



The bane of the K-12 environment is the troika of funding, communication, and process. In seeking to build a collaborative culture in the flat world of the Internet age, the High Desert Educational Service District (HDES D) of Bend, Oregon is investigating a solution that can save the ESD both time and money.

In order to locate cost savings during funding-challenged times, along with the critical return of better communications, the HDES D turned to Comotiv Collaboration™ for an evaluation of its Web-based suite of tools for virtual conferencing and work-sharing.



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Value Times Two

During their evaluation, the HDES D discovered that, from a K-12/ESD's perspective, the two greatest values for using Comotiv Collaboration are process and communication.

Comotiv Collaboration provides the framework for process in collaborative project management because it allows users to utilize pull technology. Centralized tools, such as document sharing, and task assignment to project members help impart process across projects.

Comotiv Collaboration, the HDES D believes, can also provide quick cost savings with its multi-faceted collaborative communication environments. The simplest communication environment utilizes traditional typing, from threaded discussions to text -based chat. Comotiv Collaboration also enables more robust environment that supplies full unicast-based Audio/Video conferencing.

Conferences are scheduled in Team mode or Presentation mode. In Team mode, a multitude of users can collaborate, face to face, through Audio/Visual conferencing. Presentation mode, where a presenter runs a meeting or a class via Audio/Video conferencing, the HDES D sees as providing a definite value with distance education. Recording of Presentation mode allows for playbacks of presentations.

Quick Returns

As Comotiv Collaboration is an application service provider (ASP)-based solution providing a central communication repository through a highly-secure web interface, the HDES D sees it as a solution for the K-12 environment's struggles with

funding, communication, and process. In their view, Comotiv Collaboration provides the potential of helping solve each of these issues.

An ASP based service relegates the architecture and development to a provider, in this case, Comotiv Systems, and directly provides value. This is a big win for smaller K12/ESDs that cannot fund a collaborative environment, as well as for larger well-funded ESDs.

With Comotiv Collaboration, travel within and between districts and state organizations is not required. The beauty of virtual conferencing collaboration is that it allows the scheduling of joint conferences where Audio/Visual communication is utilized in combination with sharing documents. Savings in travel and replacement of an aging VTEL system would certainly provide quick returns.

In the view of the HDES D, savings in process with better communication technologies is a win for any organization.

The HDES D Conclusion

Following their evaluation period, the HDES D concluded that "Comotiv Collaboration has the potential for providing quick value to the school districts and service districts in Oregon. Building a collaborative culture is a requirement of the Internet age. Local ESDs will plan to work in collaboration with Comotiv Systems to facilitate implementation for K-12 school districts and state educational organizations that would provide cost savings in funding-challenged times and the critical return of better communication."