MEETINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

Newsletter

January 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the monthly *Meetinghouse Technology Newsletter!* We are very excited to provide this new communication tool to share information about technology use in meetinghouses across the globe.

We are especially excited in this first newsletter to introduce the new "Meetinghouse Technology Wiki", located at mhtech.lds.org. Please take a moment to review this new site – explore the content, and share your experiences implementing these products in the meetinghouse.

Featured Topic

Meetinghouse Media
In some parts of the world, watching a broadcast live (such as general conference) is impractical–or even impossible. Some members must wait up to six weeks to see general conference. In an effort to assist with these problems, the Church has created several Internet-based solutions to make watching general conference, First Presidency devotionals, and other events as easy as possible in all meetinghouses.

There are currently four supported options for viewing this content in a meetinghouse:

1) **Mormon Channel iTunes Page (for Mac, PC, iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch) –** Download Church broadcast videos and podcasts through the Church's official iTunes page, itunes.lds.org.

Tips & Tricks

The new LDS.org includes multiple calendars for each ward, so that each auxiliary can have its own calendar. Auxiliary calendars can be layered on top of each other to show a complete calendar of ward events. You can personalize your view of the calendar to show only those events that apply to your family or your calling.

Wards and stakes are invited to begin using the new calendar. However, note that the calendar will still be under development through February 2011, when a major redesign is scheduled. To learn more about the new calendar, go to MHTech.lds.org and, under "Other tools/information," click **Introduction to the Calendar**.

Local Highlight

This month we would like to highlight the **Pleasant Grove Utah Manila Stake**. For some time, the stake has not been able to fit all of its members in their stake center for conferences. A previous solution–a line-of-sight broadcast system to broadcast conference to the other three buildings in the stake–required the rental of temporary equipment, including large dishes placed in the parking lots of the buildings, and hiring of specialists to set up, test, and operate the equipment, at a cost of around U.S. $4,500 per conference.

This past year the stake technology specialist suggested that the stake look into the new Church webcasting solution. The stake presidency approved, and after some initial investigation, they purchased of one netbook and projector for each of the three ward buildings

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2) **Gospel Library App (for iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch) –** Download general conference videos through this free app, available at the iTunes store.
3) **LDS.org (for Mac, PC, or mobile device) –** Watch broadcasts live, or download the audio and video files from LDS.org.
4) **Western Digital TV HD Media Player with USB Drive –** In areas with limited Internet availability or prohibitive costs, one central location (such as a stake or area office) can download general conference videos and distribute them to local units via USB drives. Congregations can then play the videos by connecting their USB drive to a Western Digital TV HD Media Player.

For each of the above solutions, local units can connect the devices to a projector or TV to play content for congregations. Wards and stakes could also set up a device, such as a netbook, laptop, iPad or other mobile device, to subscribe to podcasts from itunes.lds.org, and keep this device in the meetinghouse library or other location for members to access. This would be useful if, for example, units want to subscribe to a podcast of general conference talks. In this way, members can always have access to digital content in the meetinghouse to enhance their lessons. To learn more about these technologies, please visit the "Viewing Church broadcasts" page of the "Meetinghouse Technology Wiki" (mhtech.lds.org).

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in the stake, and a laptop for the stake center. They also wired each of the ward buildings so that network connections could be brought into the chapel. The combined cost of all of these efforts was less than U.S. $4,000–which means that the webcasting solution saved money with the very first broadcast. And subsequent broadcasts are now completely free, since they can be set up and operated by the stake technology specialist and a member volunteer in each building.

The stake presidency now plans to take the money they had normally budgeted for broadcasting stake conference and return it to the individual ward budgets. They are currently investigating other ways to make the best use of their investment in this technology, such as receiving priesthood sessions of general conference in ward buildings. They feel that this technology has already been a great blessing to the members of their stake.

How has your stake or ward implemented technology to bless the Saints in your area? Please share your story with us at MHTechNewsletter@LDSChurch.org, and we may share it in an upcoming newsletter!

Subscription Information
To receive this newsletter directly to your inbox, subscribe to "Meetinghouse Technologies" on your LDS Account. For instructions on how to do this, see the "Meetinghouse technology email list" page on the "Meetinghouse Technology Wiki" (mhtech.lds.org).

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