

Members: Gail Clement (FIU), Bill Covey (UF), Selma Jaskowski (UCF), Michael Kucsak (UNF), Mark Stoffan (FSU)

Informational:

TAG met by conference call 22 December 2008, 12 January, 9 and 23 February 2009, at 2:00 pm.

Video conferencing solutions for the SULs :

TAG continued its investigation of video conferencing solutions. Michael Kucsak and Gail Clement collaborated on an evaluation of the current market and summarized Michael's experience on the UNF committee to select a product, providing 3 main results in a report to TAG:

1. A clearer picture of what UNF learned during their review of various videoconferencing products.
2. A set of open questions about Elluminate's pricing structure and licensing requirements across 12 institutions (11 SUL's + FCLA); and possibility of leveraging any existing SUS contracts with Elluminate (either individual institution's existing contracts or a consortial arrangement through the Florida Distance Learning Consortium).
3. A specific set of to-do items for Michael and Gail to pursue and report on at the next TAG conference call.

A. More specific information on #1: UNF's evaluation

1. The UNF team was composed of various faculty including Michael.
2. The purpose was to look at technologies for virtual classrooms and other collaborations, but Michael was focused on collaboration/teleconferencing tools.
3. The UNF team looked at the following products: Elluminate, Wimba, Adobe Connect, and WebEx.
 - a. The latter was immediately abandoned because of poor vendor follow-up.
 - b. Wimba had issues with audio.
 - c. Adobe Connect had issues with audio, and was considered too complex for users to learn. It had cool features but too many clicks to get a task done -> steep learning curve for the end user. This mirrored experiences at UCF, which uses Connect for regional campus meetings. UF also experienced technical difficulties with the product during several sessions conducted by the OLE project.
 - d. Elluminate was the hands-down favorite. It may be hosted by the vendor, requires less IT at UNF; accommodates up to 6 simultaneous speakers, but 100's of

participants; has an easy interface to use; has very reasonable pricing for UNF (approximately \$10/FTE/year or less).

During UF's evaluation of the product it was learned that Elluminate has integration modules available that cover a large majority of the market share of existing academic courseware systems (Blackboard, eCollege, Sakai, Moodle, and ANGEL), with a Desire2Learn module under development. This both dovetails with library desires to integrate with campus courseware, and indicates that Elluminate has a proven record of being able to communicate with diverse outside software, which is a good omen for possible future integration with an LMS.

B. More specific information on #2: Open questions about Elluminate

1. How would the Elluminate pricing structure for UNF translate to the SUL's + FCLA?
2. What alternate pricing structures could Elluminate offer?
3. What SUS institutions already use Elluminate, and could the existing contracts be expanded to include the library at those institutions?
4. Are there any other videoconferencing products on the TAG list (~ 12 products identified) that approach Elluminate's features, functionality and cost? Dimdim is being looked at by FCLA. How does it compare?

C. More specific information on #3: To-do items for Michael and Gail

1. Michael will contact Elluminate to find out more on pricing for our consortia model and ask if they could provide their list for Florida customers. (List of customers follows this report.)
2. Gail will contact Florida Distance Learning Consortium to learn more about their contract with Elluminate and determine how the SUL's might benefit from it. (FDLC price list is attached. This information can be shared among the State University Libraries of Florida but should not be posted for public view.)

D. Pricing questions:

1. What did FDLC pay for its own 65 seats (that would give us an indication of what FCLA might have to pay, or maybe they just fall under UF pricing)?
2. For institutions already paying for Elluminate via the FDLC agreement, how could the Library take advantage of those existing licenses?
3. For institutions not already licensing Elluminate, what options would those libraries have for participating in Elluminate teleconferences?

The TAG conference call scheduled for 23 February will be conducted via Elluminate with Barry Baker in attendance. It is hoped that more detailed pricing information will be obtained at that time so it can be distributed at the March CSUL meeting.

Digital Initiatives Subcommittee:

The DISC quarterly report is submitted separately.

Submitted by:
Selma Jaskowski
Coordinator, TAG

Elluminate Customers in Florida (reported by the vendor and may not be a complete list)*

Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC)
Florida Foreign Language Association

Florida A&M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
University of Central Florida - Flare
University of Florida
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of West Florida

Brevard Community College
Daytona Beach Community College
Florida Community College of Jacksonville
Manatee Community College
Okaloosa-Walton College
Santa Fe Community College
Seminole Community College

Edison College
Keiser University
Nova Southeastern University
University of Miami

*The FDLC reported separately that CCLA and the community colleges bought Elluminate under the Florida contract. CCLA confirmed their use of the product.