N Cast ™

Delivering Lectures to Middle Schools

Background

The Whitley County School System is located in the city of Williamsburg in Southeastern Kentucky. They have one high school, one middle school on a central campus and 7 elementary schools at various locations through the county. All schools have been cabled for network computers and each school has at least one computer lab. A fiber based WAN (Wide Area Network) connects 9 of the 11 schools, and each classroom has Internet access.

The Application

In early 2004, Whitley began to look for a means of transmitting video and audio among the different schools. Thelma Jones, District Technology Coordinator for the Whitley County School System, said "One of our most exciting technology pilot programs was our high school Spanish II classes remotely teaching beginning Spanish to a group of elementary students. Using cameras, microphones, smart boards, and NCast Telepresenter equipment, we connected over our IP network for interaction between the two groups."

The teachers and IT staff recognized the importance of interactivity when teaching young children and sought a solution that would preserve the classroom feeling between students and the teacher. In addition, the teachers wanted the video, graphics, and audio to be integrated into a single display so that the student's attention could be maintained by viewing both the teacher and the instructional materials at the same time and archived for later viewing. Budgets were limited so a high priced conventional video conferencing

deployment was not an option.

"The elementary students were introduced to beginning Spanish with emphasis on using Spanish in everyday situations. The culminating activity included giving the elementary class activities and presentations to perform. All presentations and activities were done in Spanish." said Jones.

The Results

"The Telepresenters and Smartboards were set up at both locations. The presentations were live with high-quality video and audio. Elementary students were able to ask questions and receive an answer immediately. The NCast equipment was easy to operate and very little bandwidth was required."

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 high-resolution graphics and multimedia. NCast's 3rd-generation Telepresenter M3™ simplifies the mixing of audio, high definition (HD) video, and any high resolution RGB/DVI source, with PIP capability, into one rich-media file for webcasting or playback. The Telepresenter M3™ is used in applications such as presentation capture, live and on-demand training, multi-source videoconferencing, telemedicine, distance learning, and podcasting. For more information, call NCast at 800-765-7718 or visit http://www.ncast.com.

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