

MEETINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

Newsletter



July 2011

Introduction

Welcome to another edition of our monthly *Meetinghouse Technology Newsletter*! Remember that the most current information can always be found on our “Meetinghouse Technology Wiki” (mhtech.lds.org).



Featured Topic

Webcast software

In 2010, stakes and wards broadcast over 7,000 meetings using webcasts, and today close to 800 stakes worldwide use either the webcast communicator device or the meetinghouse webcast software. Last month a new production version of the meetinghouse webcast software was released to the public. With this software, stakes can broadcast a meeting across the Internet to other buildings within the stake boundaries at no cost to the ward or stake. Please remember that the stake presidency must give approval before any meeting can be webcast.

The new, enhanced version of the webcasting software provides greater flexibility in controlling the broadcast than is currently available with the webcast communicator hardware device. The new software also includes some of the following features:

- **Updated technology platform**, with better support for more input devices and webcasting features.
- **Multiple cameras and audio inputs**, allowing you to switch between different input devices during a live webcast.
- **Rest videos and images**, allowing you to select and display images during the webcast.
- **Multilingual interface**, including English and Spanish, with more languages on the way.

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Tips and Tricks (continued)

Other ways to reduce printing costs include creating a PDF version of the ward newsletter to e-mail to ward members or making the sacrament meeting program available as an online PDF document and allowing members to access it from their handheld devices, in addition to printing some for handing out in the meeting.

There are many ways to make use of the funds already invested in meetinghouse Internet to reduce other costs—stake technology specialists can consult with the bishops in their stake and the stake presidency to consider ways that their ward or stake can make best use of this technology.

Local Highlight

Note: Guidelines for technology vary by area, and not all solutions are appropriate in all areas. Please be sure to check with your area office before implementing any new solutions.

The Draper Utah Crescent View Stake has found a way to benefit stake members through webcasting. This stake includes the Crosslands Branch, which is made up of members who reside in assisted living centers. Because these members cannot easily leave the centers where they live, the stake has had trouble finding ways to include them in their stake meetings. Last year the stake presidency authorized the use of webcasting to help with this problem.

After successfully broadcasting stake conference to one assisted living center, with 75 members in attendance, the stake broadcasted its most recent conference to a second assisted living center as well. The results have been wonderful. Broadcasting

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For stakes that do not need the extra flexibility offered by the new software and prefer a simple device without the added features, the webcast communicator will remain available.

Webcasting of meetings is beneficial to members of geographically dispersed stakes, for whom travel can become a burden. It is useful in stakes where the entire membership cannot fit into a single stake center at one time. This new software will be a great blessing to such stakes and will provide a richer experience for those who are already webcasting but are looking for more flexibility in their broadcasts. For more information on webcast software, see <http://webcast.ldschurch.org/clientdownload>.

Tips and Tricks

As more members gain access to the wireless Internet connections in our meetinghouses across the world, ward leaders can prayerfully consider ways to save sacred funds by rethinking their policy on printing materials.

For example, many wards have stopped printing a ward directory and instead teach their members how to access the online directory and show them how to print a copy at home if they want one. Other wards are encouraging teachers to access the online manual for the classes they teach, rather than printing out hard copies of the lesson.

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the meeting has been a great blessing to members who could not have otherwise attended stake conference. Because of this, these branch members now feel more a part of their stake, and they have felt blessed to be able to see and hear their stake president as he addresses the entire stake. They are very grateful for this blessing from their stake leadership. This success has caused the stake leadership to start looking for other ways to help this small branch to feel included in the stake, including ways to continue using webcasting technology to bless the members of this branch.

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



Subscription Information

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