



Delivered Efficiency

- 5000+ students trained simultaneously in a remote area across the state of Maharashtra, India
- Increased reach of city schools to be able to virtually serve students attending from various locations
- Standardization in quality of education delivered
- Travel time and associated costs are reduced for companies delivering training through MeetGuru
- With classes running at capacity, the system has lowered per participant cost

Facilitating quality education through virtual classroom system that also works on low bandwidths

Education industry in India faces an acute problem of availability of skilled teachers. Most of the premier technology and management schools receive tens of thousands of applications every year, but are only able to cater a small chunk of them due to lack of infrastructure and teachers. To make quality education available to greater masses, Government of India has initiated various schemes to set out new centers of excellence throughout the country but the problem still persists, since the pace at which new colleges/schools are opened is far behind the current requirement of the country.

Clearly the need is to bridge the demand of quality education by leveraging the existing faculty and infrastructure to reach out to people if not possible physically then virtually. Although the going is not so easy as the Indian government efforts have been hindered by limited connectivity of internet at majority of locations, hampering growth that otherwise would have been inclusive. Low bandwidth results in delayed response during training sessions resulting in a state of cognitive dissonance.

To counter this challenge we set out to build a virtual classroom system that is:

- minimally constrained by low bandwidth
- available to people to access from anywhere without any installation requirements
- able to reach out to large number of people

Challenges

INCREASING INTERACTIVITY

Typically, E-learning is characterized by lack of face to face interaction. Students submit assignments electronically, and work in virtual teams for their projects. Virtual classroom had to be made in a way that it increases interaction by adding more communication tools that facilitate individual and group discussions among students and the instructor.

LOCALIZATION

Use of virtual classroom suite cannot be ubiquitous because of differences in language, culture and learning level. The system should provide room for various language and tools support so that users coming from diverse areas could customize content to their preference.

OBSOLETE HARDWARE

Hardware such as computer model, LAN switches varied from people owning the finest and the latest hardware, to people who barely had minimum hardware required for a functional computer. We had to make a system that required minimum hardware to run.

WEAK INFRASTRUCTURE

The system had to be checked robustly by physically logging into it from various geographical locations where bandwidth could fluctuate. We had to establish uniformity in the usage, even if someone uses the system from areas that are prone to fluctuation in bandwidth.

EASE OF USE

People are generally resistant to change and therefore, virtual classroom being a new form of delivering education may not be easily accepted as an alternative way of learning. The system has to be made simple and engaging.

“MeetGuru has helped us reaching out to far greater audience than we could have managed physically. My students have often told me that they like lectures being delivered through this system. Such has been the level of satisfaction of our students.”

Founder, Gurumatra-i-media Pvt. Ltd.

Server Side Technologies

- Adobe Flex / AS3
- Flash
- Amazon Cloud Platform

Client Side Technologies

- BlazeDS
- Hibernate
- MYSQL
- Codecs

For more information on how we can deliver efficiency to your business visit us on www.perennialsys.com or email: contact@perennialsys.com

Solution

Perennial's meetguru.com is a SaaS based platform that allows users to create sessions like meetings, online lectures and webinars along with their recordings. The system allows users to invite other users and share with them presentations, audio, video and text data. Real time collaboration is facilitated through white board, PPTs and desktop screen sharing. Following were the key strategies to our success:

ON DEMAND SCALABILITY

MeetGuru is hosted on the Advanced Centralized Cloud Architecture, which gives the user incomparable scalability and reliability. Cloud elasticity allows user to increase or decrease user capacity within minutes on the basis of demand, optimizing resources and costs.

MULTIPLATFORM ENABLEMENT

MeetGuru requires minimum hardware to run. Moreover MeetGuru has been tested to run across all OS and browsers and is even compatible with upcoming mobile platforms such as Android 2.2. A fully functional version of the application can also run through browser, without any additional download to the system.

OPTIMIZATION FOR LOW BANDWIDTH

Perennial Systems built unique screen sharing module which can execute through the browser without the user needing to download an installable file like most systems presently available.

USER CENTERED DESIGN

We started with user research, finding out the exact preferences of the target audience. Based on the results of the user survey we prepared wireframes for the design that kept the user at the center of the system. This practice ensured that MeetGuru is easy to use and appeals aesthetically to the user resulting in quicker learning time and faster adaption rate.

RIGOROUS TESTING PROCESS

MeetGuru was tested rigorously in different geographies, locales to ensure that the system works in areas marred with low bandwidth.

ABOUT PERENNIAL SYSTEMS

Perennial Systems is a business and technology services company delivering IT solutions, consulting, systems integration and outsourced development services. We create value by successfully integrating people, business and technology to create effective, sustainable and scalable business ecosystems.

Features of the Application

- Address Book (Online Contact)
- Content Library (Online Storage)
- Video Conferencing
- Audio Conferencing
- Presentation Sharing
- Whiteboards with Annotation
- Screen and Application Sharing
- File Transfer and Document Sharing
- Break-out Sessions
- Polls and Surveys
- Record and Playback
- Text Chat
- Q & A
- Outlook Integration
- Flexible User Storage Space
- Flexible User Packs based on number of hosts and participants
- Choice of third party software integration such as LMS, CMS
- 24 x 7 Support