

Northwestern University Deploys RADVISION Videoconferencing Solution for Internal and External University Collaboration

Highlights:

- Client: Northwestern University
- Product: RADVISION's *via*IP Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU)
Enhanced Communication Server (ECS) 200
Gateway
Data Collaboration Server (DCS) 100.
- Number of sites: The solution provides a conferencing environment between Northwestern University's Evanston, Illinois, and Chicago campuses as well as collaboration with other leading universities and businesses globally.
- Application: Northwestern University installed RADVISION's solution to serve its campuses in Evanston, Illinois, and Chicago with videoconferencing opportunities for distance learning, research, and faculty communication. Northwestern University's classrooms are interactive environments that increase productivity and collaboration and decrease time and travel expenses for faculty and administrative staff.

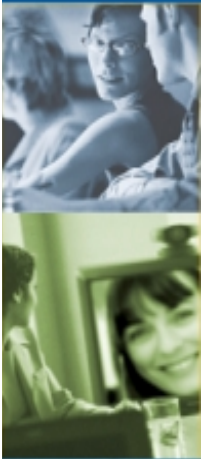
Why Northwestern University Chose RADVISION:

RADVISION's expertise and experience with large educational networks and multi-location businesses for videoconferencing was a key factor in Northwestern University's decision. The RADVISION products also offered a low entry cost for the university's videoconferencing needs while providing a complete line of products.

According to Northwestern University's Amiot, RADVISION's ability to provide excellent product support and access to new and emerging features were among factors in the RADVISION selection. The RADVISION solution is highly scalable and will be able to accommodate increases in demand and traffic for the videoconferencing systems in the future. He also adds, "Most importantly (in the decision) was RADVISION's involvement with Internet 2 and other universities and organizations around the world. RADVISION has adapted its product evolution to meets the needs of the educational community."

Introduction:

Northwestern University is one of the country's leading private research universities with campuses in Evanston, Illinois, and Chicago. The university employs approximately 2,100 full-time faculty serving more than 13,600 full-time students (including 7,700 undergraduates).



Northwestern University has always distinguished itself as an ambitious institution, combining innovative teaching and pioneering research in a collaborative environment. It strives to be an institution that encourages innovation and the integration of experience across many fields. To keep its position as a forerunner in higher education, the university turned to RADVISION for its leadership and experience in the videoconferencing space. RADVISION is a leading provider of products and technology for real-time voice, video, and data communications over packet networks.

Challenge:

Northwestern University needed a solution that would allow faculty to work with collaborators and students at locations on both of its campuses and around the world. The University's early videoconferencing ventures utilized ISDN-based H.320 videoconferencing technology. ISDN connectivity did not address the connectivity needs in many of the community of universities and research organizations that Northwestern needed to communicate with and did not build on the technical Internet-based directions that the university was taking. H.323 did provide internet-based connectivity and allowed the university to videoconference over the Internet and take advantage of the high-speed Internet2 connectivity that was in place while still providing interoperability through the use of a gateway with the older H.320 legacy technology.

"While the equipment was a good entry level for our videoconferencing endeavors, it did not provide many of the features and local control that we desired," said Larry Amiot, Digital Video Systems Engineer, Northwestern University.

Northwestern University then selected RADVISION's line of quality videoconferencing products. These products include:

- **viaIP Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU)** has a high density and proven performance and gives Northwestern University the ability to conduct conferences for voice, video and data between three or more endpoints.
- **Data Collaboration Server (DCS)** is a dynamic and scalable solution for data collaboration. The DCS allows real-time sharing of files and applications like Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel.
- **Enhanced Communication Server (ECS)** is an advanced call management application with advanced H.323 gatekeeper technology that can set policies and control network resources, such as bandwidth usage and traffic direction, to ensure optimal network performance.

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. (See associated RADVISION on ViDeNet, an Internet 2 videoconferencing network powered by RADVISION technology)



- **viaIP Gateway** is a high-performance, scalable and cost effective solution for providing the ability to connect ISDN-based H.320 systems to IP-based H.323 systems and endpoints. It seamlessly translates between H.320 and H.323 networks to relay audio and video streams from one network to another.

Results:

The installation of the RADVISION system gives Northwestern University the enhanced learning environment needed to keep its foothold as a leader in the higher education space. Videoconferencing allows distance learning, faculty and student collaboration, and the exchange of ideas between its two campuses. It has also opened the door to a plethora of information and opportunities with other universities and businesses globally.

“There are many collaborations between departments and schools and with other institutes and businesses,” Amiot said. “For example, although Northwestern University’s medical and undergraduate campuses are only eleven miles apart, this distance really impedes communication, interaction, and collaboration. Our ability to readily engage medical faculty in undergraduate teaching has become much easier, due to the presence of videoconferencing. Similarly, we have appreciably enhanced two-campus faculty interaction for seminars and research meetings.”

Videoconferencing will also reduce the university’s cost in travel expenses. “It is hard to attach a figure to the savings,” he said. “Will the interactive meetings replace travel or would they just be meetings that wouldn’t happen? Either way, the collaboration is beneficial.”

About RADVISION

RADVISION (Nasdaq: RVSN) is the industry’s leading provider of high quality, scalable and easy-to-use products and technologies for videoconferencing, video telephony, and the development of converged voice, video and data over IP and 3G networks. RADVISION has two distinct business units. RADVISION’s Networking Business Unit (NBU) offers one of the broadest and most complete set of videoconferencing network solutions for IP- and ISDN-based networks, supporting all end points in the industry. The company also provide businesses and service providers with integrated solutions that deliver converged IP-based video telephony applications to employee computer desktops and residential broadband homes worldwide. The Company’s Technology Business Unit (TBU) provides protocol development tools and platforms, enabling equipment vendors and service providers to develop and deploy new converged networks, services, and technologies. For more information please visit our website at www.radvision.com.

For more information about Northwestern University, please visit <http://www.northwestern.edu/>

