

The Video Technology Advisory Service

The Video Technology Advisory Service (VTAS) exists to provide free, unbiased technical advice and information to current and potential users of video technologies at JANET connected organisations

The Advisory Team

In order to address individual queries, the VTAS helpdesk provides access to a team of advisers with extensive experience in the use of video technologies. Drawn from within the JANET community, they are well positioned to offer advice on a range of current technologies. The advisers are geographically dispersed, giving the service a presence throughout the UK.

The expertise of the VTAS advisers covers many aspects of video technology including:

- all aspects of videoconferencing using IP and ISDN;
- videoconferencing rooms, equipment and standards;
- product advice;
- Multipoint Control Units (MCUs), Gateways and Gatekeepers;
- entry level PC systems;
- H.323 security issues;
- LAN issues for IP videoconferencing;
- LAN, Regional Network and WAN networking;
- broadband systems;
- video streaming over JANET.

On-site consultancy

An on-site consultancy service is available for those organisations needing very specific and detailed advice. The service can help to identify suitable rooms and suggest the adaptations required to create an effective videoconferencing environment. If a site visit is required, a charge will be made for the consultancy service.

Online testing

VTAS offers an online videoconference test and demonstration facility. This provides a dial-in facility that is available 24 hours a day, or alternatively, an informal videoconference can be arranged during office hours using ISDN or IP. An adviser will help make the necessary connections and use the equipment, demonstrate some features and techniques, and provide feedback on the overall impression the conferencing presents.

Product evaluations

VTAS carries out detailed evaluations of ISDN and IP conferencing products. The evaluation reports and product testing procedure can be found at: <http://www.video.ja.net/evaluation/>

Documentation

VTAS also develops documentation of interest to the JANET community, both end-users and technical staff. The range of documentation currently held on the site includes:

Introduction to Videoconferencing (an entry-level guide)
GD/VTAS/004

<http://www.video.ja.net/intro/>

Videoconferencing Standards

GD/VTAS/008/STAN

<http://www.video.ja.net/stan/>

Videoconferencing Rooms

GD/VTAS/001

<http://www.video.ja.net/rooms/>

Videoconferencing Audio and Video Equipment

GD/VTAS/002/AV

<http://www.video.ja.net/av/>

Data Sharing Within Videoconferencing

GD/VTAS/003

<http://www.video.ja.net/datasharing>

Audio Engineering for Videoconferencing

GD/VTAS/006

<http://www.video.ja.net/audioeng.pdf>

An Introduction to H.323 Videoconferencing

GD/VTAS/005 V1.1

<http://www.video.ja.net/323intro.pdf>

Guide to Reliable H.323 Networks

GD/VTAS/010

<http://www.video.ja.net/323campus.pdf>

We welcome feedback on existing documents and suggestions for new documents that would be useful to the JANET community.

Further Information

Further details about the service are available on the VTAS website at: <http://www.video.ja.net/>

Due to the distributed nature of the service, e-mail is the preferred mode of contact for initial enquiries. If you would like to be put in contact with a VTAS adviser, e-mail the JANET Service Desk at: service@janet.ac.uk with VTAS in the subject line.