Online Presentation Systems

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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