

Visual Nexus White Paper

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Improving the productivity of Dispersed Teams

As more organizations are using dispersed teams and home working, they are discovering that existing communication tools do not meet the needs of team members. Face-to-face virtual meetings are required where meeting participants can see each other, show data to others and collaborate on the creative process. The Visual Nexus service provides an advanced face-to-face virtual meeting solution.



*Virtual Meeting Service
powered by Visual Nexus*

Achieve More, Travel Less

Improving the productivity of Dispersed Teams using Virtual Meetings

There are increasing pressures on modern enterprises to implement new working practices to accommodate globalization, to reduce carbon footprints and to stay competitive against new market entrants who use the latest developments of Internet technologies to operate with much lower overhead. To be effective companies are increasingly using dispersed teams to get the best available people where ever they are located. Yet we all know that using dispersed teams introduces real management challenges and makes communication among team members more difficult.

The use of dispersed teams is creating requirements for a new generation of communications tools and collaboration solutions. These are needed to make geographically dispersed teams as productive as those located in the same location. At the same time there is a push for more environmentally and socially acceptable working practices, including home working and reductions in the need for travel. These are not just cost saving measures but are needed improvements in employee working conditions. An effective face-to-face virtual meeting solution is essential to retain productivity among dispersed teams.

What is a virtual meeting?

A virtual meeting takes place when two or more people meet from remote locations rather than travelling to meet in a physical room. Virtual meeting solutions range from audio conferences, through web and video conferences to full face-to-face virtual meeting solutions with video, audio and data sharing capabilities. These meetings take place between individuals or groups in virtual meeting rooms using the personal computers they use for email and other business applications.

In a face-to-face virtual meeting, data and images can be shared among the participants as if they were in a physical meeting room. Data and applications can be shared so that the dispersed team can collaborate on new designs or preparing documents. The systems should be based on industry standards so existing investments, including video conferencing room system, network infrastructure and personal computers can be used as a part of the solution.

To be effective there are a number of key attributes that face-to-face virtual meeting systems must include:

- **Outstanding video image quality and excellent audio.** *The user experience must be as close to a real face-to-face experience as possible.*
- **Be flexible and fit in with where and how people work.** *Users have different needs for data collaboration, and a virtual meeting solution must meet every user's needs.*
- **Fit in with existing infrastructure and systems.** *Virtual meeting solutions will become a core element of the communication infrastructure for the enterprise. It must interoperate with existing infrastructure and require minimum disruption to implement.*
- **Be affordable, easy to deploy and flexible.** *Virtual meeting systems are a new class of solution and will develop over the next few years. Any system deployed today should be easily upgradeable and expandable as new features become available and as usage in the enterprise increases.*

Visual Nexus –A totally integrated face-to-face virtual meeting solution

When we were planning Visual Nexus, we researched the main features that were needed to support the new working practices and the available solutions that best meet the requirements. We realized that home and dispersed team working will only work if supported by communication tools that users are comfortable with and that meet their needs. We chose to power the service using Visual Nexus, a new software solution from OKI of Japan. Using this solution, we then ensured that Hub Meeting was optimized for the key attributes demanded of a face-to-face virtual meeting solution.

- **Outstanding video image quality and excellent audio**

The video and audio quality in Visual Nexus is widely recognized as the best available on a PC based client. This is true even at the low and medium network bandwidths available on home ADSL connections. The solution is easy to use and enables natural interaction to take place. Users quickly feel comfortable in making and receiving calls or joining in virtual meetings.

- **Be flexible and fit in with where and how people work**

Visual Nexus has five different methods of data collaboration that are designed to meet the different needs of every user. These are:

1. Showing videos and images to participants in virtual meetings
2. Making PowerPoint presentations
3. Collaborating and sharing applications among meeting participants
4. Streaming data to video conferencing room systems
5. Sending messages among participants in a meeting

All five different methods can be combined during a single virtual meeting. For example video can be played, a presentation made and an application shared.

- **Fit in with existing infrastructure and systems**

Because Visual Nexus is completely based on open standards it can communicate with other telephony and video equipment used in an enterprise. In addition to video conferencing room systems, it can interoperate with popular software solutions such as Microsoft Live Office and with IP PBXs such as Cisco Call Manager.

- **Be affordable and flexible**

The Visual Nexus service is available on a monthly subscription basis. The software client is freely distributable so everyone in an organization can use it. The only restriction is the number of users in a call at a time, which is limited by your subscription package. Unlike other video systems, Visual Nexus can be used anywhere you can get broadband access to the Internet. This means you can make video calls or join virtual meetings from home, on the road or from your desk.

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