



NJVid Lectures-on-Demand Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
5/28/08 – 2PM

Present: Pat Kubaska, Tom Nemeth, Sheri Prupis, Tom Minnefor, Joe Russo, Sandie Miller, Grace Agnew

Defining the Collection:

The group discussed the type of material that constitutes lectures on demand – Tom Nemeth explained that the collection encompasses not only lectures proper but any material that is not commercially distributed and to which institutions want to provide restricted access. Tom noted that he thinks of it basically as non-commercial, restricted-access material – Sandie felt that explanation was too verbose – Sheri clarified her resultant understanding that in terms of practicality, NJVid itself will not have three distinct collection areas, but rather two different modes of access (open and authorized), while the latter is dependent upon the nature of the content (local propriety and commercial) – Sandie emphasized that lectures on demand was conceived primarily with user-created material in mind.

Grace mentioned she does not like the name “lectures-on-demand.” The issue of changing the group name has been discussed with the NJVid Project Team, but no resolution has been achieved thus far.

Technical Considerations:

Sandie pointed out that a key goal for the lectures on demand collection is to provide a technical support system that will enable NJVid-participating institutions to record their lectures and related material – If on-campus students are accessing lectures through NJVid, collectively their usage will affect the local network and potentially slow it down. Institutions will need to make adjustments to their campus infrastructure to accommodate on-campus usage of NJVid and to ease the burden it might have on their network.

Tom Minnefor asked about the mechanism that will operate the authentication and authorization (A&A) of users. Sandie responded that Shibboleth will run A&A, and users will use Rutgers’ Workflow Management System to define authorized users and groups. Sheri explained that the A&A will be user-specific and role-based. Specifically, Shibboleth will communicate with an institution’s local LDAP database (if one exists) once metadata is entered by the content provider, at which point LDAP will look up the permitted users and send a message to Shibboleth confirming that the specified users are permitted to access particular video(s) on NJVid.

A question was raised about how the link to videos newly uploaded to NJVid will be distributed and to whom? Grace responded that the link will be posted to the content provider's MyContent page and personalized playlist on the Web site.

UMDNJ is a relatively large institution that potentially could encode its material in-house rather than at Rutgers. Tom M. would like to know what NJVid's technical specifications are so that UMDNJ's own technical infrastructure can be compatibly developed; Sandie stressed that the opposite is also true.

Faculty Considerations:

NJVid will serve as a venue for accessing lectures on demand. This collection group is primarily faculty-driven, unlike locally-owned content which is librarian-oriented and commercially-distributed video which is oriented toward institutions' media services departments.

Profiling Collections:

Tom N. expressed a desire to begin profiling collections with regard to lectures on demand material. Sandie noted that such an effort does not quite apply to this collection.

Some tasks for this workgroup were proposed and discussed:

1. Develop guidelines for creating lectures on demand content
2. Help to determine necessary metadata. A representative from this workgroup should join the Metadata group, preferably a faculty member
3. Develop guidelines for removing videos from NJVid, since faculty will likely decide to only keep their recordings on NJVid for a limited period of time

Grace addressed the issue of metadata – It is largely extracted from an institution's LDAP. There are 8-10 main metadata fields, and only a few are required to be filled out – The Workflow Management System should be relatively intuitive to pick up and use, and it does not require a lot of training to learn.

Rutgers is close to completing a new version of the annotation tool that will be used to add titles to videos, place notes over the video and so forth. Grace thinks it will be really effective to use with commercial videos and lectures on demand.

The ability to expand NJVid's capabilities to support podcasting audio files could be added in NJVid v.2.0. The group agreed that it would be worthwhile to propose the idea to the NJVid Advisory Board.

Chad Mills at Rutgers has created a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the proposed Annotation Tool can be used to annotate videos. It is linked at the Lectures on Demand Wiki page of the NJVid Wiki here: <http://www.njedge.net/njvid/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=NJVid+Lectures+on+Demand+Workgroup>

Meeting adjourned.