly setup fees

- **Adobe Acrobat Connect**

- Lock yourself in to Flash, AIR

- **IBM Lotus Sametime, Microsoft Live Meeting**

- Integrated with Lotus and Office respectively

# Recommendations

- **Near term**
  - use WebEx
- **Mid-term**
  - continue evaluating Dimdim as new version released
- **Long-term**
  - look at options to break Flash dependence
  - research tie-in with Firefox rich media work

**Thank You**

