

MEGACONFERENCE



Megaconference III Schedule

Wednesday, October 3, 2001 • All times listed are Central Daylight Time

Speakers from around the world, and audiences from hundreds of universities and organizations from around the world, will join us interactively, using H.323 Internet video conferencing. This is the world's largest Internet videoconference.

• **10:30 am - 11:05 am CDT**

Leap-frogging the Development Curve with the World Bank

Dr. Hajrudin Beca, World Bank

The World Bank has a large network of distance learning centers throughout the world that are reached by satellite links. These centers are mostly in Third World countries, and are used primarily to instruct governmental and financial officials about good fiscal practices, with the goal of reducing world poverty. Dr. Beca will describe the operation of this network, with live participation from several Third World locations.

• **11:10 am - 11:45 am CDT**

Science Up Close & Personal: Conversations with the North Pole

Hans Pffienberger, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany

This presentation will bring scientists stationed at Spitsbergen in the Arctic, together with staff and K-12 students at the Alfred Wegener Institute of Science in Bremerhaven, Germany, and participants in Megaconference III. The Institute enables this and similar programs as part of their mission to increase interest and enthusiasm in science. The presentation will also include some technical discussion on bringing video conferencing to "extreme locations" which are often those that benefit most from the extended communication.



11:45 am - 1:15 pm CDT

MegaCon Cafe

Open time in the Megaconference room for free-form interaction between on-site attendees, remote attendees, and remote presenters. Enjoy some lunchtime conversation with colleagues from around the world.

• **1:15 pm - 1:50 pm CDT**

How Do I Do H.323 on My Campus?

Sandy Sprafka, North Dakota State University, chair

Panelists:

Tyler Johnson, University of North Carolina

Mary Trauner, Georgia Tech

Egon Verharen, SURFNet, Netherlands

Jill Gemmill, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Many universities are beginning to establish their videoconferencing services and are looking for guidance and suggestions. This presentation will bring together panelists who have implemented H.323 videoconferencing at their organizations to share their thoughts on topics such as:

- Who did you involve (or wish you had involved) in the planning effort for introducing video conferencing into your organization?
- Along what timeline (including timeframes and milestones) might one expect to roll out videoconferencing within their organization?
- What are good resources to read? (e.g. The Videoconferencing Cookbook).
- What networking issues need to be addressed? (e.g. bandwidth, QoS, full/half duplex, bottlenecks).
- Should I buy an MCU? If so, where do I get trained? What are the pitfalls?
- What scheduling software should I use if I have a small/large system? Does it actually connect the endpoints or just identify who has what, when?
- How do you handle end-user support? Does it need to be separated from or handled differently than other IT support? Do you have forms you use? What information do you collect?
- What are some of the biggest "success stories" or interesting uses of videoconferencing within your organization? What are some of the biggest "non-success" stories and how did you handle them?

• **1:55 pm - 2:30 pm CDT**

The Virtual Picnic

Benjamin Thompson, Hyper Media Education

The Virtual Picnic focuses on the use of videoconferencing technology to enable any small farmer or rural small business to go into a local "New Media Hub" (like the Telegraph Office of days gone by) and develop their presence as a component of a local e-cooperative. The concept of a picnic adds two dimensions to a videoconference:

The real time sensorial experience of sharing the taste of a food or flavor and, sharing the heritage/story behind the food or product.

The Virtual Picnic will feature interaction between remote sites as well as the Austin audience. It will also feature a special heirloom variety of popcorn available for tasting by all participants — remote and onsite — to share the history of the popcorn they are eating and also how new communications technologies may be used in service of group-to-group e-commerce models.



2:30 pm - 3:00 pm CDT
MegaCon Cafe

Open time in the Megaconference room making the equipment available to support free-form interaction between onsite conference attendees, remote attendees, and remote presenters. Come as you are; talk all you want!

• **3:00 pm - 3:35 pm CDT**

Internet2 SEGP Brings Next Generation Networking to K-12

Louis Fox, Internet2

Nancy Piringer, MOREnet & University of Missouri

The new Internet2 Sponsored Education Group Participant (SEGP) program, along with the Internet2 K20 Initiative, now enables small colleges, K-12 schools, museums and libraries to use the Abilene network at low cost. Participation in this program is generally done on a statewide basis, and so far 12 states have signed SEGP agreements. This presentation will include a description of the program from one of its coordinators, and live comments on its applications and usefulness from several college and K-12 participants.

• **3:40 pm - 4:14 pm CDT**

ThinkQuest: Student Projects with Global Reach

Amela Sadagic, Advanced Network and Services

Egon Verharen, SURFnet

ThinkQuest (TQ, www.thinkquest.org) is a global network of K-12 students, teachers, parents and technologists dedicated to exploring youth-centered learning on the Internet. Through ThinkQuest current programs young people work together in teams, use the Internet to research a topic in science, mathematics, literature, the social sciences or the arts, and publish their research as an educational web site for peers and classrooms around the world. Students from three different ThinkQuest projects will present their work:

“New Look In The World Of Physics”

“Being different; Living with Autism”

“Development and Underdevelopment: The Dynamics of Economic Progress”



4:15 pm - 4:45 pm CDT
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• **4:45 pm - 5:20 pm CDT**

Media Attributes and Educational Effectiveness: What We Know About Teaching and the Use of Video

Dr. Carolyn Brooks, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

Dr. Valorie McAlpin, University of Maryland, College Park

Dr. Janet Poley, American Distance Education Consortium

Randy Ross, Ponca Tribe

The American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) is working on networking and educational effectiveness strategies for underserved communities. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is providing support to this nationwide consortium for research and development related to satellite and wireless networking particularly for rural/remote locations. A number of Tribal Colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities are ADEC members, and are involved in the initiative. As research continues to show, the Internet may be a necessary yet insufficient ingredient for learning success. Real progress can be made when combining the power of networking with teaching and learning research. This presentation will consider media attributes — text, voice and video, as well as cultural and audience aspects important to making progress in education, not just bandwidth.

• **5:25 pm - 6:00 pm CDT**

QoS-enabling Megaconference III

Paul Schopis, ITEC—Ohio

Recent attempts at providing Quality of Service within the Internet2 community have focused primarily on Expedited Forwarding and also make certain assumptions about an application's network requirements. It is important to define Quality of Service (QoS) in terms of hard performance bounds, particularly for visibly sensitive applications such as video conferencing. In addition, H.323 videoconferencing, the technology used for this and previous Megaconferences, was developed for a Best Effort network and exhibits certain properties in response to difficult network conditions. In order to “QoS-enable” Megaconference III, ITEC-Ohio and NC-ITEC collaborated to perform H.323 traffic characterization tests and develop an appropriate QoS strategy. This presentation will discuss the results and implications of this approach, and show its application to Megaconference III through “QoS-on-now-QoS-off” demonstrations.



6:00 pm CDT
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