

University of British Columbia - Vancouver

Challenge

Meet the large and growing demand for video and presentation content by empowering instructors to easily record their classes and lectures with a minimum of outside technical support.

Solution

Implement NCast's Telepresenter M4 technology to enable simple recording of lectures and presentations, with easy publishing to YouTube and the Web.

The Computer Science Department at the University of British Columbia-Vancouver (UBCV) is one of the top three computer science departments in Canada. Dedicated to furthering the understanding of Computer Science and integrating it into all aspects of society, the department has been recognized internationally for excellence in research and teaching. It also plays a leadership role in the academic and general communities.

In addition to serving student academic needs with a wide range of classes, lectures and forums, the award-winning department offers a highly attended Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS), which brings to the UBCV campus leading researchers from a variety of fields to promote the exchange of ideas between the speakers, students, faculty and the public.

UBCV receives a great many requests for video recordings of classes as well as the DLS presentations, and many DLS videos are posted on YouTube and other Internet sites. School faculty also frequently asks to have their classes recorded for review and other purposes. With such a large demand for video capturing, UBCV looked for a video streaming solution that could capture high-definition video, graphics, high-resolution audio and other presentation materials in a single, easy-to-use format that would empower instructors to record their own lectures without the need for major support from technical staff.



As Anthony Winstanley, Education Technology Coordinator in the Department of Computer Science explains, the solution was found in NCast's Telepresenter M4. "Instructors have to be self-reliant in recording their classes," says Winstanley. "We provide some equipment and self-editing tools, and we've published easy-to-follow instructions on-line for video capturing. And of course we provide technical support if needed. But ultimately, we want to empower our instructors to handle the recording process themselves, and NCast's technology enables them to do just that."

UBCV employs a single NCast Telepresenter M4 to record lectures and the DLS in a 120-seat classroom. The classroom has two independently controlled 1024x768 resolution projectors which can display any combination of four inputs, such as three computers and one document camera. The projector feeds are split and sent to the Telepresenter's two inputs. The composite video input on the Telepresenter is fed from a port on the back wall of the room.

The video capture system for recording the DLS includes a camera and the Telepresenter M4 which, along with one projector, is sent to a 16x9 layout, which is conducive for publishing to YouTube. For class recordings, UBCV captures one 1024x768 projector input or two 1920x720 inputs. The videos are then made available as direct links from UBCV's webserver.

Audio is captured using a pair of Biamp Nexia CS DSPs, which are fed via nine hanging room microphones, wireless lapel mikes and podium microphone feeds.

"Feedback on the Ncast system has been overwhelmingly positive," Winstanley reports. "The instructors like it because their lectures are easily captured and the only requirement on their part is to ask the CS staff to enable the system. They don't have to alter the way they teach and they don't need a lot of technical support. It works very well and is an ideal solution for everyone."

NCast Technology in Use on UBC's YouTube Channel

Some links to streaming lectures utilizing NCast's Telepresenter technology:

http://youtu.be/TDzr0_fbnVk

<http://youtu.be/9vR8Vddf7-s>

<http://youtu.be/MGQQT9iF2ig>

<http://youtu.be/b75FeY3Kzro>

About NCast

NCast Corporation provides industry-leading solutions for the capture, distribution, and archiving of high-resolution, mixed-media content such as rich-media presentations or annotated high-resolution graphics. NCast delivers reliable, automated, simple-to-use presentation products for live and recorded streaming for Education, Medical, Government and the House of Worship markets.

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