

SLATE Session Background Notes

Session Two and Three: Video Squared: Another Road to Blended Learning
December 6, 2011

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Session Summary: Teachers in the CESA 10 area are developing hybrid/blended courses which use Moodle, recorded video segments, and use the state BCN video network. This SLATE session will present two examples of these courses.

The following information provides **background** details, definitions, and explanations to tools and practices mentioned in the *Video Squared* session.

CESA 10 Distance Learning Services/Members

Member Districts/Networks

CESA 10 in Chippewa Falls has been coordinating video distance learning for area school districts for over 18 years. Currently, thirty-six (36) school districts participate in student course planning through four different management groups (networks). These groups and member districts are as follows:

- CADENC—Established 12 years ago, member school districts are Augusta, Bloomer, Chippewa Falls, Durand, Elk Mound, Fall Creek, Gilmanton, Mondovi.
- CWETN—Established 19 years ago, member school districts are Abbotsford, Athens, Edgar, Colby, Granton, Greenwood, Loyal, Marathon, Neillsville, Owen-Withee, Spencer, Stratford.
- Project CIRCUIT—Established 29 years ago, member school districts are Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, Arcadia, Blair-Taylor, Eleva-Strum, Galesville-Etrick-Trempealeau, Independence, Osseo-Fairchild, Whitehall. Project CIRCUIT has the distinction of being the oldest video distance learning network in the United States.
- WIN—Established 19 years ago, member school districts are Bruce, Cadott, Cornell, Flambeau, Lake Holcombe, New Auburn, Stanley-Boyd, Thorp.

Along with these school district members, the Marathon County Special Education Services is an associate member. Other educational partners are the following institutions of higher education who offer credit courses for high school students: UW-Eau Claire, UW-Barron County, UW-Marshfield, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Northcentral Technical College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, and Western Technical College.

High School Student Course Planning

The major focus of video conferencing in the CESA 10 member districts has been and still remains high school student course planning. For the current school year, 2010-2011, the following statistics tell the story:

- One hundred and sixty-seven (167) semester classes for high school students are coordinated through CESA 10 distance learning services. *All of the courses were created for the sole purpose of offering them via videoconferencing to the CESA 10 member districts.*
- Of these courses offered, 55% are credit granted by an area high school, i.e. core content or AP High School Courses. The remaining are higher education classes.
- These courses are taken by a total of 2286 students in the 36 high schools.
- An average of 11.5 semester classes are scheduled per high school.

Video Technology/Network Details

All thirty-six (36) school districts use the state Badgernet Converged Network (BCN) for video transport. Within their school buildings they all have one (1) BCN managed (fixed) classroom. In addition, through a recent US Department of Agriculture Telecommunications Grant written by CESA 10, seventy-six (76) HD Polycom portable video conferencing units have been added as well. This equates to approximately 2 portable units per school district.

Electronic scheduling services are available through the state BCN/MCU Scheduling office at no cost to our schools. Schools can participate in classes with one, two, three or more sites from anywhere in the state. The scheduling service is at no cost to members of the BCN network. In addition, schools with the HD Polycom units can dial each other for point-to-point connections. (See further information at the end of this document regarding the BCN network and the state scheduling service.)

CESA 10 Educational Technology Consulting and Staff Development Services

CESA 10 educational technology staff have developed training and support for two new tools which work well with distance education—Moodle and Google Docs. Both of these tools are demonstrated in the SLATE CESA 10 presentation.

Moodle

Moodle is a software package for producing Internet-based courses and web sites. Extensive information about *Moodle* is available on the founders' website, Moodle.org.

From their website, Moodle is provided freely as Open Source software (under the GNU Public License). Basically this means Moodle is copyrighted, but that you have additional freedoms. You are allowed to copy, use and modify Moodle provided that you agree to: provide the source to others; not modify or remove the original license and copyrights, and apply this same license to any derivative work.

CESA 10 educational technology staff started using Moodle in 2006. We now have our own in-house Moodle server and provide equipment back-up as well as training and user support. Conservatively stated, we have 100 active users of Moodle, teachers who have at least one course in use this school year. We have 3000 active student users. At this time, over 2000 courses have been created.

As we work towards creating Blended/Hybrid classes, Moodle is the primary template/vehicle used.

Google Docs

Another recent resource for teacher's use has been Google Docs. Together with a number of area CESA 10 school districts, staff at CESA 10 have been learning more about Google Docs.

Google Docs is Google's *software as a service* office suite. Documents, spreadsheets, presentations can be created with Google Docs, imported through the web interface, or sent via email. Learn more at their website: docs.google.com

State Video Conferencing Resources/Contacts

TEACH/DOA/BCN

Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) is a program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Technology. TEACH subsidizes much of the cost to provide telecommunications access (e.g. data lines and video links) to eligible schools, libraries, and educational institutions.

TEACH customers are part of the BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN) which is a statewide telecommunications network.

Questions regarding the TEACH program should be sent to TEACH@Wisconsin.gov. The TEACH phone number is 608-261-5054. Their website is: teach.wisconsin.gov

Information about the state BCN scheduling service can be found at the following website: <http://www.bcnmcu.net/> . The scheduling service is available at no charge to BCN members.

WADEN

The Wisconsin Association of Distance Education Networks (WADEN) is an association of regional distance education networks along with several institutions of higher education who work together to provide distance educational courses, programs, meetings, and community events to Wisconsin students, educators and residents.

Some basic statistics on WADEN members and users of the BCN network are:

- Regional Networks in Wisconsin: 20
- Individual vendor managed sites statewide: over 321
- Number of Wisconsin cities with WADEN sites: 283
- Students served in a typical school year: 54,000
- Events offered during a typical school year: 4700
- Year of BCN Conversion: 2006
- Year WADEN was formed: 1997

To learn more about WADEN and a distance learning network near you, refer to the organization's website: <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/waden/>

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