

Digital Videoconferencing in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Instructional Environments

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RIT Campus

- ♦ 1300 acres
- ♦ Over 30 buildings
- ♦ Students reside both on and off campus
- ♦ There is a need for technology to facilitate remote communication between students and faculty



2

Remote Access

- ♦ Needed for:
 - General student/faculty communication
 - One-on-one tutoring
 - Faculty "office hours"
- ♦ Traditional telephone communication not possible for many deaf and hard-of-hearing students



3

Options for remote access

- ♦ TTY
- ♦ Pager
- ♦ Internet-based technologies
 - E-Mail
 - Instant Messaging (IM)
 - Desktop Videoconferencing



4

TTY

- ♦ A TTY is a special device used by deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals
- ♦ Uses regular phone connections
- ♦ Callers type messages back and forth in real-time



5

Pager

- ♦ Provides wireless text communication
- ♦ Popular among deaf and hard-of-hearing students
- ♦ Requires contract with a service provider



6

Internet-based Communication

- ♦ E-Mail
- ♦ All RIT students and faculty/staff have email accounts
- ♦ Communication is not in "real time"



7

Internet-based Communication

- ♦ Instant Messaging (IM)
- ♦ Allows users to transmit text messages in "real time" over the Internet
- ♦ Popular among deaf and hard-of-hearing students



8

Internet-based Communication

- ♦ Desktop Videoconferencing
- ♦ Provides point-to-point video over the Internet using IP addresses
- ♦ Facilitates communication through sign language



9

Desktop Videoconferencing at NTID

- ♦ Remote tutoring
 - Distance Learning computer programming courses
 - On-campus courses
- ♦ Online Office Hours
 - Internet Communication course



10

Microsoft NetMeeting

- ♦ Free real-time collaboration and conferencing software for the PC
- ♦ Requires a camera to send video



11






Camera

- ♦ Logitech QuickCam Pro 4000
- ♦ Connects to USB port
- ♦ <http://www.logitech.com>



12

NetMeeting's Collaboration Tools

- ♦  Point-to-point video & audio
- ♦  Chat (text)
- ♦  File Transfer
- ♦  Whiteboard
- ♦  Program (application) sharing

13

Web Resources

♦ Chinese

- ♦ <http://61.236.136.58/netmeeting/nmsm00.htm>
- ♦ <http://www.webeye.com.cn/tech/readme-nm3.htm>
- ♦ <http://fx.northtimes.com/netmeeting/netmeeting01.htm>

♦ English

- <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/NetMeeting/default.ASP>
- <http://www.meetingbywire.com/>

14