

CVS Oversight Committee Meeting
November 8, 2006 1:00pm to 3:00pm Video/Teleconference

Attendees:

For CCC:

Phil Howard, State Center CCD
Bob Quinn, CCC CO

For CSU:

Jeff Layne, CSU Chico
John Rolon, CSU CO

For CENIC:

Sherilyn Evans
Cassandra Patrizio

For UC:

Howard Laurence, UCSD
Carmen Lutz, UCOP

ABSENT:

Lou Albert, LACCD
Mike Arnold, Kern CCD
Dave Barnett, Santa Cruz COE and DC-TAC chair
Jorge Mata, LACCD
Roger Parker, CSU Hayward
Mike Shannon, UCOP
John Haskins, UCSB and HPR-TAC chair
Kim Dorsey, UCOP
Jack Lemley, Butte CC
Alan Phillips, Imperial COE

CVS Users List Update

Cassandra Patrizio gave an update on the status of the Video Administrators List in CVS. Accounts have been created for all CSU Video Admins and for all but 30 campuses of the CCC. The names of the 30 administrators who could not be verified have been sent to Bob Quinn at the CCC CO who will work on confirming or correcting the information. All of the video resources in CVS within the sites assigned to a given video administrator were assigned, so email confirmations should now go out regularly whenever conferences are scheduled.

Patrizio advised the committee members that CENIC staff had discovered another cause for the lack of email notifications. On campuses where spam filters are in place, the header created by the PCS software may cause it to be incorrectly identified as spam, in which case the confirmation email notes are rejected by the

spam filter and never reach the videoconference administrator. A ticket was opened with Polycom to report this, and the Polycom response was that this is the way the feature is supposed to function. There are no plans to make changes to address this. CENIC staff is exploring ways to create a possible work-around so that this does not become a larger issue.

Quinn asked about the Scheduling Desk running very slowly recently, and Sherilyn Evans said CENIC staff will look into it.

Migration to CVS Scheduling Desk

Patrizio summarized the total number of user accounts requested to-date for the CVS Scheduling Desk. (Please refer to the report sent to the committee on November 6, 2006 detailing this information). Since the last committee meeting 9 CSU users and 7 CCC users have begun using the system for a total of 27 CSU users, 42 CCC users, 4 K12 and 4 UC. These are users who have gone through the training and account creation process, and have received their login information.

CVS Policies and Procedures

Volunteers from the CSU, CCC and UC have been gathered for the End Users Sub Committee. Jeff Layne continues to chair this committee, and a meeting is being planned for late in November. John Rolon will look through his archives for the original 4CNET policies and procedures for comparison by the sub committee to the current policies CENIC has on the CVS web-site.

Patrizio addressed the desire by some users to be able to change the view for videoconferences. PCS does have the capability to allow up to 22 different views for as many as 12 participants; they just need to be created. Patrizio asked the committee if this was something that should be added for users to choose when they schedule conferences. Several questions were asked about this option. On the system would the views be displayed graphically? What would happen if the conference was scheduled with a certain number of participants and a corresponding view and then more participants were added without changing the view? Can the view be changed during the conference by the user? Patrizio agreed to look into these questions and return an update at the next meeting.

Participation in CVS by other entities

Evans reminded the committee that there have been several requests by private school sites connected to CalREN, but not currently on CVS, that would like to participate in CVS videoconferencing. Because such sites do not pay for the CVS infrastructure, a fee model is being developed for these types of requests. Evans outlined the following proposal from CENIC:

Charge a modest fee per entity so as not to discourage them from participating in CVS, and place limits on the level of participation based on the fee. Requirements for each site would be the following:

- They must purchase their own gatekeeper
- They must allow CENIC to manage the gatekeeper

- For the initial fee (yet to be determined) they can connect one codec and have two video administrator accounts (one primary and one back-up) with access to the CVS Scheduling Desk and have their codec listed as a resource in the CVS Scheduling Desk.
- There would be an incremental fee for each codec after the first and each video admin account after the second, again keeping the cost modest enough that it would not discourage participation.

Some questions were raised with regard to determining a standard fee. The consensus was that CENIC needs to assess the cost in human resources that one site with one codec would generate in order to assess an appropriate fee. Evans will work to determine a fee structure and will bring a written proposal to the committee for consideration. Quinn suggested that detailed definition of the roles and responsibilities of each party would be important to include in the proposal.

New Services

Patrizio updated the committee on the research being done by CENIC on video streaming and archiving products. Patrizio and Evans recently met with Polycom to discuss their products in this area and are working with their support services provider, WireOne, to schedule meetings with other vendors to identify products that will work best in the CVS environment.

MCU Redial Update

At the last meeting a request for more information on the MCU auto redial option was made. Patrizio reported that this feature is specific to the version of MGC Manager running and is not available in the version currently used by CVS.

CENIC is considering upgrading to the latest stable version of MGC Manager, but wants to be conservative with this given our high production environment. More research is needed before we can upgrade to a version containing the auto redial feature. Phil Howard asked if it would be possible to have someone manually monitor conferences and reconnect as required. Evans responded that this is not the model historically used for video services. Typically, the CENIC NOC waits until users contact the NOC to intervene on videoconferencing services. CENIC would only be able to provide a higher level of monitoring if CVS were allocated sufficient funds to hire someone to do that. Patrizio will continue to update the Oversight Committee on status of upgrading MGC Manager, and the committee may choose to review this issue again in the future.

Minutes from October 5, 2006 Meeting

The minutes from the October 5, 2006 meeting were accepted. There was a request that this agenda item be moved to the top of the meeting agenda for subsequent meetings. Also John Rolon noted that Patrick Thompson is no longer with the CSU and therefore no longer part of the CVS Oversight Committee and should be removed from the attendees list. The minutes will be posted to the CVS website.

Other Issues

Patrizio opened the floor for discussion of issues not on the agenda.

Quinn asked about the CENIC conference coming up in March 2007: What, if any, role should the CVS Oversight Committee have in the conference? Evans stated that there is nothing specific planned for CVS at this conference, but proposals for presentations are still being accepted and presentations on interesting ways that people are utilizing the network and videoconferencing would be welcome. The target audience at this conference is generally highly technical, and presentations tend to be weighted toward networking issues, but there is enthusiasm for information about interesting uses of the network.

Patrizio gave an update on the UC migration to CVS. A letter was sent on October 31, 2006 to the Media Directors, Network contacts and Video Administrators for the 10 UC campuses for which gatekeepers have been purchased. CENIC identified specific information required to start the process of distributing the gatekeepers. A follow up to the kick off meeting held in September is planned for December.

Phil Howard asked if CVS supports H.264. Evans stated that she believed that wash.264 is supported and that CVS is configured to use an auto-negotiate feature to determine whether H.264 should be used or not. Patrizio will consult with CENIC technical staff, and return to the next committee meeting with additional information.

Howard Laurence asked that CENIC address support for HD if not already supported. Evans noted that HD is not currently supported within CVS, but CENIC is looking into HD as a new service, along with streaming and archiving.

Next Meeting

Suggested meeting dates for the next Oversight Committee meeting will be sent via email. The meeting date will be determined by committee member availability. There was interest in identifying a date to meet before the Christmas holiday if a sufficient number of committee members are available.