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Video Technologies in Finnish Universities – the Present and the Future

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Background – A Report to Map the Present and to Prepare a Roadmap for the Future

- Finnish Virtual University ordered a report in 2003 about the usage of Video Technology in the Finnish Universities.
  - The report (in Finnish) evaluated the current state of the usage of video technology and suggested actions and projects to advance the usage and usability of the technology.
- In 2008, the Finnish IT Centre for Science, CSC, ordered a follow up report.
  - Preparatory work started in a Video Funet expert workshop in June. Most of the work will take place during the autumn 2008.
  - The report is due to be published 15.1.2009.
- Both of the reports were edited and coordinated at the Educational Centre for ICT at the University of Helsinki.

Survey process

- The ongoing survey utilises multiple ways to gather information
  - Expert workshops
    - Video Funet experts group
  - Visits to various organisations
    - To evaluate pilots and new installations and techniques
  - Networking
    - Exchanging information and best practises
    - Progress of the survey made visible via a public wiki-site
  - Web-based questionnaires for
    - Technical and administrative staff
    - Teachers and students

Main goals

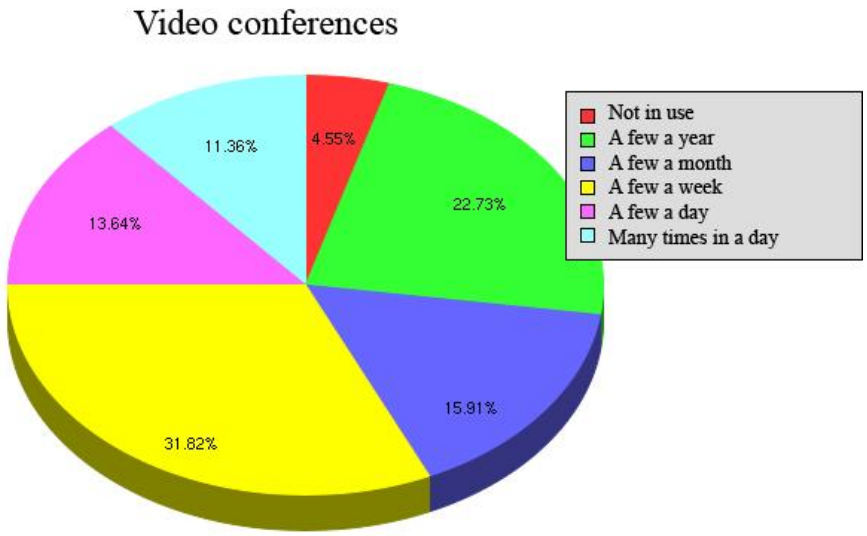
- To investigate the current state of utilisation of video technology in Finnish Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences
- To prepare a roadmap for the future and outline the future trends and co-operation possibilities

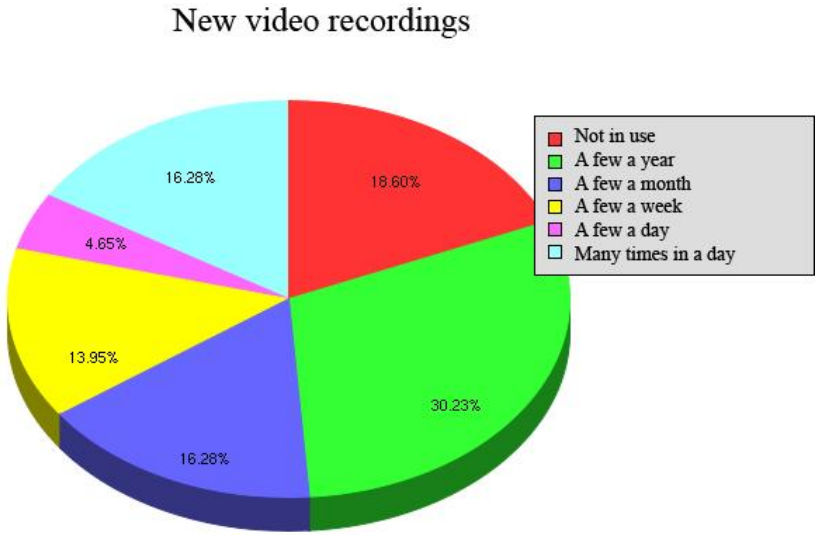
Survey credibility

- There are 50 Universities in Finland (including the Universities of Applied Sciences)
- First technical survey
  - 44 answers
- Second technical survey
  - 35 answers
- International survey (for Megaconference participants)
  - 30 answers
- User survey
  - 250 answers
    - Students 109
    - Teachers 50
    - Researchers 19
    - Administration 32
    - Other 40

Current Usage

- Big differences between organisation
  - Example1: How often videoconferences are conducted?
  - Example2: How often new videos are added to organisations video server?
- Some big universities have their own video servers, av-team, MCU's, etc.
  - Smaller universites either buy the services from the big universities or from corporations



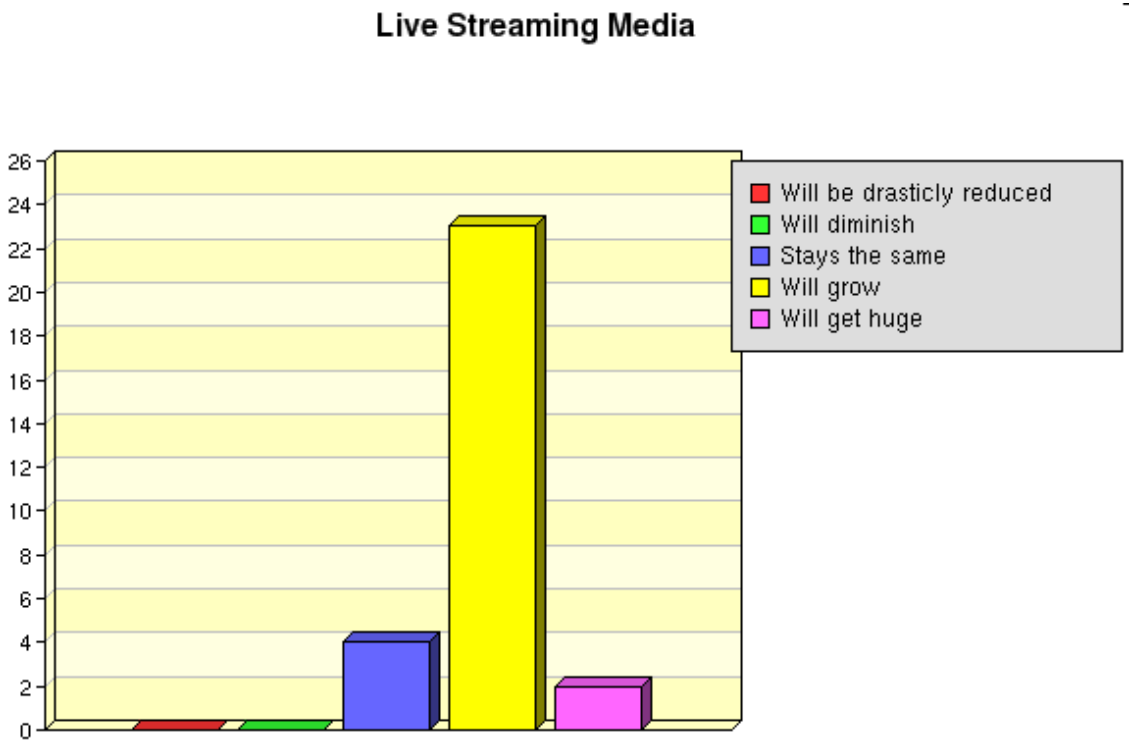


Current trends

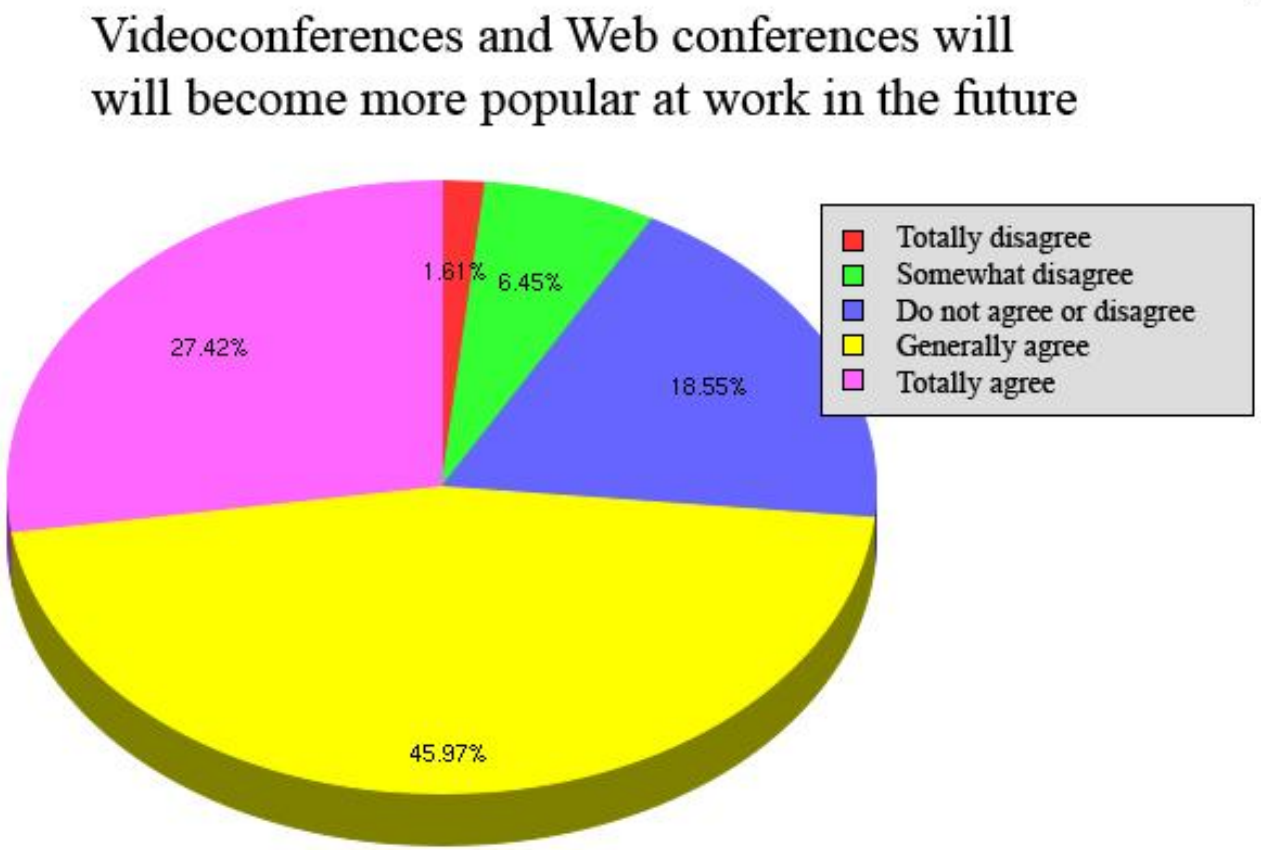
- Currently over 83% of young Finns (ages 15-30) use YouTube regularly
  - Source: National Youth Survey 2008
- According to the students' answers in the user survey:
  - 97% have watched videos on the Internet
  - 48% have filmed and edited videos
  - 21% have published videos on the Internet
  - 38% have taken part in video conferences
- According to the teachers' answers in the user survey:
  - 92% have watched videos on the Internet
  - 54% have filmed and edited videos
  - 40% have published videos on the Internet (36% for lectures)
  - 80% have taken part in video conferences

Predictions in the growth of internet video (live and recorded).

- Finnish users:
  - "I will utilise more video-technology in my work in the future" : 64%
- Finnish experts:
  - rec growth: 77%
  - live growth: 78%
- Megaconference participants
  - rec growth: 76%
  - live growth: 86%



Predictions in the growth of video conferencing and web conferencing

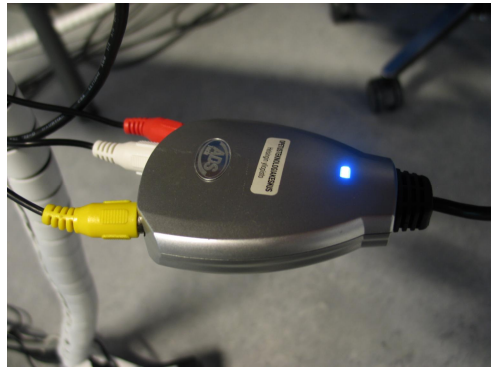


- Finnish users: “Video- and Web conferences will become more popular”: 73%
- Finnish experts:
  - videoconf: 51%
  - webconf: 88%
- Megaconference participants:
  - videoconf: 90%
  - webconf: 93%

Near Future
(according to the expert workshops)

- Strong growth in both usage and quality of internet video
  - Internet video and Web conferencing - Flash
    - the ease of use, no special media players needed
  - Video conferencing – HD and Telepresence on one hand, light client solutions on the other (closing on to Web conf.)
- Convergence
  - Many technologies used intertwinedly
- Standard AAC (audio) and H.264 (video) codecs
  - improved quality with less bandwidth, enables HD
- Virtual Worlds (like Second Life)?

Critical aspects



- Ease of use
  - The technologies should be easy to use
  - Support should be locally available when needed
- Copyright issues
  - Is there any copyrighted material – who clears the issues?
  - Who owns the copyright for the product?
  - Can it be freely accessible?
  - How long can the video be used?
- Media Skills
  - “It looks like TV, but is the content like TV?”

Roadmap for the future

- Access to local support is important for the user
  - Joint training and support for the support personnel?
- A lot of interest for knowledge sharing and best practises
  - Both from international and national groups
  - Will be taken into account for example when redesigning http://video.funet.fi
- Coordination is important to facilitate good co-operation and interoperability among organisations
- Different organisations have different needs – how best to serve everyone?

Questions?

- Contact

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- Videotechnology survey

  http://wiki.helsinki.fi/x/goTfAQ

- This presentation

  http://www.andberg.net/sami/pub/OEB08.ppt