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Collaboration Quarterly

A publication of CSO/NICS Collaboration Services, a service provider to the NASA Communications Service Office

__Collaboration Quarterly__ is designed to keep you up-to-date on the newest offerings and features available to you and your customers. We hope you find the newsletter a useful tool for engaging and informing current and potential users of CSO/NICS Collaboration Services.

Hardware Highlights

AMX Enova DVX: A Switcher with a Brain

The Enova DVX line of presentation switchers from AMX form the heart of Collaboration Services' new small room solution, the "Micro-Multimedia" system. The DVX switchers are a video switching solution with integrated AMX control and audio features.

The video switching features of the DVX include multiple input formats (HDMI, DVI-I, and DXLink), digital output formats (HDMI, DXLink), and auto scaling. The DXLink ports allow longer cable runs over shielded Cat6 cable, instead of expensive and bulky digital video cables. Auto scaling of outputs reformats a variety of input resolutions to the optimal resolution of the room display.

The Enova DVX also integrates an AMX master control CPU. This "brain" is designed to allow control of multimedia devices from a touch panel. A control system programmer configures the master controller to control the particular devices attached to the DVX system. The DVX eliminates the need for multiple remote controls and makes the conferencing system easy to use.

Audio routing and switching is also included in the DVX system. Multimedia devices that include audio, via HDMI or analog connector, are automatically switched to the output associated with the video signal. An audio breakout connector is also available for routing of audio to an amplifier or audio mixing system.

AMX Enova DVX

The small but powerful Enova DVX is a welcome addition to the Collaboration Services portfolio. If you are interested in a small room solution featuring the DVX, contact your site representative.

From the NASA Teleconferencing Center

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There are a lot of exciting things going on at the NASA Teleconferencing Center (NTC).

DMV Security

To meet Agency security directives, the DMV team have been working with our vendor, Vidyo, to support two-factor authentication to access DMV accounts. A beta version of the DMV client with this additional security feature is in testing with an anticipated release in October. When released this update will allow users to access DMV accounts with his or her PIV Badge.

ViTS Infrastructure

Collaboration Services is upgrading the video conferencing bridges at Marshall and Goddard Space Flight Centers with additional conferencing capacity and enhanced High Definition conferencing support.

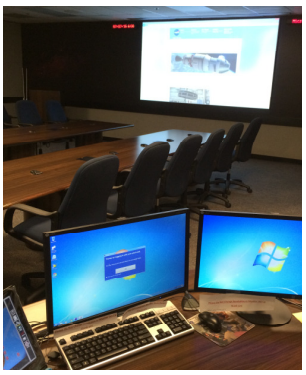
NTC Test Lab

In early 2016 the NTC will be upgrading their video testing and certification hardware. NTC will be equipped with the digital hardware which is being deployed across the Agency. The new hardware will enable the NTC specialists to provide better technical support for Full Service Video Conference Rooms.

NASA Teleconferencing Center

Project Report:

JSC Building 17 rooms 1064 & 1066



JSC-17-1064

"CS was able to complete the install and user training in time for the Orion Program's high profile design review meetings"

Collaboration Services had the opportunity to upgrade two conferencing facilities at Johnson Space Center, Building 17, in support of the Orion program. The room 1064 upgrade was an upgrade of a non-NICS conference room. CS was able to complete the install and user training in time for the Orion Program's high profile design review meetings. Room 1064 is equipped with a High Definition projector and a 133" fixed projector screen which is conducive in the viewing of detailed schematics and other design details. The main conference table is equipped with five table mounted pop-ups allowing participants to share content. Additionally, this room is equipped with an audio conferencing system which includes 12 table microphones and six speakers. The room is controlled via a 20" touch panel mounted at the operator's station. To better meet the Orion program's needs, Room 1066 was reconfigured from a video conferencing room to a more focused High Definition, multimedia conference room. With the completion of this upgrade (August 7, 2015), room 1066 offers a larger viewing screen allowing the Orion program team to review requirements. The conference room hardware also offers many of the capabilities frequently desired by the NASA team and other supporting contractors. The main conference table is equipped with three (two dual-sided and one single sided) table mounted pop-ups for content sharing. Additionally, this room is equipped with an audio conferencing system including ten table microphones, two gallery microphones, and four speakers. 1066 is also controlled via a 20" touch panel mounted at the operator's station.

JSC-17-1066

Collaboration Service Spotlight:
Design Engineer: Brandon Cork

CS Engineer: Brandon Cork

With over 16 years as a member of Collaboration Services, design engineer Brandon Cork is one of the longest serving members of the CS team. During time, Brandon has seen the Collaboration Services team grow from four engineers to a team of 13 and a concurrent expansion of use and breadth of CS rooms. "Today many more people are utilizing video conferencing, incorporating mobile devices into the conference environment, and maximizing conferencing space with multiple configurations and unique requirements" says Brandon. Mr. Cork has provided engineering for several notable projects including the JSC Astronauts conference room, the KSC Launch Director's conference room, and the LaRC New Town project. He enjoys creating the technical drawings required for the installation of these complex conference room projects. Brandon looks forward to meeting new design challenges as technology evolves. When not at work, he can be found at the local ball field rooting on his sons' sports teams, or dropping a line off the back of his bass boat.

Best Practices:

Ambient Noise

In conference rooms, ambient noise or background noise is any noise not part of the information being communicated. Ambient noise can come from a variety of sources. Air conditioning vents, equipment cooling fans, and building electrical and plumbing are all sources of ambient noise that can impact the conference experience. Fortunately, with current audio signal processors and mixers, these constant sources of noises are electronically "filtered" out of the transmission signal. Other, intermittent, background noises require human intervention to mitigate. Proper acoustic treatments and keeping doors closed during a meeting can minimize the impact of external noises such as construction or hallway traffic. Muting of microphones when not in use will eliminate unwanted noises such as keyboard clicks, paper shuffling and side conversations. Refrain from placing cellphones and tablets near microphones to stop electronic signal interference. Taking steps to control ambient noise will improve the conference experience for all participants.

Completed Projects Gallery Third Quarter 2015

JSC-17-1066

JSC-17-1064

JSC-4N-3025

MSC-4493-132

KSC-M7-355-2523

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News & Notes

- Collaboration Services is managing an average of 140 CRQs based on current and forecasted projects through the end of January 2016.
- Collaboration Services provided the 2021 Collaboration Road Map to CSO.
- During the 2015 Centralized Funds Workshop held at MSFC, Collaboration was singled out as the CSO Service to be emulated as the model for other services moving forward. This provides excellent feedback to the team indicating we are on the right track.
- Welcome Aboard! Collaboration welcomed the newest member of the team, Kelson Hale, on 28 September. Kelson was an intern over the past two summers, was a great fit in the role, and has taken the opportunity to transition to a full time role. His knowledge of the process and the service will be a tremendous benefit to the Team and will allow him to step in and produce solid service engineering almost immediately.
- Congratulations to Implementation Engineer, Jason Brounstein, on achieving his CTS Certification.

On The Horizon:

Upcoming Major Projects

4th Quarter 2015

- JSC-17-2026
- MSFC-NSSTC-2096
- JSC-POCC upgrade
- ARC-SOC
- HQ-6E40
- LaRC-ATOL
- JSC-Sonny Carter
- JSC-Space Park-1800A

And Beyond

- GRC-3-251&225
- SSC Core Room
- GRC Core Room
- HQ-8E40
- JSC-20-204