
Present Remote Collaboration Capabilities for NSTX

S. A. Sabbagh

*Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics,
Columbia University*

NSTX Research Team Meeting - 1/16/01

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory



Remote Collaboration

Present control room collaboration facilities

■ Control room audio, video, access

- Dedicated A/V computer running Real Networks software
 - ability for delayed playback of control room meetings
- Two fixed-position color cameras accessible through RealPlayer
- Audio of shot number, countdown, and Phys. Ops.; online shotclock
- Polycom Viewstation for direct A/V contact to control room
 - system set to auto-answer / camera is controllable remotely
 - up to 4 collaborators simultaneously using ISDN; H.323 available
- Chat server now available - clients for UNIX, Mac, PC

■ Run plan and shot history

- Polycom Showstation used to show run plan and transmit slides
- MIT style logbook
 - allows multi-user input; access using X; access also via browser
- Data access tools (Scope, Logbook, etc.) available remotely



Remote access to NSTX Meetings is available

- Physics / operations meetings (times are ET)
 - NSTX Control Room Summary: Daily, 5:00 pm
 - NSTX Physics Meeting: Mondays, 1:30 pm
 - NSTX Team Meeting: ~ Monthly
 - NSTX Task Force Meetings: as required
 - NSTX Forum: Yearly

- Meeting facilities (depending on available room)
 - Showstation broadcast of slides
 - access slides via web browser
 - enables remote users to deliver presentations remotely
 - Available through standard conference call
 - Available through RealPlayer
 - Small group meetings can utilize superior Viewstation capability



Comments, requests, and practical experiences

■ Remote users

- Chat server requested
 - server is now available
- Sometimes frustrated unable to connect to a meeting
 - on-site user should attend remotely / remote users should pre-notify meeting organizer
- Person speaking at 5:00 pm meeting not always audible or visible
 - should improve now that control room audio has been improved

■ On-site users

- Showstation brightness, resolution, speed could be improved
- Microphone feedback sometimes an issue
- System appears to be underused
 - Even one user justifies setup. Disappointing if system is not available
- Infrastructure / manpower are sometimes overburdened