

The WNY High Performance Networked Video Initiative

At-A-Glance

I. Membership

- A. WNY-HPNVI membership is open to early adopters of High Performance Networked Video technologies affiliated with Western New York education, healthcare, and government institutions. Membership is also open to business partners who demonstrate bona fide interests in supporting WNY-HPNVI objectives. High Performance Networked Video (HPNV) is taken to mean medical and business grade videoconferencing and streaming video transported on the Internet. There are over 70 active members spanning 25 regional institutions and businesses as of 3/27/2001.

II. Objectives

- A. Seamless Connectivity: The WNY-HPNVI exists to promote and achieve the highest degrees of seamless HPNV connectivity amongst educational, healthcare and government organizations, first regionally and then globally.
- B. Information Exchange: The WNY-HPNVI provides forums for information exchange amongst regional HPNV early adopters. It organizes and hosts periodic membership meetings and maintains an email listserv for discussion of common interest issues.
- C. Technology Development: When appropriate and necessary, the WNY-HPNVI develops reproducible deployment models of emerging HPNV technology for the benefit of the early adopter community. A production grade PC based videoconferencing system design was developed that is now available and under continuing development through commercial sources. A shared set of H.323 components and streaming servers, the WNY-HPNVI Sandbox, is maintained and developed for members' testing and deployment trials.
- D. Technology Trials and Showcases: The WNY-HPNVI offers manufacturers and distributors of HPNV technology opportunities 1) to have their technology showcased in an impartial but realistic environment supported by experienced technical staff and 2) to gain credible insight into interoperability and support issues in heterogeneous operating environments in exchange for making their technology available for non-production regional trials and demonstrations. WNY-HPNVI members, in turn, gain access to expensive emerging HPNV technology for proof-of-concept trials, interoperability testing, and deployment and support planning.
- E. Shared Knowledge, Experience, and Asset Pool: The WNY-HPNVI builds and maintains shared pools of knowledge, experience and test/trial technology components for the benefit of regional early adopters of HPNV technologies. These assets are made available at no charge and with no financial interests as a public service effort. Priority is given to projects that extend our understandings and that maximize longer term benefits to the region as a whole.
- F. Evaluation and Promotion of Opportunities for Shared Production Facilities: The WNY-HPNVI continuously evaluates and promotes opportunities for development of regionally shared production-grade HPNV infrastructure facilities. A shared professionally staffed Network Operations Center with robust Gateway, Gatekeeper, MCU, transcoding, streaming broadcast, stored content management, and shared I2 access is under constant re-evaluation.

III. Support

- A. Staffing:
1. UB-OSS: 1.0 FTE, Director & Senior Technical Staff
 2. UB-ITS: 0.25 FTE, Administrative and Technical support
 3. UB-MFC, UB-SON, ECMC, BGH, ViewCommunications, Cisco, PictureTel, BCG and others: administrative, technical and operational staff assistance as possible and appropriate
- B. Operating and Capital Budget:
1. Baseline operating budget through UB-ITS. (\$20K/yr)
 2. Ad-Hoc equipment donations and loans from members. (\$5K-\$15K/yr)
 3. Ad-hoc complete and partial donations and loans of technology from manufacturers and distributors for non-production regional trials and demonstration projects. (~\$10K-\$30K/yr)