Surgery Hours for All
An adoption of Live Classroom Technology for Enhanced Accessibility

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Virtual Classrooms

Most virtual classroom / online meeting systems have:

- ❖ Audio/video conferencing
- ❖ Live text chat
- ❖ Shared notes area
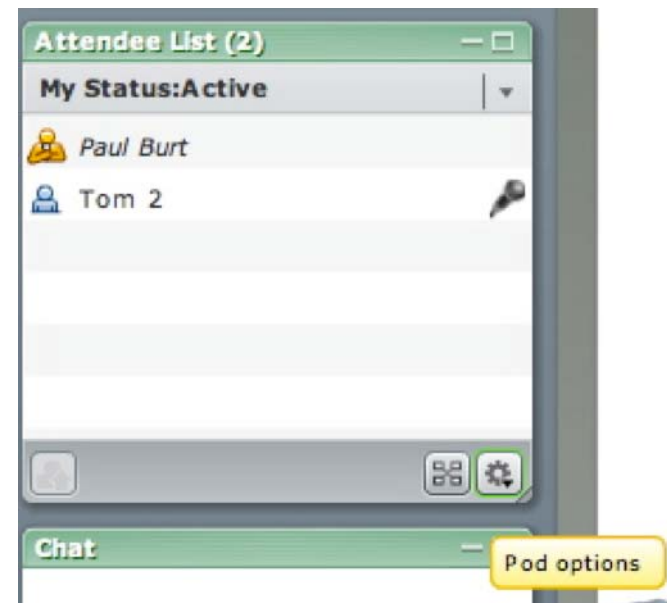- ❖ Presentation area
- ❖ File transfer
- ❖ Breakout rooms

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Pods and Roles

❖ There are a wide range of pods available

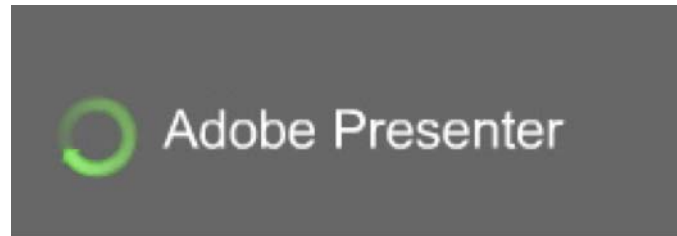❖ They appear similar to participants, presenters and hosts but different roles have different levels of control
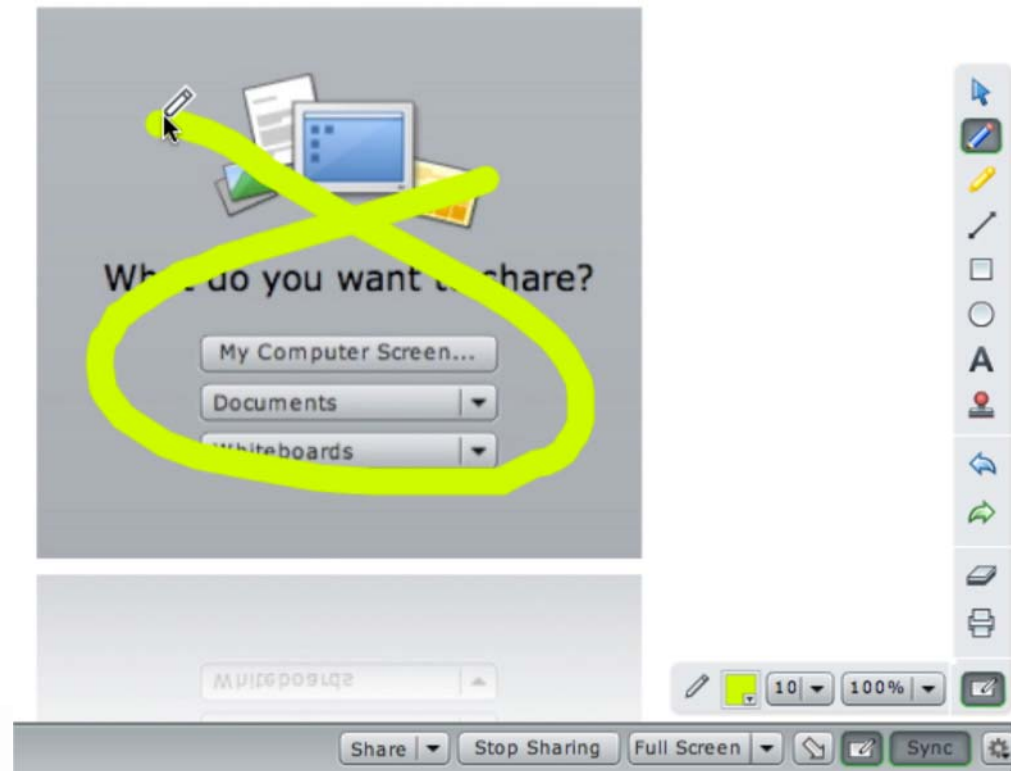
Share Pod

❖ Choice of what to share:

Presenter

❖ Converts PowerPoint presentation into 'Adobe Presenter' Flash presentations

❖ Respects top level animations and transitions

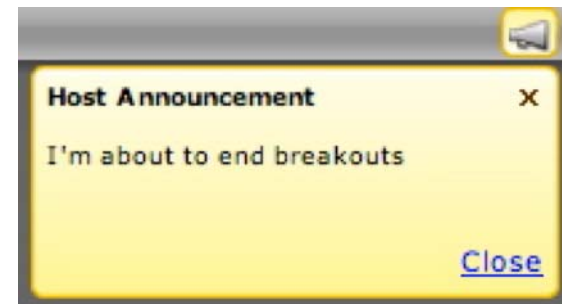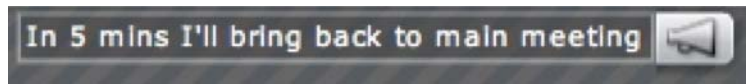❖ Compresses the original images - quick to load for everyone
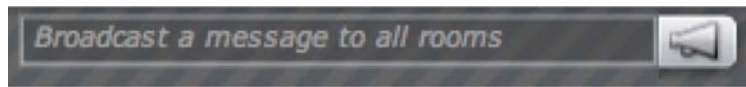
Presenter

Whiteboard overlay enables annotation over slideshow:

Breakout Rooms

- ❖ Participants and presenters can be put into separate breakout rooms
- ❖ Hosts can jump between different breakout rooms
- ❖ Hosts can broadcast messages to all breakouts

Broadcast a message to all rooms

In 5 mins I'll bring back to main meeting

Host Announcement ✕

I'm about to end breakouts

Close

Recording Meetings

❖ Hosts can record a meeting

❖ Output is not a video but a Flash presentation that play back in the same interface as a live meeting

❖ Output remains interactive to an extent e.g. you can scroll through chat or progress slides if given that access originally

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Usage Ideas

❖ Teaching / supporting remote students

❖ Disaster recovery / campus closures

❖ Facilitate dispersed group work and collaboration

❖ Involve external experts / professionals, for example as guest lecturers / contributors

❖ Remote interviewing / assessment

❖ Recording lectures

❖ Online tutorials and seminars

Support

❖ PDF of manual at
http://help.adobe.com/en_US/AcrobatConnectPro/7.0/connectpro_7_help.pdf

❖ http://www.connectusers.com/ including 'Academic User Group'

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Adobe Connect Pro – Background at Surrey

❖ Currently operating as a pilot

The current situation:

❖ hosted account with Adobe

❖ no integration with Surrey systems

❖ limited number of named accounts

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Background

Module: Real Estate Finance and Investment (Optional module at level 3)

Class Size: 45 participants mostly from Business Management and Accounting & Finance programmes

Delivery pattern: 2 hours interactive lecture per week using spreadsheets and Electronic voting system, 3 guest lectures, and 1 case study session in a technologically enhanced environment

Issues: No regular tutorial / surgery hours, very technical module requires a lot of practice and consultation

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Motivation

Surgery Hours / Office Hours: a solution with the following limitations

1. Attracts only enthused students
2. Too little slot for each student
3. Repetition of discussion with different students
4. No record of a good conversation for future reference
5. Hypothetical scenario of all students turning up cannot be handled
6. Ignores possibilities of valuable peer learning

How can I offer my surgery hours to all, record it, include more interaction, and facilitate peer learning? **My "thousand pound" question??**

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Project Aim

1. Regular virtual sessions to replace conventional surgery hours
2. Capture these sessions for ULearn posting
3. Evaluate the intervention regularly

Expected Outcomes

1. Surgery hours accessible to all
2. More interactive sessions
3. Peer interaction
4. Availability of the recorded experience
5. Flexibility in delivering these sessions

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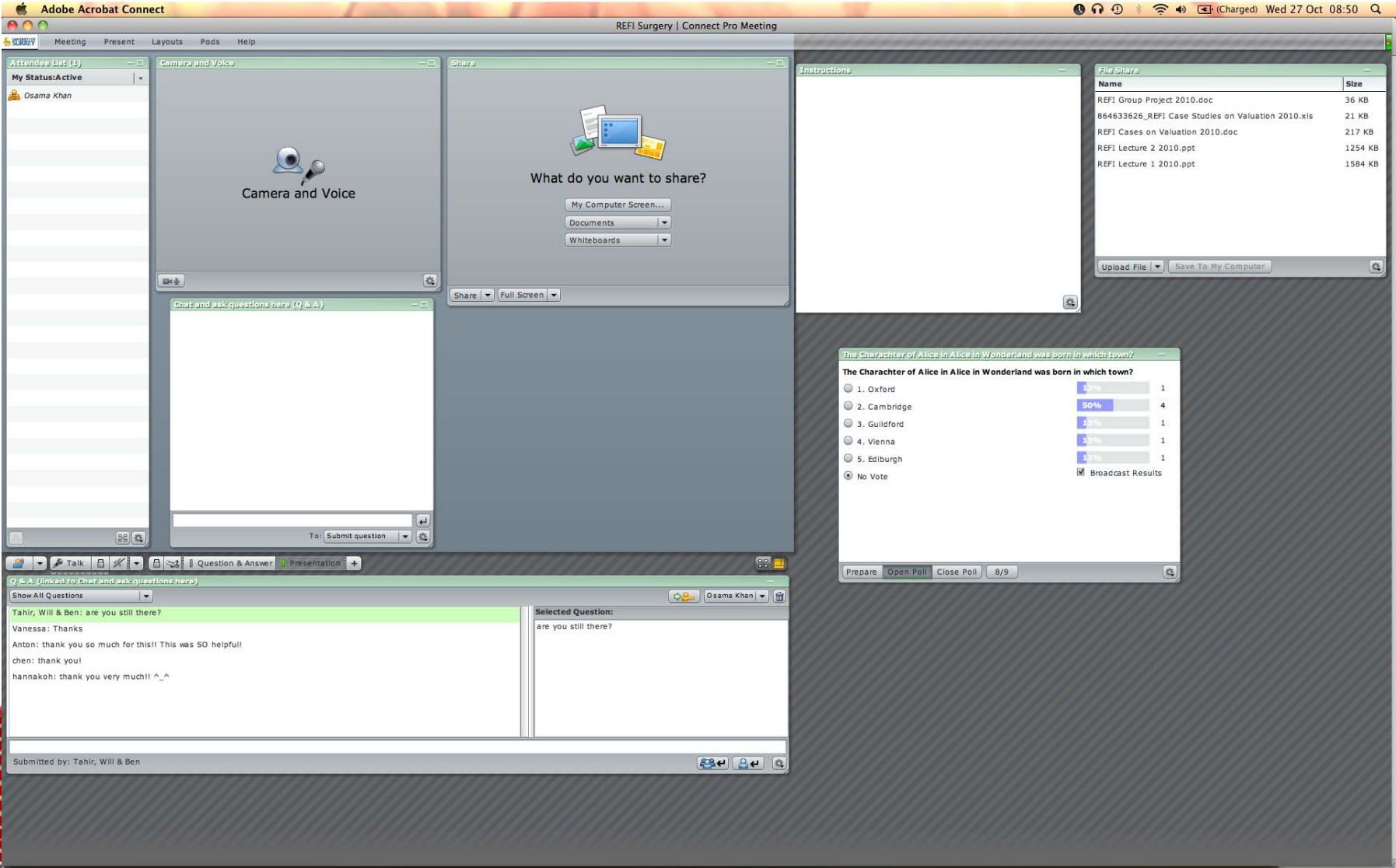
Project Approach

1. One hour virtual surgery session using Adobe Acrobat Connect Pro

2. Sessions arranged based on need: flexibility

3. Simple session setting with few pods

4. Prior training for both learners and facilitators

Presentation Tab

Question & Answer Tab

Tips

1. Know the technology beforehand, practice, and organize
2. Not to make it too complicated
3. Have reliable internet connection
4. Ask students to have reliable internet connections
5. Remind students that they need to accept pop-up invitations
6. Sound setting to avoid humming noise
7. Using a reliable headphone with built-in mic piece
8. Using various expressions to get student feedback
9. Post them on ULearn for future reference
10. Have fun!!!

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Evaluation Plan

1. Questionnaire Survey using Survey Monkey
2. Focus group discussions with some participants
3. Continued evaluation for three years at least

Dissemination

1. Session like this within our university and in other universities
2. Conference presentation: already accepted for the European Real Estate Society Education Seminar in Zurich, Switzerland
3. Future conference presentations and publication plans are in pipeline

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