

University of the West of England Uses IOCOM



About

- University of the West of England is located in Bristol, United Kingdom
- Postgraduate Skills Program
- Research in Contemporary Context
- 23 Students

Goals

- Connect students attending workshops remotely
 - Use a service that can be easily installed
 - Use a service that works with existing hardware that can be used on multiple platforms
 - Improve the learning experience and retention
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Overview

Dr. Paul Spencer has recently introduced IOCOM in the Research in Contemporary Context postgraduate course at University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol, UK. UWE had used other video conferencing platforms in the past but moved away from them to explore other solutions. In the search they found other services did not fully meet their needs and decided to take a look at the IOCOM platform.

Challenge

Dr. Spencer wanted to replace the existing video conference platform, but wanted to use their existing audio and video hardware that was already on site. Dr. Spencer also needed a service that could be easily installed on devices students currently owned and could be used to connect multiple venues for intra-venue seminars and Q&A sessions.

Solution

Since the sites at the university already were fitted with hardware, the only step was to install IOCOM. A unique signup link was provided to students which created an IOCOM account and provided instructions on how to install the IOCOM client. Students using this signup link were automatically added to a community that enabled them to communicate with one another. By using the referral link, Dr. Spencer did not need to manually manage each student and it ensured they could collaborate immediately.

Students attending virtually are now able to break out into their own discussion by joining a separate meeting room. Dr. Spencer uses a Permanent Meeting Room to host workshops and uses separate Permanent Meeting Rooms for students to meet in during breakout sessions. When students are ready to break out they enter the designated Permanent Room meeting code.

Approach

- IOCOM software installed on classroom systems using existing hardware
- IOCOM software works on existing student devices
- Professors can record classes for students to review at a later time

Results

- IOCOM helped UWE to connect with more students
- The transition to IOCOM was seamless
- Students who previously could not be part of the program are now able to actively participate

Results

IOCOM is used primarily during the Research in Contemporary Context course. 23 students now have the option to join physically or remotely. One student lives in Canada but the use of IOCOM allows him to participate in the program; if Dr. Spencer did not make the option available he would either need to relocate or choose a different program.

The Research in Contemporary Context program is not graded based on attendance or what occurs during the workshop, it is heavily shaped by the knowledge obtained during the course of the program. This means it is vital that students have a firm grasp on the topics discussed during workshops. In the past if a student could not attend, they missed key information. If they did not understand the information it was difficult to review the workshop. With IOCOM Dr. Spencer is able to record each session and share the recordings with students. Those who cannot attend the workshop while in progress can “attend” the session at a more convenient time. Also, students who want to better understand the material or review the discussion can do so. He believes this will greatly improve the knowledge obtained and retained providing a better experience for students.

One of the main draws to IOCOM, according to Dr. Spencer, is that multiple locations have the ability to communicate and work together making it feel as though everyone is together. He states that this is changing the way we define attendance.



Students never have to miss a lecture

- Attending a workshop, seminar, meeting, etc. does not require students to be physically present or even be part of the event at the time
- Easy transition from previous platforms using existing hardware



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Can relax a little as the presentation delivered via @IOCOM visimeet worked without technical hitches! #uwegradschool

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