

Michigan's Regional Educational Media Center Deploys RADVISION's Video Conferencing Solution to K-12 Schools

About



Regional Educational Media Center Association of Michigan

Customer: Michigan's Regional Educational Media Center #1
Country: USA
Industry: Education
Product: RADVISION's complete video conferencing infrastructure solution including RADVISION's Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU), H.323 Gatekeeper, and scheduling and management system.

About REMC #1

REMC #1 provides support to 22 school districts in five western counties of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Their programs increase and enhance educational opportunities while saving the districts both time and money. The eliminated travel will also be a safety measure in the harsh winter environments experienced in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Mission

The State of Michigan's Department of Education created 22 Regional Educational Media Centers to promote the use and management of various media to enhance education for K-12 learners, and to develop and implement cooperative projects to promote cost-effective services, and create opportunities for professional development. REMC #1 serves more than 12,000 students and 700 educators. Additionally, the agency manages the data communications network for its districts and coordinates its distance learning.

REMC #1 was a pioneer in distance learning in Michigan. More than a decade ago, it was one of the first organizations to share courses through its analog fiber network. However, as the demand for more educational courses and advanced technology increased, REMC #1 was forced to upgrade its network and technology.

To address this demand, the agency selected RADVISION, a leading provider of products and technology for real-time voice, video and data communications over IP networks and an expert in the video conferencing space.

REMC #1 installed RADVISION's Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU), H.323 Gatekeeper, and scheduling and management system. These products enable REMC #1 to schedule and deliver classes, virtual field trips, professional development and other collaboration.

By choosing to move to an IP-network connection for distance learning and video conferencing, REMC #1 saved in access costs, decreased system complexity, and can now also participate in video sessions using Internet 2. Internet 2 is a consortium of over 180 universities working in partnership with industry and government to develop and deploy advanced network applications and technologies, accelerating the creation of tomorrow's Internet. Internet 2 is recreating the partnership among academia, industry and government that fostered today's Internet when it was in its infancy. The primary goals of Internet 2 are to create leading edge network capability for the national research community that enable revolutionary Internet applications and to ensure the rapid transfer of new network services and applications to the broader Internet community.

The Challenge

REMC #1 faced the challenge of providing enhanced and increased educational opportunities to a geographically dispersed area with limited resources. Their 22 districts cover 4,871 square miles and have a varied student population.

"We are talking about the largest district in this area having 1,600 students and the smallest district having only eight," said director Greta Erm.

The Solution

The RADVISION solution was a move from the legacy analog video conferencing network to a digital one, eliminating the need for a separate network. The Internet bandwidth and consolidated infrastructure now enables REMC #1 to schedule classes, virtual field trips, professional development and other collaborative programs for students and teachers to any wired classroom in the district. In addition, it gives these districts access to Internet 2.

During the evaluation period, REMC #1 was highly impressed by RADVISION's product performance. Its products demonstrated higher call quality with less delay than other products on the market. The RADVISION products also required much less rack space and provided greater capacity to handle more of its endpoints and simultaneous calls.

By providing REMC #1 with a bundled solution, there was no integration work to combine disparate technologies, multi-vendor products, or scenario testing necessary to ensure compatibility of the video conferencing network components.

This included:

- **RADVISION's Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU)** with high density and performance providing the ability to conduct conferences for voice, video and data between three or more endpoints.
- **H.323 Gatekeeper** with advanced call management to set policies and control network resources such as bandwidth usage and traffic direction, ensuring optimal network performance.
- **Scheduling and Management System** allowing users to schedule conferences directly from Microsoft Outlook. The system centrally manages conferencing, collaboration and meeting resources, including multiple time zone scheduling, attendee invitations, recurring events, reporting capabilities and network resources.

RADVISION's expertise and product design for distributed architectures of video conferencing networks was also a key decision factor.



The Benefits

The deployment of the RADVISION solution has opened the window of opportunity for the small, rural districts in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A student within these districts now can take a virtual field trip to the Cincinnati Zoo, or receive a music lesson from an expert from the University of Michigan. In addition, each district has the opportunity to select its own courses independently of the other.

"One district is offering Finnish, one is offering College Writing and yet another is offering Accounting. There is even a plan to connect students in another district to students in Norway and Finland. This would not have happened last year," REMC #1's Erm says. "The RADVISION solution has made it possible and this is just the beginning."

About RADVISION

RADVISION (NASDAQ: RVSN) is the industry's leading provider of market-proven products and technologies for unified visual communications over IP and 3G networks. With its complete set of standards based video networking infrastructure and developer toolkits for voice, video, data and wireless communications, RADVISION is driving the unified communications evolution by combining the power of video, voice, data and wireless – for high definition video conferencing systems, innovative converged mobile services, and highly scalable video-enabled desktop platforms on IP, 3G and emerging next generation networks. For more information about RADVISION, visit www.radvision.com

USA/Americas
T +1 201 689 6300
F +1 201 689 6301
infoUSA@radvision.com

EMEA
T +44 20 3178 8685
F +44 20 3178 5717
infoUK@radvision.com

APAC
T +852 3472 4388
F +852 2801 4071
infoAPAC@radvision.com