GÉANT

eduCONF

PART OF THE GÉANT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

High Quality, Effective Videoconferencing

To make videoconferencing work for you, save time, money and improve teamwork, use eduCONF.

Videoconferencing allows teams to meet and work together no matter what their location without the time and cost of travelling. Removing geographical boundaries for collaboration is a vital benefit to R&E organisations.

However, the wide variety of standards, levels of maintenance and support that can exist for a videoconferencing room cause different levels of user experience. The concern about finding rooms and knowing that they will work together is a major blockage to adopting Videoconferencing.

To overcome such differences the eduCONF service portfolio covers registering and locating rooms, validating and certifying rooms, and monitoring videoconferencing networks.

eduCONF supports and develops videoconferencing services at a pan-European level via GÉANT, enabling NRENs to offer high-quality collaboration and videoconferencing environments to universities and research organisations.

With eduCONF, users can locate suitable videoconferencing facilities, both in their local Institution and in other Institutions. eduCONF enables them to collaborate effectively with their colleagues. Once they have located a possible facility, users can find information regarding the status and capabilities of the video room they would like to reserve and use.

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BENEFITS

Reliable:
Increases user confidence in using Videoconferencing and offers Centralised Certification levels for standardising experiences in VC.

Efficient:
Provides higher success rate in dialling after performing recommended tests and gaining a certificate and increased productivity in VC meetings due to a better VC experience for users.

Engaged:
Expert advice available to encourage service adoption and support NREN implementation.

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eduCONF Directory enables registered users to search registered Videoconference Rooms and verify the level of certification and facilities of the rooms.

Users can search using keywords or browse the Map. Filters can be applied to search in a specific Country, City or Institution. Room profiles contain contact details for the administrators and technical contacts for the room, and optionally include photographs of the location and facilities.

By making it easier for users to find facilities VC managers will see the return on their investment improve and users will save time and money.

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eduCONF Certification helps to demonstrate that the VC services are compatible with services across Europe and usable by the whole community.

eduCONF provides Certification Services for Institutions and their Service Rooms (Endpoints), as well as basic Certification process for single VC rooms/Endpoints. Both certification processes are step-through sequences performed via the eduCONF Directory website.

Depending on the facilities they have available, Institutions and Rooms may be assigned one of three different levels of certification: Standard, Silver or Gold.

Room Certification levels

Standard (minimum) compliance: Room manager must provide IP address or GDS number of the room. Only minimum bidirectional reachability tests are performed (H.323 reachability using IP or GDS address). If the tests are passed, the room gets automatic Basic Certification level.

Silver (optional) compliance: Room manager must provide IP address, GDS and gatekeeper address of the room. A full set of tests is performed to and from the room (IP reachability, H.323 reachability using IP and GDS) and the gatekeeper is tested and placed under the H.323 network monitoring engine.

Gold (optional) compliance: In addition to the Basic Compliance, the room manager must enter extra information about the room, such as photos, scheduling procedure and wi-fi accessibility, for instance. The terminal must support HD resolution.

Institution Certification levels

Standard (minimum) compliance: VC Service Manager provides gatekeeper technical information (IP, GDS prefix, Name) and manager contacts (name, e-mail). If tests are passed successfully, the service gets automatic Basic Certification level and will be added to the recurrent monitoring tests.

Silver (optional) compliance: More information about the service is provided, such as: URL for service webpages, more contacts and extra H.323 network services.

Gold (optional) compliance: Whenever the information is also provided in the English language, the service provides MCU infrastructure, Nrenum.net lookup, monitoring information available and IPv6 calls enabled.

GÉANT is the pan-European research and education network that interconnects Europe's National Research and Education Networks (NRENs). Together we connect over 50 million users at 10,000 institutions across Europe, delivering advanced services to drive innovation.

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