

WEB-CONFERENCE TOOLS IN E-LEARNING

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Abstract

The Study examines the importance and popularity of three web-conference tools (Skype, GoToMeeting and WebEx) in e-learning. And also determine the features of web conferencing tools that could be used by students in e-learning.

Key words: Web-Conference, Tools, E-Learning.

Introduction

In a wide world, where we live, in an advanced technologies, where we communicate and collaborate, it is necessary to have the proper tool available, it is mean that we need not only something that is dependable and works nicely. But also we need a tool that is flexible and easy to use for all people.

Email is a well-known communication tool for one-on-one. But if we want to communicate with more than two people, or when we want to deliver a presentation to a group of students who are in different places, a different communication tool is needed. This new tool called a web conference. A web conference is a live meeting and presentation between two or more than two people over the internet. It can be whether one way, as when presenter conveys some sort of power point-like presentation, or either two way, where

each one can join and show the contents of their active applications or desktops. Also communications between participants can be audio or include audio and video.

Objectives

1. To define and illustrate three of web-conference tools (Skype, GoToMeeting and WebEx) in e-learning.
2. To determine the features of web-conference tools (Skype, GoToMeeting and WebEx) in e-learning.

3. Web-Conference Tools in E-Learning

Skype Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Messaging:

Skype is an example of a VoIP application. The Skype protocol is a proprietary (close-source). Skype changed the computer communications playing field when it used voice over the internet (VoIP) to let users place phone calls over the web. Using Skype, computer users can make face-to-face calls, as shown in figure no: 1.

Skype then enhanced its service to allow users to make calls from a computer to a traditional phone or mobile. In reality, using Skype, users can call each other to talk face to face, as shown in figure no: 2.

Further Skype has expanded its services to support group-based conference calling.



Figure no: 1 IM tools have grown from a text-based medium for message exchange to support audio and audio streaming.



Figure no: 2 Using Skype, mobile to talk face to face

Skype is perhaps the most widely used telephony tool in the world, it has some 500 million registered user accounts worldwide, an estimated 50 million calls one placed on the service daily. But it's not always as reliable as some of the others. As with the other tools, a free Skype account comes with several limitations (no screen sharing is the big one for meetings, and video conferencing with only one other person), but it can be convenient when you need to quickly have an audio call with people who are spread out all over the world—and who already have Skype accounts.

GoToMeeting:

GoToMeeting (<http://www.joingotomeeting.com>) is one of the best well-known collaboration software products because the company heavily advertises the service. The service installs an address book that you use to initiate meetings and control attendances. It is easy to create account and provide trial for 30 days, as shown in figure no: 3

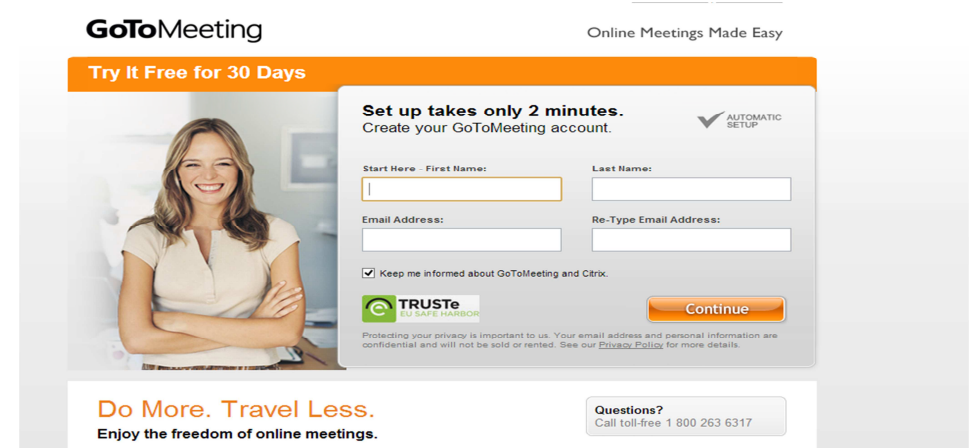


Figure no: 3 create your account and try it for 30 days

GoToMeeting is an online meeting, desktop sharing, and video conferencing software that enable the user to meet with other computer users, customers, clients or colleagues via the Internet in real time. GoToMeeting is a tool that offers a variety of scalable solutions that should meet most users' needs (introducing HDFaces, mobile meeting), as shown in figure no: 4 and 5. Also meeting can be scheduled and recorded for later playback. You can use the service to work on documents cooperatively and annotate them with drawing tools.



Figure no: 4 Video conferencing introducing HDFaces



Figure no: 5 mobile Video conferencing

3.3. Cisco WebEx:

Why WebEx? You can collaborate easily with colleagues across your organization, or halfway across the planet. Meet online and share files, information, and expertise. WebEx solutions increase productivity and keep you connected. As shown in figure no: 6

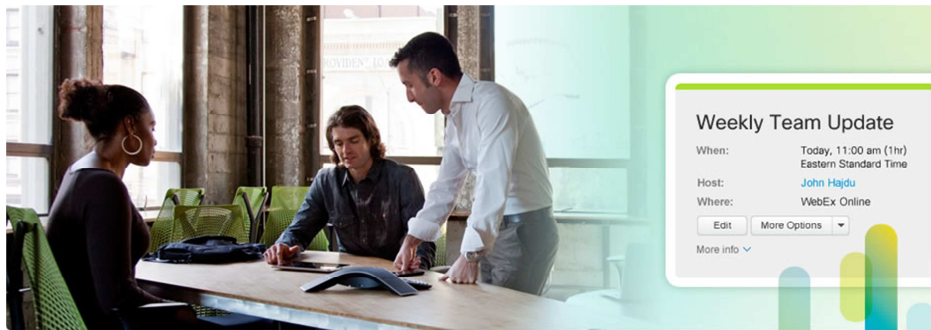


Figure no: 6 Connect with anyone, anywhere, any time.

WebEx deliver highly interactive classes and training online, with video, breakout sessions, and hands-on learning labs, as shown in figure no: 7, and also has many features as following:

- Up to 1,000 participants per session
- High-definition live video (up to 720p)
- Share multimedia, an application, or a whiteboard
- Integrated registration, testing, and grading
- Live breakout sessions and hands-on labs
- Learning management system (LMS) integration
- Record live sessions and build an on-demand training library
- Joint and participate from your Android and iOS device



Figure no: 7 Effective online training, and rich collaborative learning environments.

Virtual presentations and lectures:

Using web conference tools such as WebEx and GoToMeeting, organizations can easily host virtual meetings. Often organization will also want to place within the cloud multimedia content that users can access asynchronously at a time that best meets the user's schedules. Using products such as Articulate or iSpring Presenter, companies can record and post cloud-based virtual presentations that might be used for teaching, virtual training, and more. The advantages of virtual presentations include the following:

- Users can play their content at a time that best meets their needs and as often as they desire
- The costs of production and hosting of multimedia content are low
- Virtual presentation software is migrating to handheld devices
- Organization can create a library of virtual marketing or training presentation.

Figure no: 8 shows a typical WebEx presentation. In this example, a PowerPoint presentation is being annotated by presenter, while participants are chatting in a pane on the right. The presenter, in this case can also take notes during the course of the presentations, their notes appear in their own pane the lower right

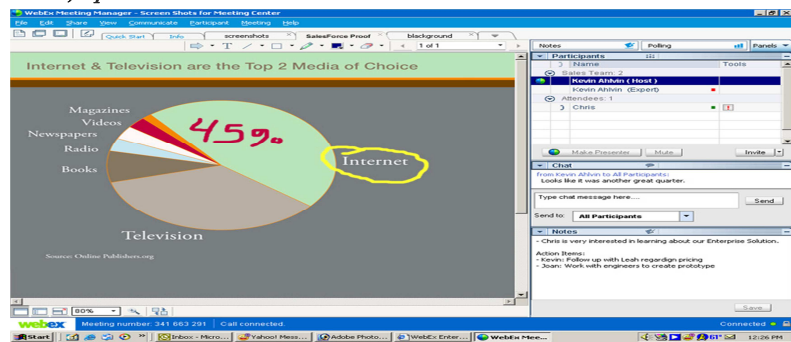


Figure no: 8 shows a WebEx presentation, complete with annotation and real time text chat

Conclusion

There are several ways to talk on communication online, so that we have to know what the best way to neither talk, because, in reality, not every tool of communication is the same type, nor, for that matter, do all users have the same communication preference.

Web conferencing tool is the online equivalent of a group meeting. It is not a one-to-one communication, such as email and instant messaging (although one-on-one communication are still available via private chat sessions), but rather a one-to-many presentation or many-to-many conversation. So that we have to think of web conferencing as a way to facilitate communications among all the members of your group, even if your group is spread out between a dozen or more locations.

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