

Idiot's Guide to setting-up the Video Conference kit (revised for Windows XP and VRVS 3.0)

Turning On

- ◆ The data projector should be connected in series between the PC and its monitor using the long blue VGA cables. Make sure the monitor is on. Also ensure the 2 cables are connected to the correct socket on the data projector (there is a white cable tie around the cable that goes into the “MONITOR” socket). Please be careful to align the connectors before attaching to avoid damage.
- ◆ Make sure the speakers and camera are on (green lights or leds should be visible).
- ◆ Login to the PC (PCBP) as user “video”, password “conference”.
- ◆ There should be icons in the centre of the screen for “Video Conference” and “Network Setup” (among others).
- ◆ Double click on the “Network Setup” icon. This will present a series of panels to set up the VC connection mechanism. It may be that the existing settings are correct, and in any event most of the settings offered will be correct and will not need changing.
- ◆ The first panel is for “Communication Options”. Select “ISDN and LAN”.
- ◆ The next panel is “Configure Gatekeeper”, This is the panel that needs the most intellectual input. For ISDN calls, do not try and define a Gatekeeper (leave the box unchecked). For IP calls, you may or may not need to use a Gatekeeper – check the information you have received regarding the conference. The typical case where a Gatekeeper is used is when the conference is handled by the UCL MCU. The IP address for this is 128.40.37.237 (there is a good chance that the field contains this number already). The Registration Information fields are not critical (I usually specify “Cambridge HEP” and “01223351367”).
- ◆ The following panel is to configure the ZC206 208 board (ISDN codec). Use the defaults (I/O Address 340, Interrupt 10). Also use the (probable) default for the next panel regarding Switch Software (this should be set to ETSI).
- ◆ For the next panel, leave all boxes unchecked, and put 01223337225 in the “Phone Number” field, These should be the defaults.
- ◆ The final panel specifies our ISDN phone number. We have a ISDN2e connection, so only Interface 1 is in use – set the phone number to 01223351367 on BOTH B Channels (1 and 2) and leave the fields blank for the other interfaces.

- ◆ The setup procedure will then go through a series of tests of the ISDN line, the normal phone in that room should ring once, and the procedure should indicate success.
- ◆ Now double click on the “Video Conference” icon. This will take 30-40 seconds to start up, after which a small picture from the camera should be seen.
- ◆ Use the “Phone” pop-up menu to select “Dial”. Check that the network type is set correctly (LAN[=IP] or ISDN) and also the speed (384kbps probably makes sense for LAN, and either 128kbps or 2x64kbps for ISDN (use 2x64kbps if you are given two phone numbers for the ISDN VC. You can in principle use either if a single phone number is specified – use the same number for both channels – though 2x64kbps is supposed to be a little more stable). Insert the number(s) in the relevant place(s) and place the call.
- ◆ The connection should be made in a second or two and after a few more seconds of negotiation, a picture of the remote site should appear, with the local view in a corner of the screen,
- ◆ You can expand the picture to full screen size via the “View” pop-up menu.
- ◆ The microphone should be muted (green led not lit) when you don’t want to actively participate in the VC – you can then make a noise without becoming the “focus” of the conference.

VRVS 3.0 use

- ◆ You should start up the Video Conference tool before connecting to VRVS – but don’t try to make a connection.
- ◆ Use a web browser (Netscape 6.2 will be available as an icon at the centre of the screen, but Internet Explorer is also usable) to connect to www.vrvs.org (it should be in the Netscape bookmarks). Click on “Start”, then on the “login” button when it appears. Username is “camvideo”, password “conference”. You should then be able to enter the available rooms.
- ◆ Use the H.323 client to connect – it ought to be set up correctly and attempt to connect to the VC tool started earlier.
- ◆ It is suggested that using the “vic” tool for video improves the picture quality over that from the VC tool. *More notes may appear here...*

Turning Off

- ◆ At the end of the VC, close down the application and logoff from the PC. There is no need to turn the PC off. Optionally, you can turn off the PC monitor.
- ◆ Turn off the camera, speakers, microphone and data projector.

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